PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2008–2009

COMPRISING PERIOD
23 February 2009—6 March 2009

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Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 23 February 2009

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 10 February 2009. The following items were discussed:

Preparation of the meeting of the European Council

a) European economic recovery plan

Ministers held a debate on the current state of implementation of the European economic recovery plan (EERP), including a first horizontal evaluation report from the European Commission. The Government are a firm supporter of the timely, targeted and temporary measures taken at national level under the framework of the EERP to stimulate growth in the EU.

ECOFIN exchanged views on the financial aspects of the Commission's proposals for energy and broadband projects to be funded through the EU budget. The Government will continue to scrutinise the Commission's proposals in detail.

b) Key issues paper

ECOFIN held an orientation debate on the "key issues paper" on economic and financial issues for the Spring 2009 European Council. The full version of the paper will be agreed before the European Council based on the outline proposed by the presidency. The Government supported the outline, which emphasises the serious challenges in 2009, and the remaining need for action to stabilise financial markets and facilitate a speedy economic recovery.

c) Reduced rates of VAT

Following a political discussion by Ministers, the presidency indicated it that it would reflect on how to take the dossier forward in response to the European Council's request to settle the issue by March. A further discussion is expected at the ECOFIN meeting on 10 March, in the run-up to the next European Council, on 19 and 20 March. The Government continue to believe that member states should be allowed the flexibility to apply reduced rates of VAT where they do not materially affect the functioning of the single market.

General budget of the EU: Discharge procedure in respect of the implementation of the budget for 2007

ECOFIN adopted a recommendation to the European Parliament on the discharge to be given to the Commission for implementation of the EU general budget for 2007. The UK welcomes the references within the recommendation relating to the key role of member states in improving financial management and accountability of EU funds under shared management.

Other business

Short selling

The Council took note of an intervention by the Dutch Minister calling for work to enhance greater co-ordination between member states and at international level on temporary measures aimed at short selling. The Commission and the Committee of European Securities Regulators (CESR) will look further into these issues, which the UK welcomes in the wider context of effort to improve corporate governance.

Breakfast meeting on the economic situation

Ministers discussed the implementation of financial rescue packages. They agreed that the priority is to fully restore the functioning of credit channels, and on that basis agreed to a set of lines of communication. ECOFIN agreed that, to safeguard banking sector stability, measures to deal with impaired assets could usefully complement agreed instruments, consistent with principles set in October 2008. ECOFIN will continue to monitor this issue closely. The UK fully supports these measures and the ECOFIN lines of communication as the basis of a flexible, co-ordinated European response to the financial situation.

Missing Trader Intra-Community Fraud

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): This is to announce a new procedure where HMRC suspect that there are serious indirect tax irregularities, knowing involvement in transactions that form part of a Missing Trader Intra-Community (MTIC) fraud and have reason to believe dishonest conduct has occurred, where neither criminal investigation nor the Civil Investigation of Fraud procedure outlined in Code of Practice 9(2005) is appropriate.

Code of Practice 9(2005) covers HMRC investigations of suspected serious fraud against the Exchequer where, for policy or operational reasons, it is considered inappropriate to launch a criminal investigation. Where cases are not suitable for Code of Practice 9 (2005) or criminal investigation, for indirect taxes, there is already a procedure for penalties to be imposed for dishonest conduct in cases involving lower level fraud set out in Notice 160 (Enquiries into Indirect Tax Matters (2007)).

This statement introduces a new notice, Notice 161, which explains how enquiries into serious indirect tax irregularities will be handled in cases involving transactions that form part of an MTIC fraud and where HMRC have reason to believe dishonest conduct has occurred.

The procedure complements HMRC's policy of providing a level playing field for all businesses by supporting those who wish to comply but dealing severely with those who seek an unfair advantage through non-compliance. It will be used in cases where HMRC suspects knowing involvement in transactions that form part of a (MTIC) fraud.

A copy of the new Notice 161, is being placed in the House of Commons Library.

Asset Freezing Regime (Counter-Terrorism)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): In a Written Ministerial Statement on 10 October 2006, the then Economic Secretary undertook to report to Parliament on a quarterly basis on the operation of the UK's counter-terrorism asset freezing regime. This is the ninth of these reports and covers the period October to December 2008.[1]

Asset-freezing designations

In the quarter October to December 2008, the Treasury made one domestic designation under the Al-Qaida and Taliban (United Nations Measures) Order 2006.

There were three financial sanctions listings at the UN, and none at the EU, in relation to terrorism, or Al-Qaida and the Taliban of persons with links to the UK.

As of 31 December 2008, a total of 253 separate accounts containing just over £632,500[2] of suspected terrorist funds were frozen in the UK.

Reviews

The Treasury keeps domestic asset freezing cases under review. Ten formal reviews have been completed in this quarter; five persons or entities were delisted, with the remaining five continuing to be listed.

Licensing

In accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1452 (2002), the Treasury operates a licensing system whereby designated persons and others are able to apply to make or receive payments under specific and, if necessary, monitored conditions. In this quarter, the following licences were issued to listed persons:

Nine listed persons were granted legal expenses licences;

Fifteen listed persons were granted a basic expenses licence (including licences for benefits payments);

One listed person was granted a licence for extraordinary expenses.

In this quarter no households of listed persons were granted benefits licences.

Litigation

Judgement on the Treasury's appeal against the High Court ruling in the case of A, K, M, Q & G *v.* HM Treasury, in which the judge ordered that the relevant legislation be quashed, was handed down by the Court of Appeal on 30 October 2008. The Court of Appeal overturned the High Court's decision. The Court of Appeal upheld the Terrorism Order—although it severed that part of the Order which it concluded was ultra vires—and the Al-Qaida and Taliban Order, confirming that the Government acted lawfully in making these Orders. This judgment ensures that the UK is able to maintain an effective terrorist asset freezing regime in accordance with our UN obligations.

[1] The detail that can be provided to the House on a quarterly basis is subject to the need to avoid the identification, directly or indirectly, of personal or operationally sensitive information.

[2] This figure reflects account balances at time of freezing and includes approximately $58,000 of suspected terrorist funds frozen in the UK. This has been converted using exchange rates as of 31 December 2008. Future fluctuations in the exchange rate may impact on the contribution this sum makes to future totals of suspected terrorist funds frozen.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Zimbabwe (Resettlement Scheme)

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): There are an estimated 3,000 British citizens and British nationals in Zimbabwe with the right of abode in the UK who are 70 or over or who are vulnerable because of their care needs or medical conditions.

The Government's advice to vulnerable British people and their families has been that if they are concerned about the situation in Zimbabwe they should consider their need to remain. This advice has been unchanged since 2007 and still stands.

But the Government are concerned about older and vulnerable British people who may be increasingly unable to support themselves in Zimbabwe and who are unable to return to the UK without assistance. We recognise that a power-sharing accord has now been agreed and that Morgan Tsvangirai was sworn in as Prime Minister on 11 February. However, some British people have been badly affected by the collapse of Zimbabwean infrastructure and we cannot expect this to be put right overnight. They are facing severe difficulties getting access to the food, medicines and care they need.

The Government are therefore ready to offer assistance in resettling in the UK to those older and vulnerable British people who are unable to make their own arrangements to leave and unable to support themselves financially in Britain. The Government are making arrangements to receive, assess needs of and support those eligible British citizens and British nationals with the right of abode who wish to resettle in the UK, including through early access to benefits.

We are putting in place reception arrangements and provision for appropriate accommodation and support. The Local Government Association, ADSS housing associations, local authorities and charities are involved in discussions on practical support and funding. The costs of this programme will be met by Government.

This is a cross-Government programme, involving a number of Departments, which the Prime Minister has asked me to co-ordinate.

We are informing older and vulnerable British people in Zimbabwe of the assistance available through the British Embassy in Harare. It is difficult to anticipate the extent of interest in this offer, but we estimate that up to 750 people may wish to come to the UK over 18 months.

The British Embassy is not advising British people to leave Zimbabwe and continues to provide a full range of consular services to those who remain.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

NATO Parliamentary Assembly

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): My hon. Friend the Member for Wakefield (Mary Creagh) has replaced my hon. Friend the Member for Glasgow, North (Ann McKechin) as a Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

HEALTH

Funding (Department of Health and Food Standards Agency)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): Subject to the necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department of Health's element of the Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) will increase by £26,403,000 from £98,565,431,000 to £98,591,834,000 and the Administration Cost Limit will be increased by £3,280,000 from £219,163,000 to £222,443,000. The

Food Standards Agency DEL increases by £700,000 from £137,720,000 to £138,420,000. The overall DEL including the Food Standards Agency will increase by £27,103,000 from £98,703,151,000 to £98,730,254,000. The impact on resource and capital are set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted £million	*Non voted £million*	*Voted £million*	*Non voted £million*	*Total £million*
Department of Health					
Resource DEL, of which	98.020	271.417	94,542.385	-860.463	93,681.922
Administration Budget *	*3.280*		*222.443*		*222.443*
Near-cash in Resource DEL	*-119.972*	*-56.425*	*89,910.900*	*588.653*	*90,499.553*
Capital DEL	101.029	98.771	2,033.840	2,876.072	4,909.912
Total Department of Health DEL	199.049	172.646	96,576.225	2,015.609	98,591.834
Depreciation **	41.592	-16.336	-744.002	-75.736	-819.738
Total Department of Health spending (after adjustment)	240.641	188.982	95,832.223	1,939.873	97,772.096
Food Standards Agency					
Resource DEL, of which	0.250	0.000	136.939		136.939
Administration Budget *	*0.700*		*51.140*		*51.140*
Near-cash in Resource DEL	*-0.450*		*133.800*	*0.700*	*134.500*
Capital DEL	0.450		1.481		1.481
Total Food Standards Agency DEL	0.700	0.000	138.420	0.000	138.420
Depreciation **			-1.955		-1.955
Total Food Standards Agency spending (after adjustment)	0.700	0.000	136.465	0.000	136.465

*The total of "administration budget" and "Near cash in Resource DEL" figures may well be greater that the total resource DEL, due to definitions overlapping.

**Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since the capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The Department of Health DEL has increased by £26,403,000 made up of:

the take-up of £3,000,000 (administration costs) end year flexibility as announced in the provisional outturn White Paper (Cm 7419);

£30,000 (£-200,000 capital) for adjustments to Invest to Save budget awards;

a net transfer of £296,000 (administration costs) from the Cabinet Office for services of the Parliamentary Counsel, offset by funding for the centre of expertise for sustainable procurement (Administration Cost Limit);

a transfer of £-16,000 (administration costs) to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills for the skills training strategy. (Administration Cost Limit);

a net transfer of £-5,025,000 to the Department for Children, Schools and Families mainly for substance misuse funding offset by a grant for the child migrant trusts;

a net transfer of £28,318,000 with the Ministry of Justice mainly for adjustments to prison healthcare budgets offset by funding for mental health review tribunals; and

a transfer of £-200,000 to the Statistics Board for information on migration statistics.

In addition, there is movement from the revenue to capital DEL of £200,000,000 to allow for increased capital investment in the NHS.

The Department of Health's administration cost limit has increased by £3,280,000 as described above.

The change to the Food Standards Agency element of the DEL is due to:

a transfer of £450,000 from programme into capital; and

reinstatement of £700,000 non-cash budget to the Comprehensive Spending Review settlement position.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Policing - Publication of Reports by Sir David Normington and Jan Berry

The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Vernon Coaker): I am today placing in the House Library two reports that were published on Monday 16 February 2009 which form an important part of our overall approach to removing unnecessary bureaucracy in policing. These are "Reducing the Data Burden on Police Forces in England and Wales" by Sir David Normington, the permanent secretary at the Home Office, and the interim report by Jan Berry, the new independent Reducing Bureaucracy Advocate, entitled "Reducing Bureaucracy in Policing".

On the same day the Home Secretary announced the next step in common sense policing, by scrapping a police timesheet freeing up an estimated 260,000 police hours to focus on cutting crime and driving up public confidence. Police officers will no longer have to complete an annual analysis form accounting for their activity—a step which alone frees up approximately 150 extra officers and staff.

Both these documents form part of our overall approach to reducing the burdens placed on police forces and reforming processes to free up officers to deal with the issues that matter to people. The Government have rightly committed themselves to freeing up police time to work with communities to tackle the issues that matter to local people. This involves cutting red tape

and dramatically reducing administrative tasks that can take up so much time – including the collection of data by the Home Office and others. This agenda was at the heart of the Policing Green Paper, "From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing our Communities Together", published in July last year.

The Green Paper set out a clear commitment to reduce the data collection burden placed on police forces in England and Wales and Sir David Normington's review sets out how the Green Paper's commitment to reduce by up to 50 per cent. the amount of data collected by the Home Office is to be achieved.

His review contains a number of important proposals, most of which can be implemented in the short term, for:

cutting out altogether or significantly reducing 36 data streams;

ending activity-based costing – which alone will free up an estimated 260,000 police hours;

a reduction in ad hoc data requests from the Home Office;

a two-year moratorium on requests for new data collection; and

a "gateway" process to limit requests that fall outside the annual data requirement.

A new "data hub" will further reduce the burden on police forces, dispensing with 40 per cent. of data requests from the Home Office. Taken together these measures will significantly reduce the central data burden imposed by the Home Office and its agencies.

The Home Office is also streamlining the performance management arrangements for police forces by removing police targets and replacing them with a new single top-down target on confidence. We are also continuing to invest in technology to allow officers to spend more time on patrol. We have now committed £80 million to delivering an ambitious target to put in place 30,000 mobile data devices by March 2010, and the second round of funding awards was announced on 29 December 2008.

The delivery of these mobile devices to the front line will save an individual police officer up to 30 minutes per shift.

We also used last year's Green Paper to respond to the recommendations made by Sir Ronnie Flanagan in his hugely important "Review of Policing". It is now almost one year on from the publication of Sir Ronnie Flanagan's recommendations and we have made considerable progress in implementing them. Nineteen of his 59 recommendations have already been implemented and the remaining are well on track to be delivered.

One of the most significant changes we have made is allowing forces to scrap the stop and account form, which if implemented by all forces could save the service up to 690,000 hours each year.

To build on the progress we have made, we have now appointed Jan Berry as the new independent Reducing Bureaucracy Advocate to provide a national lead across all the work under way to reduce bureaucracy.

In her report Jan Berry recognises the amount of work being undertaken across Government and the police service to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and the benefits that are already being delivered. Examples include the streamlined processes project in the four force pilot areas (Leicestershire, Staffordshire, Surrey and the West Midlands), the digital recording of interviews in Lancashire and the use of electronic file-building in the West Midlands.

Jan Berry's full report will be published later in the year but her initial findings and recommendations are now being considered by the Government and include:

support for scrapping time-sheets for police officers;

reviewing working practices within forces to simplify processes;

making more use of technology to free up officer time and maximising the use of existing airwave equipment; and

reviewing charging practices to reduce unnecessary burdens on officers and help them to use their discretion more.

Supported by a practitioner group made up of police officers and staff, Jan Berry is also looking in detail at the bureaucracy involved in 10 time-consuming policing processes in order to identify where further savings can be made.

There is more to be done, both within the police service and the Home Office, and we all must actively encourage police forces to share good practice and work collaboratively to adopt measures to reduce bureaucracy.

The Home Office will continue to play its part to drive this important reform and I am encouraged by the progress we have made since the publication of the Green Paper last July.

JUSTICE

Parole Board (Appointment of Chairman)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I have appointed Sir David Latham to be chairman of the Parole Board from 25 February 2009 for a period of 12 months. He succeeds Sir Duncan Nichol in this role.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): On 18 November, an historic agreement was announced by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister setting out a process which would pave the way to the devolution of policing and justice powers to the Northern Ireland Assembly.

The agreement, and the subsequent report of the Assembly and Executive Review Committee on the modalities of devolution contained a number of significant decisions on the shape of the post-devolution framework for the administration of policing and justice in Northern Ireland.

The Government are committed to helping to move the process forward in whatever way they can.

I am therefore today introducing a Bill to Parliament to give effect to those elements of the November statement and the AERC report that require primary legislation.

The Bill does not provide for when devolution will happen, nor does it provide for what is to devolve—both of these still require further consideration by the parties and ultimately by Parliament.

It does however provide a framework for the post-devolution administration of justice by providing for a new ministerial model which the Assembly can use to set up a new Department of Justice.

It also provides for certain functions in relation to judicial appointments and removals to rest with the Judicial Appointments Commission rather than the First and Deputy First Ministers.

In addition, later this week I will be laying an Order under section 17(4) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 to increase the maximum number of ministerial offices to 11. This will enable the Assembly to give effect to the recommendation of the AERC report that a Department with policing and justice functions should be established as an additional Department to the existing Departments which make up the Northern Ireland Executive.

The Assembly is currently prevented from establishing an additional Department by section 17 of the Northern Ireland Act which limits the number of ministerial offices to ten.

Separately I will also commence a number of provisions under the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 and the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007. This will ensure that when the Northern Ireland Assembly makes a decision to legislate to set up the new Department of Justice it has a full range of options to choose from.

There are still important decisions to be taken by the Northern Ireland Assembly on the timing of devolution and on what functions they wish to see devolve.

However, these measures provide the framework for those decisions to be taken and represent another significant step for Northern Ireland on the path to the completion of devolution.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Spring Supplementary Estimate 2008-09

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): Subject to parliamentary approval of any necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Attorney-General's total DEL will be increased by £19,703,000 from £740,920,000 to £760,623,000. Within the total DEL change, the impact on resources and capital are set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		£'000
	Voted	*Non-voted*	*Voted*	*Non-voted*	*Total*
Resource DEL	17,703		754,226	283	754,509
of which:					
Administration budget [1]	1,825		71,824		71,824
Near-cash in RDEL [1]	17,703		741,420	1,956	743,376
Capital DEL [2]	2,000		15,003		15,003
Less Depreciation [3]			-8,889		-8,889
Total DEL	19,703		760,340	283	760,623

[1] The total of 'Administration budget' and 'Near-cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.
[2] Capital DEL includes items treated as resource in Estimates and accounts but which are treated as Capital DEL in budgets.
[3] Depreciation, which forms part of resource DEL, is excluded from total DEL since capital DEL includes capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.

The Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) element of the Attorney-General's total DEL will be increased by £4,114,000 from £636,325,000 to £648,559,000.

Changes in CPS's near-cash Resource DEL arise from:

Budgetary transfers from the Ministry of Justice totalling £2,769,000 consisting of:

£2,600,000 from the Victim Surcharge Collections

£169,000 to help fund the Liverpool Community Justice Centre

A budgetary transfer to the Ministry of Justice of £130,000 to support theVirtual Courts pilot scheme

The draw down of £650,000 from End Year Flexibility to increase spending on the prosecution of criminal cases

The take-up of agreed allocation from the Modernisation fund of £825,000 consisting of:

£500,000 to develop the Advocacy Strategy

£325,000 to develop leadership and management

The CPS administration budget increases from £56,002,000 to £56,352,000 due to the take-up of £325,000 modernisation funding to develop leadership and management.

The Serious Fraud Office's (SFO) element of the Attorney-General's total DEL will be increased by £14,089,000 from £44,094,000 to £58,183,000. This will enable repayment of the Contingency Fund advance as set out in the Ministerial Statement of 12 February 2009.

The changes in the SFO's near-cash resource DEL arise from:

Blockbuster Funding: £5.9 million Expenditure

An increase of £1,940,000 from our Ring Fenced Blockbuster Reserve for Oil for Food case.

An increase of £3,900,000 from our Ring Fenced Blockbuster Reserve for the Holbein and ICG Blockbuster Reserve.

Transformation Funding: £8.2 million Expenditure

The take up of £4,300,000 Programme resource End Year Flexibility.

The take up of £3,950,000 End Year Flexibility from the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office.

A decrease of £1,000 as a result of the transfer of budget to TSOL for our contribution to the Government Skills Funding programme.

Asset Recovery: £1.2 million Neutral Amount

A cash neutral change to our Programme budget of £1,220,000 being both increase in costs and increase in revenue as a consequence of Proceeds of Crime income and additional Cost Awards.

The HM Procurator General and Treasury Solicitor's (TSOL) element of the Attorney General's total DEL will be increased by £1,500,000 from £15,984,000 to £17,484,000. This increase will occur within the Administration budget which will increase from £13,972,000 to £15,472,000.

The change in TSOL's near-cash resource DEL arises from:

Take-up £1,050,000 of administration costs resource End Year Flexibility (EYF) to meet the cost of policy support to the Attorney-General's office and accommodation.

Take-up £100,000 of administration costs resource End Year Flexibility (EYF) to meet increased spending by the Crown Prosecution Inspectorate (HMCPSI) to upgrade video link equipment and the HMCPSI database and to quality assure a review of support services.

Take-up £350,000 of administration costs resource End Year Flexibility (EYF) to meet an increase in costs for non-recoverable disbursements relating to cases for the Attorney-General and costs relating to the Government Property Lawyers (GPL).

The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office's (RCPO) element of the Attorney General's total DEL remains unchanged at £36,397,000.

Changes, which have no net effect on RCPO's DEL, are:

A transfer of £2,000,000 programme resources to Capital DEL. This is required to fund capital spending for essential upgrades in the Department's case management system.

Programme cost changes in respect of a £1,000,000 reduction in RCPO programme costs offset by a corresponding reduction in programme income.

TRANSPORT

Merchant Shipping (Light Dues)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): I wish to announce that we will be consulting on proposed amendments to the Merchant Shipping (Light Dues) Regulations 1997.

On current projections, the General Lighthouse Fund will incur an estimated funding shortfall next year of around £21 million. Recent falls in the investment portfolio of the General Lighthouse Fund have reduced the capacity of the fund to defer or spread these increases in dues, which are being kept to the minimum necessary to deliver next year's funding requirement. The Government have a statutory responsibility to ensure that the fund is maintained at an appropriate level to meet the operating requirements of the General Lighthouse Authorities. Failure to deliver safe maritime conditions would adversely affect the business interests of commercial enterprises and the safety of vessels and their crews.

We are proposing that light dues rates for merchant vessels calling at UK ports will be adjusted from 1 July this year by 6p from 35p to 41p per net registered ton (nrt); that the tonnage cap will rise from 35,000 to 50,000nrt, so that the maximum charge per call will become £20,500; and that the voyage cap will be raised from seven voyages to nine voyages, so that a vessel will not be required to pay light dues after nine payments are made in the year. A payment is valid for a rolling month from the day of payment. Through this consultation we are seeking views on a range of options for raising the necessary money.

We have worked with the shipping industry over many years to reduce the costs of providing general aids to navigation and the General Lighthouse Authorities are rightly proud of their operational and financial performance where light dues rates have not had to rise since 1993 and have actually fallen by over 40 per cent. against RPI over that period. This has been achieved through major efficiency gains made by the General Lighthouse Authorities resulting in lower operational costs of over 20 per cent. in the last decade. We will continue to work with the industry and the General Lighthouse Authorities further to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the service.

In 2006, when rates were cut by 10 per cent., we had the industry's assurance that as a result of this significant reduction, if the General Lighthouse Fund were to face greater financial demands than it could meet, the industry recognised that rates would have to rise. That time has now come and that is why we are proposing to make these changes to the regulations.

We will continue our negotiations with the Irish Government aimed at reaching a new lasting agreement for funding the work of the Commissioners of Irish Lights in providing a whole of Ireland aids to navigation service.

Copies of the consultation paper have been deposited in the House Libraries and are available on the Department for Transport website at http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations. Responses should reach Department for Transport by 18 May 2009.

Urban Congestion Performance Fund

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): I am today announcing the second payment tranche for the Urban Congestion Performance Fund that will see the 10 largest urban areas in England receive a further £10.7 million to study and address the causes of urban congestion.

My Department has a public service agreement indicator regarding journey time on main roads into urban areas. The indicator states that by 2010-11, the 10 largest urban areas in England will meet the congestion targets set in their local transport plan relating to movement on main roads into city centres. The indicator will be deemed to have been met if, on target routes in these areas, an average increase in travel of 4.4 per cent. is accommodated with an average increase of 3.6 per cent. in person journey time per mile.

In February the Department and National Statistics published the Transport Statistics Bulletin for the period up to quarter 4 2008. This included performance data for the urban congestion indicator up to the end of August 2008. These data showed that the average person journey time across all the target routes has improved by 3 per cent. between the baseline (using 2004-05 and

2005-06 data) and 2007-08. At the same time the average level of travel fell by 3.3 per cent. across all the target routes.

Based on this performance, the £10.7 million payment will now be shared between the participating areas as below:

Urban Area	*Tranche 2 payments*
London	£3,900,000
Greater Manchester	£978,356
West Midlands	£1,064,645
West Yorkshire	£663,174
South Yorkshire	£1,042,607
Tyne & Wear	£873,772
Merseyside	£889,940
Bristol	£536,879
Nottingham	£432,334
Leicester	£361,226
Total	£10,742,933

The performance fund is worth a total of £60 million over four years, and today's announcement will have seen a total of £22.7 million paid to the 10 areas. A further £35 million is available over the next two financial years, and will also be awarded on a performance basis.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 24 February 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Trawlermen Scheme

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): Further to my statement on 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 63WS, I am pleased to announce that we have today released a consultation paper, in which we are seeking views on the details of a new scheme to compensate former Icelandic water trawlermen who lost their livelihoods following the cod wars in the 1970s.

Copies of the consultation paper can be viewed at: www.berr.gov.uk/files/file49973.pdf. Views must be submitted by 8th May 2009. I will place copies of the consultation paper in the Libraries of the House.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

School Revenue Balances 2007-08

The Minister for Schools and Learners (Jim Knight): The Department for Children, Schools and Families has today published information on the end of financial year revenue balances of all local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools for 2007-08.

This information is presented alongside information on schools' revenue balances for the financial years 1999-2000 to 2006-07 published on 1 April 2008. The information is taken from local authorities' published section 52 outturn statements for the years in question but presents this in summary form. Copies of the information have been placed in the Libraries and will be accessible from the Department for Children, Schools and Families website, at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/localauthorities/section52/subpage.cfm?action=section52.default.default&ID=58

Surplus balances totalled £2 billion and deficits £120 million at the end of 2007-08, giving net total revenue balances of £1.9 billion. This represents an increase of £248.6 million or 14.9 per cent. compared to the position at the end of 2006-07. At school level, 91.7 per cent. of schools held a surplus balance, with 38.3 per cent. holding an excessive balance, defined in guidance from my Department as over 8 per cent. of budget for primary and special schools and over 5 per cent. of budget for secondary schools. Excessive surpluses totalled £591.9 million.

The Government believe that the national total of revenue balances and in particular the level of surplus held by some individual schools is too high. While it is clearly sound financial management for schools to retain a small surplus from year to year, we expect revenue funding to be used for the salaries of staff at the school and on learning resources to support the education of pupils in school now, working towards raising attainment and narrowing the gaps in attainment between disadvantaged children and the rest. We would not normally expect schools to need to use it for capital improvement projects, given that separate capital funding is available. Where a school is in deficit, it must agree a recovery plan with the local authority to eliminate the deficit, normally over three years.

As I made clear in my previous statements to the House on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 29WS, and 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 36WS, about school finances, we expect schools and local authorities to work to reduce the level of balances by the end of 2010-11 and to make full use of their power to claw back excess, uncommitted surpluses and redistribute the proceeds back to local schools in consultation with schools forums. If we do not see a substantial reduction of total revenue balances and the excessive balances held by individual schools, the Government will consult on further action from 2011-12 to bring the total down.

In the meantime the Department continues to work with its partners to prepare further advice for local authorities on effective claw-back of balances, including examples of good practice.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Spending Reports

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Sadiq Khan): We have published a consultation on the first arrangements for the production of local spending reports, which is a requirement of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. This document has been placed in the Library of the House and is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localspendingreportsconsultation

The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 was introduced to Parliament as a private Member's Bill and aims to promote the sustainability of local communities in England. It is based on the principle that local people know best what needs to be done to promote the sustainability of their area, but that sometimes they need central Government to act to enable this to happen. In October 2008, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government invited local authorities to submit proposals, via the Local Government Association in its capacity as 'the selector', which they consider would contribute to promoting the sustainability of local communities. The deadline for the submission of proposals to the Local Government Association is 31 July 2009.

The Act requires the Secretary of State to make arrangements for the production of local spending reports and to make the first arrangements for the production

of these reports before 23 April 2009. The reports will provide information on expenditure by bodies exercising public functions in an area and over a period of time. The aim of these reports is to assist local authorities, their partners and local people in promoting the sustainability of local communities by providing more information about the public funding that is spent in their area.

Before making arrangements the Act requires the Secretary of State to consult such persons likely to be affected by the arrangements as the Secretary of State thinks appropriate. This will enable the Government to develop local spending reports which are useful and whose cost is likely to justify their benefit. This consultation paper is in two phases. Firstly, proposals for how the Government will put in place the first arrangements for local spending reports and, secondly, seeking views on how local spending reports might develop over time.

The first phase of the consultation closes on the 3 April 2009. We intend to make the first local spending reports available as soon as possible after that. The second phase of the consultation on how these reports might develop on a longer-term basis closes on 15 May 2009.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Environment Council

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Miliband): Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and Ed Miliband, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, will represent the UK at the Environment Council in Brussels on 2 March.

At Environment Council Ministers will discuss the development of the EU position on a comprehensive post-2012 climate agreement in Copenhagen and subsequently adopt Council conclusions. Climate change discussions will continue over the ministerial lunch.

The Czech presidency will also hold a discussion on the proposal for a directive on industrial emissions, integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC Directive). The debate will focus on the scope of the proposal; the status of the European reference documents on best available techniques, "the BREFs"; the need for further "minimum requirements" and the large combustion plant provisions.

Furthermore, there will be a policy debate and adoption of Council conclusions on contributions to the Spring European Council, 19 and 20 March.

The Council will also be asked to adopt three council decisions regarding the provisional prohibition on the use and sale of two GM maize lines in Austria and one GM maize line in Hungary.

Finally, the Council will aim to adopt a Council decision on the proposal establishing the position to be adopted on behalf of the European community with regard to proposals for amendments to the International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling and its Schedule.

Under 'any other business', the Czech presidency will provide information on the fall in demand for recycled materials and the 25th Session of the UNEP Governing Council (Nairobi, 16-20 February 2009). Furthermore the European Commission will present proposals for a directive on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment and for a directive on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). The Commission will also present a communication on a mid-term assessment of implementing the EC Biodiversity Action Plan.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Food and Environment Research Agency

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I am pleased to announce that, following careful consideration, the UK Government Decontamination Service (GDS) (an executive Agency of DEFRA) will join the new Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) that DEFRA is establishing, from 1 April 2009. The remit and functions of the GDS, which I announced on 13 October 2008, will continue as a badged service provided by the Food and Environment Research Agency. That is, it will still be known as the UK Government Decontamination Service. This gives FERA a wider national emergency response and recovery capability, supporting UK resilience. In particular, the inclusion of GDS within FERA will strengthen the science capability underpinning GDS functions and areas of expertise.

The GDS will cease to be a separate executive agency on 31 March 2009. Its annual report and accounts for 2008-09 will be completed and presented to Parliament in due course.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Binyam Mohamed

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): Mr Binyam Mohamed returned to the UK yesterday, 23 February, following his release from Guantanamo Bay. A team of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials, including a doctor, met with Mr. Mohamed on 14 February and confirmed there were no immediate medical concerns that would prevent him from travelling to the UK. The same team, along with officers of the Metropolitan Police Service, accompanied Mr. Mohamed on his return to the UK. The FCO was in close contact with Mr. Mohamed's family and legal representatives to inform them of his return.

This is the direct result of our request for his release and return, and follows intensive negotiations with the US Government over the past 18 months, since my request to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on 7 August 2007. These negotiations included pressing for and securing the disclosure by the US to Mr. Mohamed's

lawyers of the 42 documents, which were the subject of a judicial review in the English courts, that could be used for Mr. Mohamed's defence. Further public disclosure of these documents remains a matter for the US Administration. In this regard we welcome the US Attorney General's order for a review of all the assertions of the state secrets privilege in the US Courts.

The Government abhor torture and do not order or condone it. We have raised with the US allegations of mistreatment put to us by UK nationals or residents currently or formerly detained at Guantanamo Bay, including Mr. Mohamed. The question of possible criminal wrongdoing that arose in Mr. Mohamed's case was referred by the Home Secretary to the Attorney General for her to consider. This was, as the court acknowledged, the proper legal process.

Mr. Mohamed's return does not constitute a commitment by the Home Secretary that he may remain permanently in the UK. His immigration status is being reviewed following his return. As always, the Government's top priority is national security, and should any steps be necessary, we will take them.

Mr. Mohamed is the first Guantanamo detainee to be released under President Obama's Administration. We have welcomed, and strongly support, the Obama Administration's aim to close Guantanamo. Our request for Shaker Aamer's return to the UK remains and we stand ready to share our experience in receiving former detainees with European member states, and others, as they consider how they can assist towards closure.

JUSTICE

Defamation Proceedings

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): I have today issued a consultation paper "Controlling Costs in Defamation Proceedings".

The high level of costs incurred in defamation and some other publication proceedings has been the subject of criticism and debate in the courts and Parliament. The risk of excessive costs may force defendants to settle unmeritorious claims, which in turn may encourage a more risk-averse approach to media reporting and is a risk to freedom of expression. The Government are therefore consulting on measures designed to place more effective controls on the costs in defamation and some other publication related proceedings. The measures include:

Limiting recoverable hourly rates by setting either maximum or fixed recoverable rates;

Mandatory or mandatory consideration of cost capping;

Linking recoverability of ATE Insurance premiums to notification and introducing a period of non-recoverability post notification; and

Requiring the proportionality of total costs to be considered on cost assessments conducted by the court.

These proposals would work to: help deal with the threat of excessive hourly rates and base rates; limit the recoverability of after the event insurance premiums in certain circumstances; and enable the court to assess different cost elements together to ensure that the costs are proportionate and reasonable.

The measures, if accepted, would be implemented by way of amendments to the Civil Procedure Rules, practice directions and protocols, as appropriate.

Copies of the consultation paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The paper is also available on the Ministry of Justice website at www.justice.gov.uk. Copies have also been made available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. The consultation period will close on 6 May.

PRIME MINISTER

Berlin Summit (February)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I attended a Summit in Berlin on 22 February hosted by Chancellor Merkel for the Leaders and Finance Ministers of the EU countries who will attend the London Summit in April, the ECB President, the Eurogroup Chair and the Governor of the Bank of England. I was accompanied by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

We agreed on the need to take decisive action to stabilise the global economy, to secure jobs and growth for the future. We need to support our financial systems and get lending moving to business and households, working together to maximise benefits and minimise the impact of these actions on competition.

Across Europe countries have adopted comprehensive fiscal, monetary and structural measures to support the economy and to secure growth and employment. We agreed on the need for common principles to minimise the impact of the measures we are taking, to support the economy on competition, and to deal with impaired assets in our financial systems.

We agreed on the urgent need to increase the resources available to the international financial institutions to sustain global demand, to protect the poorest, and address the impact of the financial crisis on emerging markets, including at least a doubling of resources for the IMF to $500 billion. We expressed our concern at the growing impact of the global financial crisis on the banking sectors in central and eastern Europe and the need for the EU to take a lead in addressing it.

We agreed to work together to strengthen our financial systems:

all financial institutions should be subject to appropriate oversight or regulation, including hedge funds. Regulation must be on the basis of what institutions do and the risks they pose, not on what they call themselves;

credit rating agencies should be subject to mandatory registration and oversight;

we need decisive action against tax havens and unco-operative jurisdictions including the need to set up a list of unco-operative jurisdictions and a toolbox of sanctions. We cannot allow the world economy to be distorted by regulatory havens and tax havens;

financial institutions must pay their employees in a way that does not contribute to excessive risk-taking. We asked the Financial Stability Forum to move quickly to produce principles for all countries to follow to make incentives more transparent and closely linked to sustainable business growth;

we should agree a charter of principles on financial regulation;

we should establish supervisory colleges for cross-border financial institutions to improve international co-operation on financial oversight.

We agreed we need to reform the IMF and Financial Stability Forum to provide early warning systems, and set out a clear timetable in London for reforming the governance of the international institutions to reflect the changing world economy. We must continue to work for an ambitious agreement on climate change in Copenhagen.

We are resolved that global problems need global solutions. We need a global new deal to aid the recovery of the world economy and a set of principles for a sound economic future.

We will work together in the run-up to the London Summit to make sure that by our co-operation and our determination to act together we can not only inject the confidence that is necessary in the world economy but also build anew the economic activity that is necessary for the jobs, for the security that the people of the world want.

TRANSPORT

Drivers' Hours (Exemption for Reservists)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): I am pleased to announce today that the European Commission has agreed to the Government's request for an exemption from Regulation (EC) 561/2006 on drivers' hours for professional drivers operating solely within the UK when they are reservists undergoing military training or providing instruction to members of a Cadet Corps approved by the Secretary of State for Defence.

This exemption, which has been granted in accordance with the provisions in Article 14.1 of Regulation (EC) 561/2006, applies to the weekly rest requirements in Article 8(2) and 8(6) of Regulation (EC) 561/2006. It will enable a driver who finishes his normal driving duties on a Friday to complete a 34 hour period of military training as a volunteer reservist or as an instructor in the Cadet Corps and then resume his normal driving duties again on a Monday morning.

The following safeguards have been incorporated into the exemption to ensure that road safety is not jeopardised:

the exemption will apply to 15 days' annual camp and 10 weekend training sessions per annum - a total of 35 days. Weekend training will not be allowed to take place on consecutive weeks (other than in respect of the 15-day annual camp);

a regular daily rest period of 11 hours must be taken between the end of weekend training and start of work for the primary employer;

a regular weekly rest period of 45 hours must be taken no later than at the end of the sixth day following a period of weekend training.

Until such time as the exemption can be transposed into domestic legislation, it will be implemented by administrative means. The Ministry of Defence will be issuing guidelines that outline how drivers can manage their volunteer reserve service in accordance with the exemption, and a copy of the European Commission's Decision will be published on the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency website.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Disability Benefits

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw): My right hon. Friend the Member for Stirling (Anne McGuire), the then Minister for Disabled People, notified the House on 3 April 2008 that following the European Court of Justice decision of 18 October 2007 we would in due course publish details of the eligibility criteria for payment of the disability benefits, "Disability Living Allowance" (care component), "Attendance Allowance and Carer's Allowance" within the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland for those people who wish to claim these benefits from abroad.

We have now carefully considered the full terms of the judgment and the provisions of European legislation which co-ordinates social security systems within the EEA and Switzerland, as it applies to the UK's disability benefits and their re-classification under European law as sickness benefits. Details of the eligibility criteria for payments of the disability benefits have been posted on the Directgov website on the pages: *"Taking disability benefits to other European countries"*[1], *and "Claiming disability benefits if you live in another European country"*[2].

Customers who would like more information about the effects of the judgment should contact the address below:

Pension, Disability and Carers Service, Room C216, Warbreck House, Warbreck Hill Rd, Blackpool, FY2 OYE.

Email: exportability.team@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Customers who have already contacted the exportability team about the judgment do not need to contact them again. Their original enquiries will be dealt with as quickly as possible.

[1]www.direct.gov.uk/takingbenefits

[2]www.direct.gov.uk/claimingbenefits

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 25 February 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

New RDA Board Chairs

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): I have decided to appoint the new RDA Board Chairs listed below.

Sir Roy McNulty—Advantage West Midlands (AWM)

Sir Harry Studholme South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA)

Sir Roy McNulty will commence as Chair designate, to ensure continuity from 1 May 2009 and take up post as Chair from 1 September 2009.

Sir Harry Studholme will commence as Chair designate, to ensure continuity from 31 March 2009 and take up post as Chair from 6 July 2009.

The new appointments will be initially until 13 December 2012.

The appointments have been made in accordance with the Commissioner For Public Appointments Code of Practice.

I have placed further details of the appointments in the Libraries of both Houses. They were all made in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Elite Sport

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Andy Burnham): I am pleased to be able to announce to the House the creation of a unique fundraising partnership for elite sport. The partnership brings together, for the first time ever, UK Sport, the British Olympic Association and the British Paralympic Association to raise funds for elite sport, along with the London Organising Committee of the London Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). All the partners have today agreed a formal heads of agreement to pool their collective rights to help raise additional funds for elite sport in the run-up to London 2012 and beyond. This follows on from the challenge I set UK Sport last December to put in place a new partnership within Government to develop our private fundraising effort.

Building on our Medal Hopes scheme the partners have assembled an enhanced package of rights for sale as an official LOCOG activation programme. This will offer sponsors rights to branding, access and events surrounding our Olympic and Paralympic sports. The scheme will allow businesses to be associated with the success of all Olympic athletes, and all Olympic sports, through the UK Sport's World Class Performance Programme—rights that no other sponsorship deal can deliver.

This is why I believe, despite the challenging current economic conditions, the scheme has great potential for success. There will also be opportunities for regional and local companies, and individual patrons, to get involved in supporting our athletes.

In the 2006 Budget statement the Government announced a £600 million package for the remaining three years of the Beijing cycle and for the London cycle, comprising £200 million of Exchequer funding matched by £100 million of private sector investment, and supported by £300 million of lottery investment.

Last December I announced a record public sector funding settlement when I allocated a total of £550 million of public funds—an additional £50 million—to UK Sport to fund its elite programme. This consisted of additional Exchequer funding of £29 million to UK Sport over the four years to 2012; plus a projected uplift in lottery income of £21 million.

This meant that for the London cycle the elite sport system will receive £304 million, the highest level of public funding ever made available over a four-year Olympic-Paralympic cycle. UK Sport confirmed that this funding package enabled it to set a target to attain a place in the top four in the Olympic Games, and second place in the Paralympic Games in 2012—aiming to win more medals in more sports than in Beijing.

I was clear that this new funding was the limit of public investment in elite sport, with any further funding having to come from our private fundraising initiative. Since last summer we have been working with Fast Track Ltd and UK Sport in developing the Medal Hopes sponsorship package and this will now be subsumed within the new wider fundraising scheme.

However, my aim has not only been to keep the full fundraising ambition in play but also to establish a commercial funding structure to continue raising funds for elite sport beyond 2012. Funding has moved from lottery money for Sydney and Athens, to Exchequer and lottery money for Beijing, and now Exchequer, lottery and private money for London. I consider this mixed economy funding for elite sport to be the right long-term approach.

The creation of a unique fundraising partnership involving the wider Olympic family and the establishment of a third funding stream from the private sector will form a permanent legacy of the London Games. Both these measures, along with the record amount of public funding I have secured, leave elite sport with the best possible opportunity for a secure and successful future.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan (Air Support)

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): The statement by the then Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne), on 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 677-78, referred to the decision to withdraw the Harrier force and replace it

with an equivalent force of Tornado GR4s by spring 2009 to Kandahar airfield. Delays in construction of the necessary supporting infrastructure and our current estimate of the time required to complete the Tornado Urgent Operational Requirement (UOR) enhancements means that the Tornado GR4s will now deploy in summer 2009. We expect delivery of the UORs in advance of completion of the infrastructure project and will keep both programmes under constant review to ensure completion as quickly as possible. In the interim, Joint Force Harrier will continue to contribute to the provision of close air support to UK and Allied Forces in southern Afghanistan; 1 (Fighter) Squadron will therefore replace IV (Army Co-operation) Squadron in mid-April.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): The Justice and Home Affairs Council is due to be held on 26 and 27 February 2009 in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary (Jacqui Smith), my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Lord Bach) and the Scottish Solicitor General (Frank Mulholland), intend to attend on behalf of the United Kingdom. As the provisional agenda stands, the following items will be discussed:

During the mixed Committee with Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Lichtenstein, Ministers will be asked to adopt Council conclusions on the second generation of the Schengen Information System. These reflect discussions at the informal Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council in January on action required in light of an analysis which identified problems with the central system. The conclusions set a direction for the central SISII project, and include a set of criteria against which the SISII based scenario and the alternative scenario, based on a SIS I platform, will be assessed. They call for a decision regarding the future of the project to be taken by June 2009 at the latest.

The presidency will present to the mixed Committee the current state of play on the implementation of regulation establishing the Visa Information System (VIS). The UK does not participate in the VIS. The presidency will also report on the outcome of the Swiss air borders evaluation which took place on 9-13 February. Providing the air borders evaluation does not throw up any shortcomings and is fully compliant with the Schengen Acquis, Switzerland will be able to abolish checks on persons at its air borders on 29 March 2009.

The Council will then exchange initial views on a new proposal from the Commission for a regulation establishing a European asylum support office. The aim of the office will be to co-ordinate practical co-operation on asylum between member states. The UK will have 3 months to decide whether to opt in to this proposal.

The presidency will present the recent report by the Commission on the implementation of the Free Movement Directive (2004/38/EC) by all member states. The UK strongly supports correct implementation of free movement rights and also welcomes the Commission's undertaking to provide effective guidelines on abuse of free movement.

The Council will discuss key issues around combating illegal immigration in the Mediterranean. This arises out of Migration Pact discussions. Four countries are calling for greater EU support in managing illegal migration flows through this region. The Government recognise the significance of these flows and support strong EU co-operation on this issue.

The Council will discuss the situation of Iraqi refugees informed by Council conclusions agreed on 27-28 November. The UK has already committed to resettling 1,000 Iraqi refugees during 2008-2010—financial years—and does not have capacity to include additional spaces. This has been communicated to the Council. The UK will encourage other EU member states to set up their own resettlement programmes and will offer technical support based on our longstanding experience.

The Council will have a discussion over lunch on the appointment of the new Europol director. The United Kingdom will push for adoption of the unanimous recommendation of the Europol Management Board that the UK candidate was the most suitable for appointment.

The presidency will seek a steer from the Council on various aspects of the proposed framework decision in conflicts of jurisdiction in criminal matters. The proposal sets out a mechanism at union level to prevent potential conflicts of jurisdiction in criminal proceedings and determine the most appropriate jurisdiction in cases where more than one member state could potentially exercise jurisdiction over the same case.

The presidency will ask the Council to adopt a negotiating mandate for a mutual legal assistance agreement between the EU and Japan. The Government are happy with the mandate in its current format. A key priority for the UK is to ensure the inclusion of video conferencing to give testimony.

The presidency will update the Council about the implementation of the European e-justice action plan, which was approved by the Council in November 2008. The Government welcome the Presidency's commitment to the e-justice action plan and supports the development of a more detailed roadmap to ensure proper implementation of projects such as the e-justice portal and video conferencing

Under any other business, the Council will discuss any potential role of the EU in the closure of Guantanamo while the Commission will present an outline of a report by Judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere on the processing of member states' personal data by the US—Treasury Department—for counter-terrorism purposes. The Council will also have a discussion on the EU anti-drug policy, originally planned for the informal JHA Council in January. This will enable the UK to emphasise the continued necessity of EU action in tackling cocaine trafficking through West Africa. Greece is expected to highlight the third Global Forum on Migration and Development taking place in early November in Athens. The chosen overall theme is "Integrating Migration policies in development strategies for the benefit of all". The UK is (as in previous years) a member of the steering group for the Athens Forum and will in that capacity help oversee and shape preparations.

The presidency are expected to inform the Council on the state of play of the negotiations with the European Parliament on the proposal for an amending Directive on ship-source pollution and on the introduction of penalties for infringements. The UK supports the Directive and is keen to see a successful passage in the European Parliament. Germany will provide information on the International Tribunal for Law of the Sea based in Hamburg. Finally, Sweden is expected to raise the issue of transparency as a tool for strengthening citizens' trust in the European institutions.

JUSTICE

Criminal Trial Processes (Young Witnesses)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle): Today the Government have issued their response to the consultation "Improving the Criminal Trial Process for Young Witnesses".

A copy of the full consultation response will be available in the Libraries of both Houses and will be downloadable from: http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/consultations-with-response.htm

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 26 February 2009

DEFENCE

Defence Technology Plan

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies): The Ministry of Defence has today published the Defence Technology Plan (DTP) on the www.science.mod.uk website. This is a cost-balanced expression of research priorities for the MOD that takes forward the Defence Technology Strategy (DTS), published in October 2006. The DTP provides clear direction to the R & D community on current priorities for investment in defence technology and seeks fresh, innovative thinking.

The DTP has a dynamic online format, allowing regular updates when necessary. The publication of the DTP completes a suite of MOD strategies and policies that now form MOD's Innovation Procurement Plan. As part of the commitments set out in the "Innovation Nation" White Paper, published in March 2008, the MOD's Innovation Procurement Plan explains the hierarchy and roles of MOD's existing documents that describe our approach to innovation:

The Defence Industrial Strategy
The Defence Technology Strategy
The Innovation Strategy
Technology Partnership in Defence

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

EU Energy Council

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Miliband): I represented the UK at the Energy Council in Brussels on 19 February.

The Council discussed the Russia-Ukraine gas crisis and the Commission's recent Second Strategic European Energy Review (SEER2) (Council Document 15944/08). Ministers reiterated their support for the SEER2 and agreed Council conclusions, which will be submitted to the Spring European Council scheduled for 19-20 March.

This was followed by a policy debate on measures to promote oil and gas security, based on questions prepared by the Czech presidency. Ministers generally endorsed the Commission's objectives on oil stocking and gas security of supply, although the presidency noted the need for a balance between the harmonisation of objectives and flexibility in member states' obligations in meeting them.

Finally, the Commission and presidency presented information on a number of international energy-related events which have taken place or are due to take place under the Czech presidency, including the Sofia Energy Summit and the Hungarian Nabucco Summit. Slovenia spoke about its candidature for the seat of the Agency for the Co-operation of Energy Regulators (ACER).

Over lunch, Ministers discussed informally the energy dimension of the Commission's economic recovery package.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Olympic/Paralympic Games (Safety and Security)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): The Government have made a commitment to the International Olympic Committee to take all the "financial, planning and operational measures" necessary to ensure the safety and the peaceful celebration of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Government have now approved the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Safety and Security Strategy which sets out how we will achieve our aim of a safe and secure games in keeping with the Olympic culture and spirit.

The strategy has been developed by the Office of Security and Counter-Terrorism in the Home Office in association with Government Olympic Executive, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), the office of the London Mayor, the security and emergency services and a wide range of other Government Departments and agencies.

The objectives of this strategy will be to: protect Olympic venues, events and supporting infrastructure including the transport networks; prepare for events that may significantly disrupt the safety and security of the games and mitigate their impact; identify and disrupt threats to the safety and security of the games; command, control, plan and resource the security operation; and engage with domestic and international partners to enhance security and ensure the success of the strategy.

This strategy provides a framework for programmes run by the police and other agencies and by ODA and LOCOG. It is integrated with and will draw on resources allocated under the Government's counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST) and other pre-existing security regimes, such as those governing the transport networks. The strategy benefits from the Government's ongoing work and investment generally in security and law enforcement and in particular the expansion of the UK's counter-terrorism capabilities through the CONTEST programme.

The Government have also endorsed an outline 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Safety and Security National Concept of Operations which describes how the strategy will be delivered. The concept of operations will evolve as work is completed on the broader Olympic infrastructure and as LOCOG and others develop their concept of operations for the games as a whole.

The full strategy, concept of operations and detailed security plans are classified documents and will not be placed in the public domain, but the Government will provide as much information to the House about security planning as possible. Agreement of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Safety and Security Strategy and the development of the national concept of operations ensures that the games security planning remains on track and on budget.

The strategy and the concept of operations are designed to respond flexibly to changes in the risks to the games and deal with any unexpected events which may occur between now and 2012.

Risk assessment is central to the strategy and to operational planning for 2012 safety and security measures, and activity to mitigate risk is already underway. The

design of the Olympic park, new competition venues and associated infrastructure is being developed by the Olympic Delivery Authority with the full involvement of security advisors from the police and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure, with the overall aim that all new construction will meet the Association of Chief Police Officers' "Secured by Design" standards.

The Metropolitan Police have established a dedicated specialist team to police the Olympic park and associated commercial developments, which will reduce the potential for criminal activity by supporting on site security and co-ordinating operational activities. The police are also leading a wider initiative to prevent economic crime opportunities and are working with key Olympic stakeholders, relevant agencies and concerned parties to increase protection against criminal networks and individuals who want to exploit the Olympic economy for their own profit.

The Government and the police are also increasing the capacity of the airwave tetra radio system in advance of the 2012 games to deal with the expected increase in requirement and ensure that the airwave network remains resilient.

On 15 March 2007, my right hon. Friend, the Minister for the Olympics, set out an envelope of financial provision for additional policing and wider security for the Olympic and Paralympic Games of £600 million. The strategy, concept of operations and detailed plans will be delivered within this provision and the security budgets of the Olympic Delivery Authority and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, as well as drawing on the Government's substantial investment in counter-terrorist and other security, law enforcement and resilience measures. This £600 million, together with a contingency of £238 million on which there are currently no plans to draw, and the security budget of the Olympic Delivery Authority are parts of the overall Olympic public sector funding package of £9.325 billion.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

World Bank

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): I have placed in the Libraries of both Houses a copy of the DFID report, "The UK and the World Bank 2007-2009".

This report sets out how we have worked with the World Bank from July 2007 to November 2008. Similar reports will now be published on an annual basis in order to provide more regular and up-to-date reporting and accountability.

The report provides an explanation of major developments in policy and strategy, the UK's engagement and the outcomes. It also explains how bank operations and implementation have been taken forward and highlights examples of major projects and programmes launched.

The major issues that the bank has worked on during this period, and on which DFID has engaged are:

The Food, Fuel and Financial Crises.

International Development Association Replenishment.

Climate Change and Sustainability.

Making the Bank more Representative and Responsive.

Governance and Fragile States.

Human Development.

Growth and Trade.

Debt.

In addition the report sets out UK priorities and high-level objectives for engaging with the bank in 2009. These focus on securing optimal bank support to countries dealing with the economic downturn; a stronger bank focus on environmental sustainability, climate resilient development and low carbon growth; improving the delivery and effectiveness of bank assistance and the way it works with others, especially in fragile and conflict affected countries; delivery on gender commitments and stronger focus on supporting women and girls; and improvements in bank governance which increase developing country voice and make it more efficient and effective.

The next annual report will set out progress against these priorities and objectives, and outline those for the year ahead.

JUSTICE

Election Candidate Address Publication (Government Response)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): The Government published today their response to the consultation paper on the publication of candidates' addresses at UK parliamentary elections.

The purpose of this consultation was to seek views on whether the addresses of candidates at UK parliamentary elections should continue to be included on ballot papers and other election documents open to the public. The responses reveal that there are strongly-held views on both sides.

The Government are aware that at least one Member of Parliament intends to table an amendment to the Political Parties and Elections Bill which would remove the requirement for a candidate's full home address to appear on publicly available election documents, including the ballot paper.

The responses to this consultation will help to inform consideration of any such amendment by Members of Parliament.

Copies of the response paper will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Department's website at: www.justice.gov.uk.

Copies will also be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 27 February 2009

TREASURY

Asset Protection Scheme (Lloyds Banking Group)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): Following announcements about the design of the Asset Protection Scheme yesterday, HM Treasury confirms that discussions with Lloyds Banking Group regarding their participation in the Scheme (APS) are well advanced. A further update will be provided once negotiations have been completed.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Contracts

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Sadiq Khan): I would like to inform the House that further investigations have revealed that the answer given to Question 196589 in the 2007-08 session was incomplete. Question 196589 was tabled by the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban), and answered by my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda), on 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1250W.

The response to Question 196589 should be as follows:

Contracts awarded to the five named companies in the last 12 months are detailed as follows.

(a) KPMG

(i) Independent audit advice to the Supporting People Programme

(ii) £67,000

(b) PricewaterhouseCoopers

(i) Consultancy support to Internal Audit Service

(ii) £600,000

(i) Economic support to Communities' Capability Review Commitments

(ii) £28,630

(c) Ernst and Young

(i) No Contracts awarded

(ii) £0

(d) McKinsey

(i) Support for Communities' High Level Seminar

(ii) £407,000

(e) Deloitte

(i) No Contracts awarded

(ii) £0

Costs exclude VAT. Details of contracts awarded to other consultancy firms could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Caroline Flint): I represented the UK at the General Affairs and External Relations Council in Brussels.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Preparation of the European Council, 19-20 March

The presidency presented the draft agenda for the Spring European Council. First, on the economic and financial situation, EU heads would look at short-term measures such as the European Economic Recovery Plan and the conclusions of the de Larosiere high level group on cross-border financial supervision, but also at the longer term, in particular the Lisbon Strategy. The meeting will also look ahead to the 2 April London summit. Second, on energy and climate change, leaders would look at energy security and preparations for the December Copenhagen climate change conference. There was also widespread support for the presidency's decision to focus the external relations discussion on the eastern partnership.

As I said in my letter of 18 February to the Chairs of the European Scrutiny Committee and the Select Committee on European Union, the Government support the presidency's priorities for the Spring European Council.

The presidency also outlined their plans for the 1 March Informal European Council. Four issues would be addressed: the functioning of the banking sector (including impaired assets); the implementation of the European Economic Recovery Plan; how to stimulate employment, and prevent and limit job losses; and London summit preparations, on which Chancellor Merkel and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister will give a joint presentation.

European Economic Recovery Plan

The Council assessed the list of energy, agriculture and broadband projects proposed by the European Commission, to be funded by an additional €5 billion contribution from the Community budget. Ministers also discussed how to finance the package. There was a consensus that the Commission's preferred option, to use the margin from the 2008 budget, was not acceptable. The presidency therefore concluded that that more work on an alternative solution was required.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Afghanistan

The presidency said the EU needed to deliver on its commitments to Afghanistan, working alongside the US. The Commission agreed: they would decide whether to deploy a full election observer mission following an exploratory mission next month. The main concern was the security situation—it was clear that EU observers would need security support from NATO and ISAF (International Security Assistance Force). They had already committed €25million to support the election process.

High Representative Solana noted the importance of a strong police sector in Afghanistan and stressed the importance of the EU meeting its existing commitments on the EUPOL police reform mission, particularly by providing personnel.

I said that prioritisation was key; the EU needed to take a closer look at where it could really add value and increase its effectiveness; its priorities should include support to the elections, policing, financial assistance and regional engagement.

The presidency concluded that Foreign Ministers would continue the debate next month, including at the Spring European Council, focusing on how to: increase EU engagement and effectiveness; support the elections; complement NATO activities; and be instrumental in the regional dimension.

MEPP

The presidency outlined its main messages for the Gaza reconstruction conference in Sharm el-Sheikh on 2 March: humanitarian aid delivery and relief remained a priority; importance of opening the crossings; support to Egypt's ceasefire and reconciliation efforts; support to the Palestinian Authority (PA) and President Abbas; donor assistance should be channelled through the PA and or existing international funding mechanisms; the need for a durable ceasefire. High Representative Solana noted that ceasefire talks in Cairo had stalled; he would return to the region shortly and remain there until 2 March.

Eastern Partnership

The presidency said that this was a priority for them. The Commission presented the proposals in line with its communication of 3 December 2008. Stability, prosperity and security to our east were important for the EU. There was broad agreement on the importance and principles of the initiative, including that financing should not be at the expense of the EU's southern neighbours. Ministers and discussed the eastern partnership launch summit to be held on 7 May, including the question of Russian and Belarusian participation. With support from a range of other member states, I expressed caution about Belarus: it was up to the regime to deliver the necessary political reform in order to take part in the initiative.

Western Balkans

Ministers discussed how best to handle Montenegro's application for EU membership. With support from most member states, I argued that we should maintain the momentum of enlargement to ensure stability in the Balkans and that we should ask the Commission for its detailed advice on the reforms needed before we could open accession negotiations. This would help focus action on priority reforms and strengthen the conditions-based enlargement process. The presidency stated their intention that the Council should revert to the issue at the March GAERC.

On Bosnia and Herzegovina there was an inconclusive discussion of progress towards meeting the conditions for closure of the office of the High Representative (OHR). I reiterated UK support for maintaining clear conditionality for a decision on OHR closure.

There was an inconclusive discussion on the possibility of implementing Serbia's "Interim Agreement" with the EU. I confirmed that, while the UK would be ready for the EU to recognise Serbia's significantly improved co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague by allowing entry into force of Serbia's "Interim Agreement", full co-operation with ICTY remains the condition set by the EU for ratification of Serbia's Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the EU.

Sri Lanka

Ministers adopted conclusions without discussion, which called for an "immediate ceasefire" to allow humanitarian access; condemned the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's use of violence and terrorism, and urged the Government of Sri Lanka to engage in an inclusive political process that would address the legitimate concerns of all communities, in order to find a lasting political solution to the conflict.

Iraq

Ministers adopted conclusions without discussion, which welcomed the provincial elections of 31 January as an important step towards democratisation and reconciliation, and reaffirmed the EU's support to Iraq, in co-operation with international organisations.

HEALTH

Meningitis C Vaccine

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): On 25 February, and in consultation with the Medicines and Healthcare products regulatory Agency (MHRA), Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics issued a precautionary recall of two batches with a total of 17,000 doses of a meningitis C vaccine "Menjugate Kit". A potential problem has arisen with the solvent that is used to reconstitute the vaccine before it is administered. This follows the detection of the Staphylococcus aureus bacteria in part of a batch manufactured in Italy but which did not reach the UK. All batches of the vaccine that have come into the United Kingdom have passed all their tests including sterility.

The MHRA has reassured me that parents need not be concerned over this recall, as there is currently no evidence to show that UK children have been put at risk. However, if parents are in any way concerned, then they should consult their doctor about the issue or contact NHS Direct.

The MHRA has received no reports of infections following vaccinations. There is also no current evidence to suggest that UK children have been given a contaminated vaccine.

Further investigations into the incident are underway by Novartis. Tests have also begun on batches in the UK.

We will provide a further statement to the House when the necessary investigations have been completed.

JUSTICE

Breach of Community Order Pilots

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): On 2 April 2001, the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Social Security, my hon. Friend the Member for Wallasey, (Angela Eagle), debated the Social Security (Breach of Community Order)

Regulations 2001. These were subsequently approved by the House of Commons on 4 April 2001, *Official Report*, column 479. My noble Friend Baroness Hollis of Heigham, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Social Security, also successfully moved, *Official Report*, column 639, that the draft order laid before both Houses on 20 March, to enable the establishment of the benefit sanctions pilots for offenders in breach of their community order, be agreed. Following this, the pilots in four areas, by which social security benefit would be withdrawn for offenders in breach of community orders imposed by the courts, were commenced. The pilots covered Derbyshire, Hertfordshire, Teesside and West Midlands. They involved joint working between the Department for Work and Pensions, the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice. This statement announces that, subject to Parliament's approval, we now intend to end these pilots and explains the reasons why.

The original objective of the pilots was to link the receipt of benefit more closely to the fulfilment of responsibilities to society and to encourage greater compliance with community sentences.

Initial evaluation research showed a modest 1.8 per cent. improvement in compliance by sanctioned offenders, directly attributable to the impact of the policy. However over a longer period research has not shown the advantages expected. Overall, when the administrative costs for the scheme were balanced against the likely savings, the pilots have not been found to provide sufficient value for money to justify their continuation. Improvements in compliance of 5 per cent. could be expected to deliver savings in the pilot areas of about £9,500 a year. However, once all costs had been factored in, the overall sum for continuing the scheme would be in the region of £652,000, or £5.60p for every £1 of savings made under the scheme.

In consultation with the DWP, we plan to end the benefit sanction pilots subject to parliamentary approval. The regulations to end the pilots will be laid shortly. The decision has been made following evaluation that showed the pilots did not provide sufficient value for money to justify their continuation.

It remains the Government's intention to continue to take a rigorous approach to sentencing for breach of a community order. With the introduction of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 measures on compliance and enforcement have been strengthened. Courts must now respond to a breach either by amending the order to make it more demanding or by revoking it altogether and dealing with the offence afresh, which includes the power to send the offender to prison for up to 51 weeks. Courts must hold offenders to account in all cases where they do not comply with their order.

The Probation Service now has a strong record of enforcing orders promptly. In 90 per cent. of cases, offender managers take enforcement action for breaches of community orders within 10 days. Compliance with community orders is at a record level and increasing, with 75 per cent. of cases reaching the 6 month stage of an order without the need for breach action.

The learning from the pilots will be carried forward into the DWP's benefits sanctions initiative for drugs misusers who fail to attend for employment interviews. These will combine sanction with support in a carefully constructed package designed to improve compliance. They will be monitored and evaluated throughout to ensure value for money and effectiveness in meeting their original aim of getting more drugs misusers into employment or training. We remain committed to the principle that entitlement must be balanced against a responsible attitude to obligations. The public should have every right to feel confident in tough, effective and visible community sentences that are rigorously enforced.

PRIME MINISTER

Criminal Justice System (Official History)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have appointed Professor Paul Rock, Professor David Downes and Professor Tim Newburn from the London School of Economics to write the official history of the Criminal Justice System.

WORK AND PENSIONS

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw): Further to my statement of 3 February 2009, I am pleased to announce that yesterday the United Kingdom Ambassador to the United Nations, Sir John Sawers, signed the optional protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on behalf of the United Kingdom, and in doing so we joined over 80 other UN member states who have so far signed.

The decision to sign this optional protocol was reached in the light of our work towards ratification of the convention itself. We are now close to starting the parliamentary procedures required for ratification, and I hope to be able to make a separate announcement on that soon.

Signature of the optional protocol is an important step and underlines the messages in the convention about respect for the human rights of disabled people. We will now be working towards ratification of the optional protocol as soon as is practicable.

As my 3 February statement indicated, the optional protocol builds on the convention by establishing two additional procedures in respect of implementation and monitoring of the convention itself.

The first is a procedural avenue that, subject to meeting conditions set out in the optional protocol, will enable individuals or groups of individuals to bring petitions to the UN Committee that has been established to monitor implementation of the Disability Convention if they believe that their rights under that convention have been breached. The second is an inquiry procedure giving the Committee authority to undertake inquiries when reliable information is received into allegations of grave or systematic violations of convention rights.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 2 March 2009

HOME DEPARTMENT

Controls on Deactivated Firearms

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell): I have published a consultation paper, "Controls on Deactivated Firearms", which seeks views on how to reduce the use of deactivated firearms in crime.

The Government do not want to interfere with the legitimate collection of deactivated firearms and is looking for a proportionate but effective response to the problem. The consultation paper sets out a range of possible options for reducing the availability of deactivated firearms to criminals.

Copies of the consultation paper are available in the House Library and on the Home Office website at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk. We should be glad to receive views by 25 May.

Police Use of Firearms

The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Vernon Coaker): The latest figures from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 show that the number of police operations in which firearms were authorised was 21,181—an increase of 17.5 per cent. on the previous year.

The number of Authorised Firearms Officers (AFO's) was 6,780—an increase of 52 (1 per cent.) officers overall on the previous year. The number of operations involving armed response vehicles was 16,712—an increase of 2,197 (15 per cent.) on the previous year.

The police discharged a conventional firearm in seven incidents (up from 3 incidents in the previous year).

Full details are set out in the tables below:

	Number of Operations in which Firearms were Authorised						
	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total	*13991*	*14827*	*16657*	*15981*	*18891*	*18032*	*21181*
Avon & Somerset	195	262	311	333	247	285	328
Bedfordshire	237	301	442	475	575	663	1217
Cambridgeshire	114	57	104	241	201	207	316
Cheshire	419	451	397	358	367	340	317
Cleveland	37	170	453	530	657	293	577
City of London	40	131	364	404	323	239	365
Cumbria	71	77	72	152	112	92	92
Derbyshire	275	401	369	287	305	223	211
Devon & Cornwall	101	96	112	71	84	80	143
Dorset	184	193	231	223	263	354	258
Durham	89	83	156	144	291	349	206
Essex	323	312	275	296	432	245	529
Gloucestershire	165	185	127	176	229	280	162
Gtr Manchester	580	518	507	461	478	481	497
Hampshire	398	162	208	237	289	352	382
Hertfordshire	112	172	195	185	187	280	303
Humberside	297	187	183	206	362	235	209
Kent	115	137	207	163	219	170	202
Lancashire	232	238	318	241	240	410	388
Leicestershire	300	268	295	260	363	334	318
Lincolnshire	477	392	386	294	220	157	158
Merseyside	1020	628	751	733	669	727	829
Metropolitan	2447	3199	3563	2964	4711	3878	4948
Norfolk	175	200	178	195	175	153	174
Northamptonshire	43	138	148	158	137	156	159
Northumbria	1440	1275	1140	977	611	332	229
North Yorkshire	92	100	147	185	183	282	329
Nottinghamshire	384	452	459	408	394	289	270
South Yorkshire	258	463	484	546	749	737	628
Staffordshire	232	281	255	216	171	250	244
Suffolk	163	270	251	153	202	256	193
Surrey	245	247	203	151	222	222	375
Sussex	248	204	280	187	190	201	331
Thames Valley	179	167	195	289	427	264	293

Number of Operations in which Firearms were Authorised

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Warwickshire	130	149	164	124	180	162	150
West Mercia	117	91	197	162	122	155	202
West Midlands	822	902	1377	1264	1044	1557	2350
West Yorkshire	757	604	575	853	1335	1272	1130
Wiltshire	45	58	63	88	139	226	128
Dyfed Powys	28	29	28	51	63	72	155
Gwent	20	37	40	81	94	133	334
North Wales	302	259	197	223	350	340	259
South Wales	283	281	250	236	279	308	293

Number of Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs)

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total	*5776*	*5763*	*6096*	*6243*	*6584*	*6728*	*6780*
Avon & Somerset	116	84	122	118	117	103	123
Bedfordshire	48	53	58	56	59	57	53
Cambridgeshire	56	71	60	60	50	46	49
Cheshire	81	89	75	76	73	80	72
Cleveland	85	80	95	100	100	105	97
City of London	73	72	86	89	86	45	49
Cumbria	92	87	89	90	89	90	97
Derbyshire	80	69	70	74	75	69	61
Devon & Cornwall	108	115	132	123	122	132	142
Dorset	57	59	60	64	62	67	71
Durham	86	102	97	103	100	102	89
Essex	180	184	186	202	205	220	225
Gloucestershire	71	80	82	93	92	94	95
Gtr Manchester	219	202	205	187	245	217	250
Hampshire	87	94	94	92	97	83	85
Hertfordshire	46	47	50	53	52	49	53
Humberside	96	96	96	101	92	83	87
Kent	113	93	90	94	94	98	87
Lancashire	138	129	122	115	123	103	143
Leicestershire	69	68	51	53	59	67	64
Lincolnshire	91	87	78	86	87	75	77
Merseyside	78	84	94	93	129	139	153
Metropolitan	1805	1823	2060	2134	2331	2584	2530
Norfolk	104	109	114	125	119	127	114
Northamptonshire	51	56	52	50	56	59	53
Northumbria	125	99	90	93	98	92	96
North Yorkshire	66	64	60	56	78	67	67
Nottinghamshire	136	131	138	138	149	146	137
South Yorkshire	92	100	98	122	116	118	106
Staffordshire	71	63	67	76	70	82	82
Suffolk	90	80	96	88	84	78	74
Surrey	62	48	53	49	51	45	54
Sussex	120	141	134	130	129	129	123
Thames Valley	156	180	172	176	180	186	180
Warwickshire	50	51	46	53	55	59	63
West Mercia	125	131	139	141	152	133	163
West Midlands	111	110	124	134	145	175	177
West Yorkshire	116	132	140	130	150	148	147
Wiltshire	71	78	80	74	72	69	67
Dyfed Powys	77	62	58	79	68	72	67
Gwent	57	60	71	74	86	64	63
North Wales	83	75	73	65	57	56	57
South Wales	138	125	139	134	130	115	138

	Number of Operations Involving Armed Response Vehicles (ARVs)						
	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total	*11574*	*11848*	*13218*	*13137*	*14355*	*14515*	*16712*
Avon & Somerset	173	215	249	312	167	192	292
Bedfordshire	172	269	414	419	534	639*	1171
Cambridgeshire	43	45	155	172	160	172	221
Cheshire	523	337	356	773	807	793	642
Cleveland	13	63	86	154	285	290	554
City of London	39	131	364	275	234	183	200
Cumbria	53	45	65	134	90	72	74
Derbyshire	253	363	312	254	257	183	187
Devon & Cornwall	76	32	94	54	54	76	120
Dorset	182	180	215	195	246	322	238
Durham	57	66	96	91	256	204	192
Essex	165	176	138	138	155	224	226
Gloucestershire	140	166	109	121	145	213	147
Gtr Manchester	528	406	440	364	306	214	196
Hampshire	116	108	128	167	178	270	271
Hertfordshire	81	129	157	155	160	226	262
Humberside	273	170	158	184	335	232	183
Kent	89	132	193	124	183	373	364
Lancashire	192	185	273	228	232	383	313
Leicestershire	292	232	269	232	328	313	268
Lincolnshire	470	367	355	276	210	147	153
Merseyside	974	547	687	677	611	644	734
Metropolitan	1667	2447	2423	2322	2572	2770	2303
Norfolk	157	186	169	163	149	133	165
Northamptonshire	25	90	99	89	101	119	127
Northumbria	1349	1204	1063	893	585	299	199
North Yorkshire	60	67	110	144	208	268	318
Nottinghamshire	333	397	404	336	342	256	246
South Yorkshire	221	280	322	438	632	522	493
Staffordshire	208	241	212	183	154	222	231
Suffolk	116	160	194	119	149	204	148
Surrey	225	240	190	140	204	209	380
Sussex	189	171	250	163	162	165	311
Thames Valley	174	167	179	265	355	227	254
Warwickshire	104	31	138	102	144	121	113
West Mercia	100	111	241	152	94	120	121
West Midlands	563	592	975	952	745	518	2003
West Yorkshire	609	565	543	656	1040	1018	1098
Wiltshire	43	39	28	54	124	1[illegible]	359
Dyfed Powys	28	29	28	48	55	72	135
Gwent	16	16	23	74	85	109	257
North Wales	265	198	153	180	299	295	221
South Wales	218	253	161	165	223	283	222

Notes:

i) *Source*: Home Office Public Order Unit, based on information aggregated from figures provided by individual police forces as part of the Home Office Annual Data Requirement. This was followed by a further quality assurance process involving the Home Office asking individual forces to verify and sign off their figures.

ii) * indicates revised figures for 2006-07 from Bedfordshire Police

iii) The information provided is a regular annual update of figures previously published 31 Jan 2008, *Official Report*, column WS49 and on the Home Office website.

iv) Home Office guidance to forces for providing these figures is contained within the booklet: "Annual Data Requirement, Police Personnel and Performance Data, Notes for Guidance". For the purpose of this statistical return AFOs are deemed to be deployed when "they are required to conduct a specific task during which their possession of a firearm (with appropriate authorisation) is a required element" *Chapter 3, paragraph 3.1 ACPO Manual of Guidance*.

v) In addition to the total number of operations, a further sub-category is required regarding those operations where the initial or sole response is by Armed Response Vehicle (ARV).

vi) Each incident will be classed as only one operation regardless of the number of personnel/deployments or tactics employed to deal with the incident.

vii) Deployments also include those incidents where AFOs "self-authorise".

viii) The number of officers authorised to use firearms as at 31 March 2008.

	Number of Incidents where Conventional Firearms were Used						
Year	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Incidents	11	10	4	5	9	3	7
% of Incidents Compared with Number of Authorised Operations	0.079	0.067	0.024	0.031	0.048	0.017	0.033

Notes:

i) Information on number of incidents provided by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)

PRIME MINISTER

Informal European Council (Brussels)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I attended an informal meeting of the European Council in Brussels on 1 March with other EU leaders.

We discussed the EU's continued response to the economic downturn and measures that will be part of the agenda for the G20 London summit on 2 April. Leaders agreed on the need for co-ordinated action to meet unprecedented economic times and restore confidence in the global financial markets.

First, EU leaders agreed to improve regulation and supervision of financial institutions. We need new regulatory standards, improved risk management and systems to foresee, prevent and manage crises in the banks and in the markets. There should be no financial market in the world where risks can be run that threaten the very integrity of the global financial system. We will need cross-border supervision of financial institutions.

Secondly, the whole world must agree that protectionism is not the answer to the crisis. EU leaders therefore agreed in Brussels on the need to reject protectionism while continuing to make maximum use of the single market as the vehicle for recovery to support growth and jobs. We agreed that the European Recovery Programme, finalised last December, continued to provide the right framework for EU action to help jobs and growth, and agreed we should assess the implementation of it both at the European and national levels at the spring European Council on 19 and 20 March.

Thirdly, we agreed that the EU must continue to play its part in stimulating the global economy with a co-ordinated fiscal stimulus and European-wide action to keep interest rates low. Europe's recovery plan must have high skilled, high technology and low carbon priorities at its heart.

Fourthly, we again agreed on the need to deliver urgent and substantial reform of the international financial institutions. We need more resources for the international financial institutions to prevent and deal with financial crises in different countries. We agreed on the need for early warning systems and reform of the World Bank.

On employment, EU leaders agreed on the importance of measures to counter the negative impact the economic crisis was having on employment. I welcome Prime Minister Topolanek's decision to convene a special European summit in May to focus on concrete measures to address the social and employment impact of the crisis.

We discussed the particular impact of the global financial crisis on central and eastern Europe. We acknowledged the clear differences between member states in the region, but noted the longer-term benefits to those countries of EU integration. We agreed and welcomed the importance of EIB finance to the region and welcomed the recent announcement by the EIB, World Bank, and EBRD of a €25 billion joint initiative to support the banking sectors and businesses in the region. We agreed to keep assistance provided to those countries under review.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 3 March 2009

TREASURY

Government Infrastructure Investment

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Yvette Cooper): I am announcing Government action today to ensure vital PFI infrastructure projects will go forward as planned despite current financial market conditions, so they can support jobs and the economy.

This action will ensure that crucial and valuable public investment will not be disrupted by problems in the financial markets. In total, £13 billion of public investment in procurement will be safeguarded. This protection will assure the future of a broad range of public infrastructure projects including £3.5 billion of waste treatment and environmental projects, £3.1 billion of transport projects and £2.4 billion of schools projects. It will also avoid the significant delays which would be entailed by switching these projects to alternative procurement approaches. These projects can therefore go ahead swiftly and support jobs and the economy and help prepare the country for the future recovery.

Around 110 PFI projects are currently in the pipe line, and PFI projects make up typically 10 per cent. of public capital investment. PFI projects have consistently demonstrated value for money and high levels of user satisfaction in vital areas of public service delivery.

PFI projects continue to be able to secure equity as private construction companies and investors are still willing to put money in and bear the risk of delays or cost overruns, rather than the taxpayer. Some projects, however, are finding difficulties obtaining sufficient debt as a result of the global credit crunch.

From today the Government will lend to those PFI projects that cannot raise sufficient debt finance on acceptable terms, lending alongside commercial lenders and the European Investment Bank. It will also be able, where necessary, to provide the full amount of senior debt required by a project. Funding will be provided from across Government, including initially from unallocated funds and Departmental underspends on previous projects. Equity investors will continue to bear the primary risk in these projects and, where available, private sector debt will continue to be provided.

The Government believe it is vital to get these infrastructure projects under way as swiftly as possible—to support jobs and the economy this year as well as delivering important public services. Switching to alternative procurement methods or conventional funding for these projects at this late stage would incur significant additional delays or risk projects failing. For that reason we have decided that providing additional debt finance is the most effective way to get construction underway swiftly and support the economy.

Retaining the PFI structure will mean that the private sector will continue to bear the risk of cost over runs and delays. A recent Ipsos MORI report on the operational benefits of PFI has shown that contract managers are highly positive about the overall performance of PFI projects, contract service levels are being achieved and user satisfaction is high.

The Treasury will use professional lending skills, and intends to lend to projects only where appropriate funding is not available from the market. It will be a temporary intervention. As with normal commercial lending these loans will bear interest and will be repaid over the life of the project. The Treasury envisages, however, selling the loans it makes prior to their maturity when favourable market conditions return.

I have agreed that all PFI projects in procurement (that have, to date, issued a notice in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU)) will be eligible for this finance from the Government. Future projects intending to go to market soon will also be eligible, provided they meet the usual value for money and affordability criteria, and subject to Treasury approval before issuing their OJEU notice.

Tax Law Rewrite Project

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): I am pleased to tell the House that Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs will shortly publish drafts of the Tax Law Rewrite project's sixth and seventh Bills.

These two Bills are a major landmark in the task of rewriting the legislation for the two main direct taxes which are of great importance to individuals and businesses. The project has, since its inception in 1996, been rewriting the income tax and corporation tax codes in a clearer and more understandable form, making them more accessible than at any time in recent memory. The Bills, when enacted, will complete this work.

One is the Corporation Tax Bill which is the second of two Bills by that name which will rewrite substantially the whole of the corporation tax code. (The first is presently before Parliament and will become the Corporation Tax Act 2009.) It is expected to become the Corporation Tax Act 2010. It includes provisions about the treatment of losses and gifts to charities, reliefs, distributions, particular types of companies and activities, avoidance and definitions.

The second is the Taxation (International and Other Provisions) Bill which includes provisions about double taxation relief, transfer pricing, advance pricing agreements and tax arbitrage. The Bill also seeks to help users by relocating and where appropriate rewriting provisions which would otherwise have been left unhelpfully in the Income and Corporation Taxes Act or one of the Finance Acts.

It is planned to introduce the Bills into Parliament by the end of 2009. Four previous Bills of the project were enacted as the Capital Allowances Act 2001, the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003, the Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005 and the Income Tax Act 2007.

The scope of these new Bills and the timing of consultation were agreed with the project's Consultative and Steering Committees which together include the

main representative bodies and other users. They benefit from a style and structure that has been developed as a result of consultation over the previous rewrite Bills. Earlier versions of the legislation in these new Bills have been revised in the light of comments and suggestions from tax professionals and others who engaged in the consultation process. This has only been possible thanks to the close collaboration and co-operation between the project team and tax practitioners, the legal profession and business representatives.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Schools Capital Funding (2009-10)

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): I am today announcing that £919 million of capital spending on schools and children's play areas will be brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10.

Of the total, £499 million is allocated among 116 local authorities. These authorities bid to have expenditure brought forward in response to an invitation we issued following last November's pre-Budget report.

Some £390 million of capital funding devolved direct to all schools in England is also being brought forward to invest in smaller projects as they see fit. In addition, £30 million of investment in play facilities is being brought forward.

Bringing forward capital spending is a key plank of the Government's fiscal stimulus package to boost the economy in the current downturn. It means that thousands of school modernisation projects across England can start 12 months early.

The full details of today's capital acceleration package are:

£499 million allocated to 116 local authorities who bid for the capital made available in the pre-Budget report to be brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-11 (all the authorities' bids within the terms of the offer have been accepted). The allocation comprises:

- £235 million for Local Authority Modernisation Grant
- £76 million for Primary Capital Programme
- £50 million for Locally Controlled Voluntarily Aided Programme
- £138 million for Targeted Capital Fund for 14-19, SEN and disabilities fund.

£390 million being allocated a year early direct to every school in the country—bringing forward 40 per cent. of all indicative Devolved Formula Capital allocations for 2010-11 to 2009-10. It means:

- a typical unmodernised primary school of 250 pupils will now get £47,600 this year, including £13,600 brought forward from its 2010-11 allocation. A primary school newly built, rebuilt or refurbished in the last eleven years will now get £23,800—up from £17,000.
- a typical unmodernised secondary school of 1000 pupils will now get £158,200, including £45,200 brought forward. A secondary school newly built, rebuilt or refurbished in the last eleven years will now get £79,100—up from £56,000.

£30 million of investment for play facilities brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10.

All accelerated spending will be taken off the 2010-11 local authority and school allocations.

The 2008-11 local authority capital settlement in October 2007 set out that £6,669 million would be invested in 2008-09; £7,024 million in 2009-10 and £8,235 million in 2010-11. The revised national figures for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are now: £7,943 million and £7,316 million. This is a significant real-terms increase from just £700 million a year in 1997.

Capital allocations remain available for all local authorities to bring forward, including the 33 local authorities who have chosen not to bid so far.

The relevant table has been placed in the library.

JUSTICE

Volunteering Across the Criminal Justice System (Government Response to Baroness Neuberger's Report)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, my right hon. and noble Friend the Attorney-General and I are today publishing the Government's response to Baroness Neuberger's report on volunteering across the Criminal Justice System. We are grateful to Baroness Neuberger for her work on the report and for highlighting the key role of volunteers across the Criminal Justice System.

We recognise and value the huge contribution that thousands of volunteers make right across the CJS. We have already taken important steps to strengthen the role of volunteering and we will drive this work forward as part of our commitment to promote community engagement and active citizenship and to deliver first class public services. This is why my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice, the Member for Dewsbury (Mr. Malik), who leads on community involvement in justice issues, has been appointed as the cross-CJS ministerial champion for volunteering.

Our focus is on practical action that enables volunteers to contribute to the delivery of high quality value for money services. It is also important that people from all backgrounds are encouraged and empowered to play their part.

The champion will work with criminal justice agencies to identify practical opportunities to enhance their work through the use of volunteers and improve our engagement with the community.

Copies of the Government's response have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies of the response will also be available on the Criminal Justice System website at: www.cjsonline.gov.uk.

WORK AND PENSIONS

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw): I am pleased to announce that the Explanatory Memorandum and Command Paper for ratification of the UN convention on the "Rights of Persons with Disabilities" will be laid before Parliament later today.

In taking this important step, the Government have confirmed their commitment both to this convention, and to the principle that it enshrines that disabled people have, and should be able to enjoy, the same human rights as other people.

In working towards this point, Government Departments and the devolved Administrations have been checking their legislation, policies, practices and procedures against the convention's provisions. The UK does not ratify any international treaty until it is in a position to ensure that it can implement the provisions and therefore comply with its obligations. The Explanatory Memorandum which has been laid explains the basis on which the Government proposes the UK should now ratify the convention, and the handful of reservations and interpretative declarations that are required in order that we may do so.

A reservation is proposed in respect of service in the armed forces to preserve the position already reflected in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as amended (DDA). Service in the armed forces is exempt from the employment provisions of the DDA. This approach is entirely consistent with EU Council Directive 2000/78/EC establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation. Service in any of the naval, military or air forces of the Crown are excluded from the DDA's employment provisions to preserve their combat effectiveness. The Government decided to exclude members of the armed forces in the DDA because armed forces personnel need to be combat effective in order to meet a world wide liability to deploy, and to ensure that military health and fitness remain matters for Ministry of Defence Ministers based on military advice, not for the courts.

An interpretative declaration is proposed to make clear that the UK general education system includes both mainstream and special schools, thereby clarifying how the UK Government interpret the convention. This will make it clear that special schools are considered part of the UK's general education system and that parents have the right to express a preference for a special school. A reservation is proposed to allow for circumstances where disabled children's needs may be best met through specialist provision, which may be some way from their home—so they will need to be educated outside their local community. This also maintains parental choice for schools outside the local community.

A general reservation is proposed in order to retain the right to apply immigration rules and to retain the right to introduce wider health screening for applicants entering or seeking to remain in the UK, particularly in the event of a global health emergency, if this is considered necessary to protect public health. This clarifies the Government's understanding that the convention does not create new or additional rights for non-UK national disabled people relating to the entry into, stay in and departure from the United Kingdom. This reservation will be subject to review 12 months after the UK has ratified the convention in order to assess whether there is a continued need for it in practice.

A reservation is proposed in respect of article 12.4, which concerns safeguards for the exercise of substituted decision-making and includes a requirement for "regular review" by a competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body. There is currently no review system for Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) appointees; that is, people who are appointed to claim and collect benefits on behalf of another person due to that person's lack of physical or mental capacity. Those appointee arrangements are not at present subject to the safeguard of regular review, as the Government believe this article requires. DWP is therefore actively working towards a proportionate system of review to address this issue.

Moving towards ratification is a major achievement. I believe that this step will be welcomed, along with the signing of the optional protocol to the UN convention last week. Together, these two actions send out a very strong signal—the Government are serious about achieving equality of human rights for disabled people and are making real progress towards their goal of disability equality by 2025.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 4 March 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

EU Competitiveness Council (March 2009)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Ian Pearson): On 5 March I shall be representing the UK at the EU Competitiveness Council.

There will be five main items being discussed and debated at the Council (as listed below), of which the two most high profile issues to be discussed will be the crisis in the automotive industry and the EU economic crisis/recovery plan, which will be discussed by Ministers over lunch.

Government aims for Council

Throughout these sessions the Government's aim will be to:

Emphasise that a fully functioning open and liberalised single market can be an aid to economic recovery rather than detrimental

Highlight the need to avoid creating barriers and distortions in responses to the downturn and the need to avoid undermining the internal market, and avoid protectionist measures in the car sector and more generally.

Stress we must not forget the aim of moving to a low-carbon economy, and EIB funds must be there to support all parts of the automotive industry to lower-carbon emissions.

Explore with other member states what more the EU can do to stabilise financial markets, stimulate our economies, and enable families, workers and businesses to get through the downturn and on track for a sustainable path to recovery and growth.

The morning and lunch sessions will cover

Exchange of views and adoption of Council conclusions on follow-up to the single market review.

There will be a debate on Lisbon strategy: Lisbon Policy Exercise 2009—Key Issues Paper of the Competitiveness Council to the spring European Council with the aim of final adoption of paper.

Lunchtime discussion on economic crisis and recovery

Discussion points for the lunch have not been finalised and may be subject to change before 5 March but we understand that possible issues for discussion will include:

Further discussion on Commission's economic recovery package.

Car industry access to framework programme 7 funding.

Role/use of EIB funding.

The afternoon session will cover

An exchange of views with the aim of adopting Council conclusions on crisis in the automotive industry.

A progress report on better regulation.

Any other business

In addition to the main Council items, there will be eight further items taken under "any other business" all of which fall under BERR's responsibilities:

(i) Information from the presidency and Commission on Forum on Services and Trade Liberalisation. (Prague, 2 and 3 February 2009).

(ii) Commission update on services directive: state of play of implementation process.

(iii) Presentation by the Commission on Internal Market Scoreboard No.18.

(iv) Commission Presentation on Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Monitoring consumer outcomes in the single market—Second edition of the Consumer Markets Scoreboard.

(v) Information from the presidency on Five years after Prague: impact of enlargement in the European economies.

(vi) Information from the Commission on Transatlantic Economic Council.

(vii) Presentation by the Commission communication on the external dimension of the Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs: "Reporting on market access and setting the framework for more effective international regulatory co-operation".

(viii) Commission overview of implementation of the SBA action plan at a community and member state level.

DEFENCE

Kosovo Draw-down

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton): The Supreme Allied Commander Europe has decided that the specific capability, currently provided by the UK to the NATO force in Kosovo, is no longer required. Our current force of 167 personnel will draw-down to a small number of posts between the end of March 2009 and 1 September 2009.

Our draw-down reflects the changed circumstances in Kosovo, in particular the improved security situation. The key milestones in Kosovo's independence have passed without major incident and the security situation in Kosovo is generally calm. The EU rule of law mission has recently rolled out across Kosovo. Against this backdrop, and with over 14,000 personnel still in theatre, NATO remains well placed to deal with any potential security incidents.

Aircraft (Available Support)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies): I am pleased to announce that the Ministry of Defence has signed a five-year contract with BAE Systems, worth around £450 million, for the provision of an availability support service to the Typhoon fleet of aircraft.

This innovative partnering arrangement will create up to 150 highly skilled new jobs, mostly at RAF Coningsby and sustain a further 350 at its peak. The Typhoon programme directly employs some 16,000 aerospace and engineering staff at various locations across the UK, and many more throughout the supply chain. This new contract adds to and sustains this number. The programme is very important to the UK from both the military and industrial perspective.

This contract will see BAE Systems taking a major role in ensuring the availability of the Typhoon fleet to meet its standing and operational commitments and demonstrates the Ministry of Defence's commitment to partnering British industry to get more efficient support for our front-line Typhoon fighter force.

Service Complaints Commissioner's First Report

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton): I have placed in the Library of the House today a copy of the Service Complaints Commissioner's first annual report on the fairness, effectiveness and efficiency of the service complaints system.

The Government committed to the establishment of a Service Complaints Commissioner in its response to the Deepcut review which was published in June 2006. Provisions had already been proposed in the Armed Forces Bill then under consideration for an independent external reviewer who would examine the fairness and effectiveness of the service complaints system and report annually to Ministers. However, in the light of the Deepcut review the reviewer was given a wider role in relation to allegations of bullying, harassment and other improper behaviour. Recommendations made by the House of Commons Defence Committee (HCDC) in its Duty of Care Report 2004-5 also helped shape the role of the Commissioner and the complaints process.

The role of the Commissioner is to provide scrutiny and assurance that the complaints process is working effectively and that lessons learned are being implemented. The Commissioner offers an independent ear for the concerns of service personnel and their families, and can pursue their proper consideration by the chain of command. The Commissioner's work will help us to maintain a complaints system that is fair and effective, and where necessary improve it. I am confident that the Commissioner provides the optimum arrangement for both service personnel and the chain of command responsible for their welfare and discipline.

I and the service chiefs are committed to the role of the Commissioner and welcome this first annual report. We are committed to continuously improving the service complaints process, and take the Commissioner's recommendations very seriously. I am pleased that the report states that the new complaints system is well designed and is working; it also makes a number of criticisms of current procedures, which we will need to consider carefully. I will provide a formal response to the Commissioner once we have had time to look at the report in detail.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Capital Investment (Further Education Colleges)

The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. John Denham): In 1997 there was no capital budget for Further Education (FE) Colleges and the National Audit Office (NAO) described FE college buildings as "ageing and their quality and fitness for purpose was often unsatisfactory, affecting the reputation of the sector."

Between 1997-98 and 2006-07, more than £2 billion has been invested in modernising FE facilities. My Department will spend another £2.3 billion in the current spending review period. We have brought forward £220 million of this funding, £110 million from 2009-10 to 2008-09 and a further £110 million from 2010-11 to 2009-10, as part of our response to boost the economy. Nearly 700 projects in 330 colleges throughout England have been agreed, and 253 schemes are under way or fully approved. Only 42 colleges have yet to receive any investment. Last summer the NAO reported the programme as making good progress with the renewal and modernisation of the FE estate with the great majority of projects coming in on budget and delivering great improvement for learners.

I previously informed the House that the demand for funding by colleges has risen. The size of projects and the scale of Government funding required has increased. In December, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), which administers the programme, decided to defer further approvals of projects in principle and in detail while assessing the programme overall. As I said in the House on 3 February, this decision did not affect projects that have already received agreement in detail and are in progress and we anticipate spending the full £2.3 billion allocated in this spending review period.

Today the council met to discuss the results of its assessment of the programme. It has decided to give detailed approval to eight schemes at colleges in Stoke-on-Trent, Coulsdon (Surrey), West Kent, Liverpool, Solihull, Northampton and two in Bolton.

These colleges had all been recommended for approval by the national Capital Committee of the council and decisions to approve their applications in detail had been deferred from the December meeting.

The total cost of these schemes is nearly £400 million. The council will provide more than £300 million in Government funding over the next five years. Following the Council's decision today, the LSC will be working with the colleges involved on the phasing and funding requirements of these projects and how they are now taken forward. Their benefits will be felt by students and their local communities for years to come.

However, the LSC has now completed its assessment of other colleges seeking approval in principle or detail. I am informed that the council has already given 79 colleges the first stage of approval in principle. Government funding of nearly £2.7 billion would be needed for them to proceed. A further 65 colleges have submitted bids to the national LSC for approval in principle with an assumed funding contribution from Government of a further £3 billion.

As a consequence, there are many more schemes currently in preparation than can be funded in this spending round. For that reason, I agreed with the council that they would appoint an independent reviewer—Sir Andrew Foster—to find out how this situation arose and what lessons must be learnt for the future. It is clear that even at current record levels of funding not all schemes can be implemented on the timescales originally envisaged. I have therefore asked the council to consult with the Association of Colleges and the FE sector to advise me on ways of prioritising schemes in the future programme.

I have asked the council to keep interested Members informed on the progress and status of schemes in their area.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Application for Advance from Contingencies Fund (2008-09)

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): Subject to parliamentary approval, the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) will be taking a 2008-09 Spring Supplementary Estimate. This will increase the NIO's Net Cash Requirement by £1,387,681,000 from £11,546,811,000 to £12,934,492,000. £1,285,000,000 of the increase relates to Request for Resources 2 in respect of the Northern Ireland Consolidated Fund. Given the estimated date of parliamentary approval for 2008-09 Spring Supplementary Estimates, the Northern Ireland Block requires an advance from the contingencies fund to meet urgent cash requirements in advance of Parliament's approval for public expenditure commitments that cannot be deferred.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £340,309,000 will be sought in a Supplementary Estimate for the Northern Ireland Office. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £340,309,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the contingencies fund.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Women and the Global Economic Downturn

The Minister for Women and Equality (Ms Harriet Harman): Sunday 8 March marks International Women's Day. This year the theme chosen for this event is Women and the Global Economic Downturn. To mark it, the Government are publishing today:

a booklet specially produced for women - "Real help now for women" - which sets out the wide range of practical support available to women including childcare, help with family finances, developing skills and finding a job.

a short fact-sheet summarising the key findings of a report on quantitative and qualitative opinion polling work which my Department carried out last month, on women's attitude to the economic downturn. The results show clearly that women have more, and wider-ranging concerns than men about nearly every issue raised.

I am placing copies of both these publications in the Vote Office. I have also placed copies of them together with the main opinion polling report in the Libraries of the House. Copies will also be available on the Government Equalities Office website www.equalities.gov.uk. They are intended to inform a number of events this week to mark International Women's Day, during which we will discuss the concerns women have about the effect of the downturn on them and their families and the action we are taking to provide real help now as well as real hope for the future. In particular:

later today, we will be meeting with leading business women and third sector organisations.

tomorrow, there will be a full day's debate in this House on the theme of supporting women and families through the downturn and building a strong and fair economy for the future; a similar debate will also be held in the House of Lords on Thursday 12 March.

We are discussing with our international partners how we can best work together this week and next in New York as part of Commission on the Status of Women. In Europe the UK is co-chairing a Working Group of the European Commission Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, and will draft an "Opinion on Gender Perspectives on the Response to the Economic and Financial Crisis."

These events and debates take place in the context of the national and international efforts to address the global financial crisis. The road to the London summit points to the importance of "ensuring that the UK workforce has the skills it will need to take advantage of the opportunities of an increasingly globalised world, through the education system and lifelong learning including support for part-time and flexible work for men and women."

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 5 March 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Spring Supplementary Estimates

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): Subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary Supplementary Estimate, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's DEL will be reduced by £1,905,574,000 from £3,367,913,000 to £1,462,339,000 and the Administration budget will be reduced by £55,714,000 from £332,531,000 to £276,817,000.

Within the DEL change, the impact on Resources and Capital is as set out in the following table:

	Change		*New DEL*		
	Voted	*Non-Voted*	*Voted*	*Non-Voted*	*Total*
Resource (£000)	936,100	-1,686,869	438,114	1,008,411	1,446,525
of which					
*Administration budget**	-55,714	-	276,817	-	276,817
*Near cash in Resource DEL**	885,423	-1,694,221	239,793	998,926	1,238,719
Capital (£000)	6,562	-1,201,767	-757,437	773,251	15,814
*Less Depreciation** (£000)*	2,468	3,872	-46,336	-20,812	-67,148
Total (£000)	945,106	-2,884,364	-365,659	1,760,850	1,395,191

**The total of the 'Administration Budget' and 'Near-Cash in Resource DEL' figures may well be greater than total Resource DEL, due to the definitions overlapping.*
**Capital DEL includes items treated as Resource in Estimates and Accounts, but which are treated as Capital DEL in Budgets.*
**Depreciation, which forms part of Resource DEL, is excluded from the total DEL since Capital DEL includes Capital spending and to include depreciation of those assets would lead to double counting.*

The change in the resource element of the DEL arises from:

R/RI

(i) a Machinery of Government transfer to the Department of Energy and Climate Change of a net negative £992,323,000 voted near cash and £1,711,504,000 of non-voted near cash in respect of clean, safe and competitively priced energy and energy liabilities;

(ii) a Machinery of Government transfer to the Department of Energy and Climate Change of a net negative £2,980,000 voted non cash and £47,752,000 of non-voted non cash in respect of clean, safe and competitively priced energy and energy liabilities;

(iii) a Machinery of Government transfer to the Department of Energy and Climate Change of £308,000 in respect of legal costs;

(iv) transfer of £40,000 from voted provision to non-voted Departmental Unallocated Provision relating to the transfer to the Cabinet Office for the Security Monitoring and Co-ordination Centre made in the Winter Supplementary;

(v) new awards announced in the Pre Budget Report of £930,000 and £2,500,000 in respect of the National Defibrillator and Citizens' advice;

(vi) a transfer of £250,000 from the Department for Work and Pensions in respect of compensation for mesothelioma sufferers provided through British Shipbuilders' liabilities;

(vii) a Machinery of Government transfer of £29,000,000 to the Department of Energy and Climate Change in respect of their contribution to the regional development agencies' "Single Pot";

(viii) virement of £18,439,000 from voted to non-voted expenditure in respect of the regional development agencies reflecting reinstated contributions from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs;

(ix) virement of £1,196,000 from non-voted resource to non-voted capital expenditure in respect of the regional development agencies;

(x) a non-cash reserve claim of £21,000,000 for provisions for the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme;

(xi) a non-cash reserve claim of £25,000,000 for provisions for the Automotive Assistance programme;

(xii) virement of £7,000,000 Insolvency Service under-spend to the non-voted Capital Departmental Unallocated Provision to reduce the negative balance shown in the Winter Supplementary Estimate;

(xiii) additional non-cash of £1,700,000 resulting from reclassification under FRS26.

Also within the change to resource DEL, the changes to the Administration budget are (R/RI):

(i) a Machinery of Government transfer to the Department of Energy and Climate Change of £52,471,000 near cash and £3,000 of non-cash in respect of clean, safe and competitively priced energy and energy liabilities;

(ii) transfer of £1,240,000 to the Department for Communities and Local Government in respect of Government Office' restructuring costs; and

(iii) virement of £2,000,000 administration under-spend to the non-voted Capital Departmental Unallocated Provision to reduce the negative balance shown in the Winter Supplementary Estimate;

The change in the Capital element of the DEL arises from:

R/RI

(i) virement of £1,196,000 from non-voted resource to non-voted capital expenditure in respect of the regional development agencies;

(ii) virement of £7,000,000 Insolvency Service under-spend to the non-voted Capital Departmental Unallocated Provision to reduce the negative balance shown in the Winter Supplementary Estimate;

(iii) virement of £2,000,000 administration under-spend to the non-voted Capital Departmental Unallocated Provision to reduce the negative balance shown in the Winter Supplementary Estimate;

(iv) a Machinery of Government transfer to the Department of Energy and Climate Change of a net negative £14,582,000 voted and £1,248,183,000 non-voted in respect of clean, safe and competitively priced energy and energy liabilities;

(v) a transfer of £200,000 from the UK Trade and Investment Estimate, utilised to reduce the negative capital Departmental Unallocated Provision shown in the Winter Supplementary Estimate;

(vi) a Machinery of Government transfer of £7,000,000 to the Department of Energy and Climate Change in respect of their contribution to the regional development agencies' "Single Pot";

(vii) receipt of £35,000,000 as part repayment of a capital loan made to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills in 2007-08, utilised to reduce the negative capital Departmental Unallocated Provision shown in the Winter Supplementary Estimate;

(viii) virement of £20,000 from core Departmental capital, utilised to reduce the negative capital Departmental Unallocated Provision shown in the Winter Supplementary Estimate;

(ix) virement of £1,000,000 from the Insolvency Service, utilised to reduce the negative capital Departmental Unallocated Provision shown in the Winter Supplementary Estimate.

We regret that in error this written ministerial statement was not laid in the House on 12 February when the supplementary estimates were laid before Parliament (HC221).

TREASURY

Alignment Project

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Yvette Cooper): The Government announced in its July 2007 Green Paper "The Governance of Britain" (Cm 7170) that it would simplify its financial reporting to Parliament, ensuring that it reports in a more consistent fashion at all three stages in the process—on plans, estimates and expenditure outcomes.

The Treasury submitted an initial memorandum to the relevant parliamentary Committees in November 2008, outlining the Government's emerging thinking on how this commitment might best be delivered. I have sent a further memorandum to the Committees this week setting out the Government's formal proposals for achieving better alignment between budgets, estimates and accounts. The proposals take account of the views expressed by the Committees in response to the November memorandum, as well as the results of a consultation exercise with key stakeholders external to Government, carried out during autumn 2008.

The memorandum notes that the Government propose to begin implementation of the new, better aligned framework from April 2010. To achieve this deadline, the Government would welcome Parliament's agreement to its proposals by July 2009.

The memorandum is being published as a Command paper and presented to the House, and copies have today been placed in the House of Commons Vote Office, to enable all Members to assess the Government's proposals.

Monetary Policy Committee

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): In my statement to the House of Commons on bank lending of 19 January, I announced the setting up of the asset purchase facility. I noted that this facility could be used by the Monetary Policy Committee as an additional way for meeting the inflation target, and that I would inform Parliament if the facility were to be used for monetary policy purposes.

Following the meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee on 4 and 5 February 2009, the Governor of the Bank of England wrote to me on 17 February, requesting that the Monetary Policy Committee be authorised to use the facility to purchase eligible assets financed by central bank money. The Governor's letter set out that the Monetary Policy Committee had concluded that it might be necessary to use asset purchases at future meetings in order to meet the 2 per cent. target for CPI inflation.

I replied to the Governor on 3 March, authorising the Monetary Policy Committee to use the asset purchase facility for monetary policy purposes. I also extended the range of assets eligible for purchase by the Bank of England asset purchase facility fund to include UK Government debt purchased on the secondary market as well as the full range of private sector assets previously specified in my letter to the Governor of 29 January 2009. And I also authorised an increase in the scale of purchases under the facility to up to £150 billion, but that, in line with current arrangements and in recognition of the importance of supporting the flow of corporate credit, up to £50 billion of that should be used to purchase private sector assets. These are maximum limits within which the Monetary Policy Committee will determine the scale of its purchases each month; the proportion of Government and private sector assets purchased will be kept under review.

These changes do not affect the objectives of the Government's monetary policy framework. The remit of the Monetary Policy Committee continues to be maintaining price stability, and subject to that, to support the Government's economic policy, including its objectives for growth and employment. The symmetrical inflation target is 2 per cent. on the CPI measure, as specified in my letter to the Governor of the Bank of England of 11 March 2008.

The Government's debt management objective remains to minimise, over the long term, the costs of meeting the Government's financing needs, taking into account risk, while ensuring that debt management policy is consistent with the aims of monetary policy.

A copy of my letter to the Governor has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning Applications (Killian Pretty Review)

The Minister for Housing (Margaret Beckett): Today I have published the Government's formal response to the Killian Pretty review. Our response sets out our proposals to take forward an ambitious programme of measures to create a more proportionate and responsive planning application process. This will help businesses, developers, councils and the wider community, particularly in the current challenging economic environment.

The review was commissioned jointly by the Secretaries of State for Communities and Local Government and Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to consider how the planning application process could be improved for the benefit of all involved. The final report, with detailed recommendations, was published in November 2008.

We welcome the Killian Pretty report as a strong foundation for the next stage in reforming the planning system. In response to its recommendations, we propose actions to improve the planning application process from start to finish, grouped into five main themes:

- reducing the number of small scale developments that require full planning permission;
- making the planning application process more efficient and effective for all involved;
- improving the quality of information available to users of the planning application system;
- improving local authority capacity and performance in the process; and
- streamlining the national planning policy framework.

We propose a phased approach to reform, with immediate priority given to consulting on detailed proposals to

extend permitted development rights for businesses and public services and to streamline information requirements for applicants.

Clearly, successful development and implementation of further improvements to the planning application process requires the active involvement of key stakeholders, including local government, the profession and private sector. So a key part of the implementation programme is to work closely with stakeholders, in a range of ways, including the formation of a stakeholder sounding board, in addition to full public consultation on draft proposals, where appropriate.

A copy of the Government's response is available in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/killianprettyresponse

HEALTH

NHS Charges

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): Regulations have today been laid before Parliament to increase national health service charges in England from 1 April 2009. There will be an increase in the prescription charge of 10 pence from £7.10 to £7.20 for each quantity of a drug or appliance dispensed.

The cost of a prescription prepayment certificate (PPC) will rise to £28.25 for a three-month certificate and to £104.00 for an annual certificate. PPCs offer savings for those needing four or more items in three months or more than 14 in one year.

Prescription charges are currently expected to raise some £435 million for the NHS in 2009-10. This figure excludes prescription charges collected by dispensing doctors, which are not collected centrally, but remain with primary care trusts.

Charges for elastic stockings and tights, wigs and fabric supports supplied through hospitals will be increased similarly.

Regulations have also been laid to increase certain NHS dental charges, and increase the value of NHS optical vouchers, from 1 April 2009.

The dental charge payable for a band one course of treatment will increase by 30 pence from £16.20 to £16.50. The dental charge for a band 2 course of treatment will increase by £1 from £44.60 to £45.60. The charge for a band 3 course of treatment will remain at £198.

Dental charges are expected to raise between £6 to £700 million for the NHS in 2009-10. The exact amount will be dependent upon the level and type of primary dental care services commissioned by primary care trusts and the proportion of charge paying patients who attend dentists and the levels of treatment they require.

This annual adjustment to dental charge rates is intended to sustain the expected contribution to the overall cost of dental services from patient charge income.

The range of NHS optical vouchers available to children, people on low incomes and individuals with complex sight problems are also being increased in value. In order to continue to provide help with the cost of spectacles or contact lenses, optical voucher values will rise by an overall 2 per cent.

NHS charges and optical voucher values in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are a matter for the devolved Administrations.

Details of the revised charges for prescription items, appliances, dental charges and optical voucher values are as follows:

Increases in Prescription Charges from April 2009

Item	*Current Charges*	*New charges*
Prescription per item	£7.10	£7.20
12-month PPC	£102.50	£104.00
3-month PPC	£27.85	£28.25
Surgical brassiere	£24.00	£24.35
Abdominal or spinal support	£36.30	£36.80
Stock modacrylic wig	£59.20	£60.00
Partial human hair wig	£156.60	£158.90
Full bespoke human hair wig	£229.05	£232.45

NHS Dental Charges

Course of Dental Treatment	*Current Charge*	*From 1 April 2009*
Band 1	£16.20	£16.50
Band 2	£44.60	£45.60
Band 3	£198	£198

Increase in Optical Voucher Values from 1 April 2009

Type of optical appliance	*1 April 08*	*1 April 09*
A Glasses with single vision lenses: spherical power of = 6 dioptres, cylindrical power of = 2 dioptres.	£35.50	£36.20
B Glasses with single vision lenses: spherical power of > 6 dioptres but < 10 dioptres, cylindrical power of = 6 dioptres; spherical power of < 10 dioptres, cylindrical power of > 2 dioptres but = 6 dioptres.	£54.00	£55.10
C Glasses with single vision lenses: spherical power of = 10 dioptres but = 14 dioptres, cylindrical power of = 6 dioptres.	£79.00	£80.60
D Glasses with single vision lenses: spherical power of >14 dioptres with any cylindrical power; cylindrical power of > 6 dioptres with any spherical power.	£178.40	£182.00
E Glasses with bifocal lenses: spherical power of = 6 dioptres, cylindrical power of = 2 dioptres.	£61.40	£62.70
F Glasses with bifocal lenses: spherical power of > 6 dioptres but < 10 dioptres, cylindrical power of = 6 dioptres; spherical power of < 10 dioptres, cylindrical power of > 2 dioptres but = 6 dioptres.	£78.10	£79.70
G Glasses with bifocal lenses: spherical power of = 10 dioptres but = 14 dioptres, cylindrical power of = 6 dioptres.	£101.20	£103.30
H Glasses with prism-controlled bifocal lenses of any power or with bifocal lenses: spherical power of > 14 dioptres with any cylindrical power; cylindrical power of > 6 dioptres with any spherical power.	£196.10	£200.10
I (HES) Glasses not falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 8 for which a prescription is given in consequence of a testing of sight by an NHS Trust	£182.70	£186.40

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council was held in Brussels on 26 and 27 February 2009. My right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, my noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Ministry of Justice, Lord Bach, and the Scottish Solicitor-General, Frank Mulholland QC, attended on behalf of the United Kingdom. The following issues were discussed at the Council:

During the Mixed Committee with Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, Ministers discussed progress in implementing the second generation of the Schengen Information System (SIS II) in the light of the analysis which had identified problems in the central system. Both the Commission and the presidency recognised the importance of the SIS II programme and the presidency reiterated that the repair phase would consist of two aspects, to be developed in parallel: an analysis and repair plan to resolve known bugs in the current SIS II programme and a contingency plan. The presidency also stressed the need for agreement on a set of common criteria against which both of these aspects could be assessed in the first half of 2009. The Council subsequently adopted Council conclusions confirming the action required in relation to the central SIS II project and a set of criteria against which the SIS II based scenario and an alternative scenario, based on a SIS I platform, would be assessed. They confirmed that a decision regarding the future of the project would be taken by June 2009 at the latest.

During the Interior Ministers' meeting the Commission outlined the plans for implementation of the Visa Information System (VIS), notifying member states that the final phase had been pushed back to December 2009. The UK does not participate in the VIS.

The Council was presented with the draft report on the outcome of the Swiss air borders evaluation which will be considered by experts in March. Switzerland thanked the Commission and presidency for the help they had given in the months before the evaluation and indicated that it was happy with the conclusions of the draft report, taking note of its recommendations and undertaking to report regularly on progress. The presidency concluded by looking forward to 29 March when the Swiss were expected to join the Schengen area in full.

The Commission presented its proposal for a European Asylum Support Office (EASO) to the Council. The Commission explained that the EASO's aims would be to enhance practical cooperation; help member states under particular pressures; and ensure a common European asylum regime. It would not make case decisions and would be part-financed through changes to the European Refugee Fund. The Commission hoped that the proposal would receive political agreement by the summer and be implemented in 2010. The proposal was broadly welcomed by a number of member states. The UK thanked the Commission for its proposal, noting that it went to the heart of what European co-operation was about: making a difference on the ground. It emphasised its support for practical co-operation on asylum in order to provide protection for those who needed it. The UK stated that systems should be streamlined, to deliver fair decisions quickly and tackle abuse. The UK also argued for more work with countries outside the EU in order to stop asylum being the weak point in immigration systems and to stop refugees having to travel to the EU to find safety.

The presidency presented the Commission's report on implementation of the free movement directive. The Commission said it hoped to adopt guidelines on application of the directive by the summer. They confirmed that the guidelines would cover abuses of free movement rights, including marriages of convenience and persistent criminality; moving to another member state carried responsibilities as well as rights. A number of member states highlighted their concerns about abuses of free movement. The UK welcomed the Commission's work on guidelines and asked that they should set out consequences when these responsibilities are not met.

The Council briefly discussed the issue of combating illegal immigration in the Mediterranean. The discussion highlighted the role of Frontex (the European Border Agency), readmission agreements and the need for further development of the EU's Global Approach to Migration.

The Council also discussed progress in resettling Iraqi refugees following the Council conclusions adopted in November 2008 which set an EU target of 10,000. The Commission welcomed the fact that member states had notified their intention to resettle 5,100 refugees so far, improving the situation of refugees in Syria and Jordan. The Commission stated that additional funds (€20 million) would be made available to support member states' efforts.

During the working lunch Interior Ministers discussed the appointment of the Europol director, but no agreement was reached. The presidency said that it wanted to reach agreement at the next JHA Council meeting in April. The UK said that the recommendation of the management board, endorsing the UK candidate, should be followed.

The closure of the US detention facility at Guantanamo Bay was also discussed during lunch. Ministers agreed that there was a need to obtain more information and study all aspects of the issue. Following the previous discussion in the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) there was agreement that further discussion with the United States would be a good idea.

Under any other business, SWIFT was discussed, concerning the controls and necessary safeguards on data protection and use under the Terrorist Financing Tracking programme. Judge Jean-Louis Bruguière commented that the US Administration had set up a particularly robust programme to ensure the protection of personal data for counter terrorism purposes, though there was still room for improvement. The Commission would be making available a report on state of play on SWIFT. On the EU's anti-drug policy, the presidency and Commission stressed the need for more and better supply side indicators. A report would need to go to Council in June on this subject.

Ministers reached a broad consensus on presidency conclusions to steer negotiations on the proposed framework decision on prevention and settlement of conflicts of jurisdiction in criminal proceedings, in particular focusing the instrument on preventing situations where

the same person is subject to parallel proceedings in different member states, and establishing flexible mechanisms for communication. The UK supported these conclusions. The presidency hopes to be able to reach political agreement on this proposal at the June JHA Council.

A negotiating mandate was also agreed authorising the presidency to open discussions with Japan for an EU agreement on mutual legal assistance. The Commission noted that in future it would be necessary to decide how to prioritise target countries for these agreements.

The presidency updated member states on progress in e-justice and asked the Commission about the financing of e-justice projects, particularly video conferencing. The Commission reminded member states that there was already money available to fund e-justice projects and undertook to present all the available funding opportunities at the next JHA Council.

Under any other business the presidency provided a state of play report on negotiations on an amending directive on ship-source pollution and on the introduction of penalties for infringements. It noted that the Transport and Tourism Committee of the European Parliament had proposed 19 amendments to the proposal. The presidency hoped that it would be possible to reach a first reading deal in April.

Sweden presented a paper on transparency in the EU, advocating the need to demonstrate a greater commitment to transparency, stronger protection of citizens' individual rights and better understanding of the citizens' expectations. Germany updated member states on the appointment of a new director to the tribunal for the International Law of the Sea, which dealt with civil disputes. The Romanian delegation drew attention to the conference of Prosecutors General that they will be hosting in Bucharest from 23 to 25 March 2009.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

EU Education Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. Siôn Simon): I represented the UK at the Education Council, on behalf of DIUS and DCSF.

Ministers adopted key messages to send to the spring European Council to be held on 20 March. These emphasise the importance of maintaining investment in training, the 'knowledge triangle' of research, education and innovation, the establishment of partnerships between education institutes and employers, and the upgrading and development of skills in developing a knowledge-based low-carbon economy. We welcome these messages. I highlighted domestic best practice in tackling the economic crisis, including support for small businesses and increased apprenticeship places.

Over lunch and in the meeting itself, Ministers held an exchange of views on the establishment of an updated strategic framework for European co-operation in education and training post-2010. This will build on the work programme in education already in place. Ministers were enthusiastic about working together to share best practice and welcomed the four strategic objectives for the new period identified by the Commission. These focus on:

- Making lifelong learning and learner mobility a reality;
- Improving the quality of education provision and outcomes;
- Promoting equity and active citizenship;
- Enhancing innovation and creativity, including entrepreneurship, at all levels of education and training.

However, there were reservations about the proposal to develop ten education benchmarks to measure progress against the strategic objectives. These would build on existing benchmarks for the period up to 2010 that measure low achievers in reading, early school leavers, completion of secondary education, numbers of maths, science and technology graduates, and participation in lifelong learning.

Most member states were content with the extension of existing benchmarks but were reluctant to establish many new ones. There was some support for a benchmark on pre-school learning and some opposition to 'input based' benchmarks on language learning and higher education investment. It was also generally felt that further work was needed to develop helpful and measurable benchmarks on mobility, employability, and innovation and creativity. Netherlands was the most negative member state on benchmarking in general. I and some other member state Ministers feel we can accept a few of the new topics proposed if there is further refinement of the measurement of the benchmarks. Further work will be required before agreement can be reached on this issue, expected at the next Education Council in May.

Under Any Other Business, the Commission noted that they had published the communication 'New Skills for New Jobs' in December 2008.

Sir Fred Goodwin

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): The reply I gave the hon. Member for Meirionnydd Nant Conwy (Mr. Llywd), on 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, Vol. 488, column 847 was incorrect.

It was in fact the case that Sir Fred Goodwin received his knighthood for services to banking.

PRIME MINISTER

Intelligence and Security Committee (Annual Report 2007-08)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have today laid before the House the Intelligence and Security Committee's Annual Report 2007-08 (Cm 7542). This follows consultation with the Committee over matters that could not be published without prejudicing the work of the intelligence and security agencies.

I have also laid before the House today the Government's response to this report (Cm 7543). Copies of the report and the response have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

I am grateful to the Intelligence and Security Committee for its valuable work.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will be held on 9 March 2009 in Brussels. I will represent the UK, except for the agenda item on the Pregnant Workers Directive where the UK will be represented by my hon. Friend, Minister of State for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs. There are no health or consumer affairs issues.

The first and main item of the agenda is the preparation for the spring European Council which will be held on the 19 and 20 March 2009. A key messages paper will be adopted following a public debate on the economic crisis and the European economic recovery plan. The key messages paper identifies the main messages emerging from the various other reports for adoption at the March Council. The presidency will also give information on preparation for the Tripartite Social Summit. The Tripartite Social Summit meets a minimum of once a year, including before each spring European Council. It is attended by the current presidency, the two future presidencies (Sweden and Spain), the Commission and the social partners.

The next item will be the presidency's progress report on the negotiations to amend the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF). Member states can apply to the EGF for matched funding of measures to help back into work any people made unemployed through large scale redundancies. The Government believe that the EGF plays an important role and the UK is involved in negotiations to ensure that recently proposed revisions mean that it plays that role as effectively and efficiently as possible.

The Council will also seek adoption of Council conclusions based on the recent Commission Communication "New Skills for New Jobs". The conclusions commit member states and the Commission to develop policies and services to address skills needs and labour markets mismatches. There will also be adoption of Council conclusions on Professional and Geographical Mobility and the Free Movement of Workers. The conclusions rightly stress the importance of joined-up approaches, to support professional and geographic mobility, in response to the economic downturn. The Government welcome both sets of conclusions.

There will be a policy debate on the draft proposal to amend an existing directive which sets out the minimum protections for pregnant workers, and new or breastfeeding mothers. The UK system of maternity leave and pay is in many ways more generous than the proposed minimum. The Government support the aims of the proposal but need to ensure that any proposed changes would be compatible with our own existing provisions.

Under any other business, the Commission will present its recent communication contributing to the spring European Council. In addition, the chairs of the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee will give an oral presentation to provide information on their 2009 Work Programmes. There will also be information on all conferences held under the Czech presidency to date.

Written Ministerial Statement

Friday 6 March 2009

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Authority Rents

The Minister for Housing (Margaret Beckett): Each autumn, after consultation, the Government publish formal guideline rents so that local authorities know where they stand on Government subsidy on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) system.

Authorities are then free to make their own decisions on the actual rent level to set in their particular circumstances. Many authorities set actual rents below the guideline figure.

Last year, the Government were pressed to give authorities greater financial certainty and responded by giving guidance for two years rather than one—which authorities appeared to welcome. However, since recent major changes in the economic situation, the Government are under substantial pressure from local authorities which would prefer us to reconsider the two-year deal. I have already indicated that we will re-examine the guideline rents for the second year, 2010-11.

More recently, we have also had increased pressure to re-examine the guideline rents already issued for this coming year. Under normal circumstances, this is not something that I would be prepared to contemplate.

But, in, and only in the context of the present unprecedented global downturn, it is right that the Government offer real help to council tenants. I am therefore quite exceptionally prepared to offer authorities the opportunity to bid for additional subsidy, if, and only if they are preparing to revisit the level of rents set and reduce them by that amount.

We are therefore halving the national average guideline increase from 6.2 per cent. to 3.1 per cent. This will require the Department to issue new 2009-10 guideline rents for all local authorities. I am prepared to change the subsidy position of those authorities that reduce their actual average increase in rents in 2009-10 in line with the new national average.

We will be inviting authorities to let us know whether they will take this up by around the end of April. They will be able to introduce the new rent increases as soon as is practicable for them.

Petition

Thursday 26 February 2009

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Traffic Management (Essex)

The Petition of Samantha Mitchell and local residents,

Declares that residents are deeply concerned about the safety of the road design at the junction of Climmen Road and Central Wall Road and have noted many accidents at this roundabout junction including injury accidents involving children, and therefore call on the Borough and County councillors to listen to residents and improve the road design in consultation with residents.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to review its guidance to local councils on the design of road junctions where mini roundabouts are used and to ask the local authority to investigate this particular junction and to implement a new and safer scheme after full and detailed consultation with residents.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 2 February 2009; Vol. 487, c. 671.]

[P000312]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

Essex County Council is the strategic highway authority for all local roads within the County of Essex, the provision of traffic management on these roads is for them to consider. The Government have responsibility for the strategic highway network which is managed through the Highways Agency.

As part of its role however central government does provide a range of guidance to local authority's including Traffic Advisory Leaflets, Local Transport Notes and Good Practise Guides. These are regularly updated based on ongoing monitoring of the performance of engineering schemes that are put in place and can be viewed on the Departments website www.dft.gov.uk.

With regard to the junction of Climmen Road and Central Wall Road it is understood that a recent Casualty Reduction Site Investigation has taken place by Essex County Council and improvements are planned for the next financial year.

A study of Personal Injury Collision (PIC's) data for the period from 01/06/2003 to 31/05/2008 at this location shows a pattern of nose to tail and failure to give way accidents on all arms of the mini roundabout with particular problems on the north east arm. During a visit to the site it was observed that it is apparent that there is a lack of deflection on any of the approaches and there is not a domed central island which therefore permits drivers to negotiate the junction at unsuitably high speeds. In addition there are a number of unapproved signs, badly worn road markings and concern with regard to lighting given the number of PIC's occurring in darkness.

It has therefore been recommended that the following measures are undertaken:

(i) Existing junction to be redesigned to incorporate suitable deflection on all approaches and include a relocated domed central island. Traffic islands should also be provided on the approaches to narrow the carriageway and encourage slower speeds throughout the junction.

(ii) High friction surfacing to be provided on all approaches to the junction and all road markings should be refreshed throughout the vicinity of the junction as required.

(iii) All non approved warning signs to be removed and all existing regulatory and warning signs to be upgraded to largest possible yellow backed versions and relocated to suitable distances where necessary. A review of all other local directional and information signs to be undertaken and signs to be removed or relocated where possible to prevent sign clutter in the vicinity of the junction.

(iv) A review of the lighting levels at the junction to be undertaken and improvements made if they do not meet the required standards.

(v) Any vegetation that currently obscures or has potential to obscure sign faces or affect visibility splays to be cut back or removed as necessary.

Petition

Monday 2 March 2009

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

Stillbirths

The Petition of Emma and Alexander Pheby (parents of Xanthe Pheby, stillborn on 4th April 2007),

Declares that every one in two hundred pregnancies in the United Kingdom end in stillbirth (around 3600 children a year) and yet in over half of these cases a cause for the baby's death is not established. There is currently very little funding for research into unexplained stillbirth;

Notes that in the 1980s important research was carried out into sudden infant death syndrome (otherwise known as SIDS or cot death) which in turn led in 1991 to a public health campaign and the numbers of cot deaths were dramatically cut;

Further declares that it is time for the United Kingdom Government to fund additional epidemiological studies and new scientific research to identify risk factors, causes and prevention strategies for unexplained stillbirths so that the country's high rates can be reduced.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government of the United Kingdom to put more resources into research in this area.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Charles Clarke, Official Report,* 3 February 2009; Vol. 487, c. 9P.]

[P000316]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The Government recognise that to lose a baby is a devastating experience and are committed to improving outcomes for both mother and baby.

We believe that it is important that bereaved parents receive the support they need. The Department has asked all NHS maternity care providers to ensure that all health services have comprehensive, culturally sensitive, services and facilities for the support of families who have experienced a neonatal death or stillbirth.

The Department has placed safety, quality and improving standards of care at the heart of its vision, this recognises that for the best health outcomes, it is important that women access maternity care at an early stage. To that end, maternity services are working to increase the number of women who have had their personal needs assessed, including whether their pregnancy is at high risk of complications, by the 12th week of pregnancy. This will enable an individualised care plan to be developed and has the potential to help reduce the number of stillbirths.

The Government's investment in health research in England is made principally through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Medical Research Council (MRC). NIHR and MRC funding arrangements generally preclude ring-fencing. Research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. Applications are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals made.

The Department of Health's Policy Research Programme and the NIHR spent £2.2 million in 2007-08 on research related to stillbirth.

The Policy Research Programme supports the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit. The aim of the unit is to conduct research with a view to providing information that can improve the health and welfare of babies, mothers and their families and promote the effective use of resources in the perinatal health services. Much of the Unit's work on the compromised foetus and baby focuses on or is linked to preterm birth.

The reasons for a stillbirth are complex. The Confidential Enquiry into Stillbirths and Deaths in Infancy (CESDI) was established in 1992 specifically to improve understanding of how the risks of death in late fetal life and infancy might be reduced.

Progress in reducing stillbirth has not been as significant as progress with reducing neonatal mortality. We are currently funding a successor to CESDI - the confidential inquiry line into maternal and child death (CEMACH). The findings from CEMACH's most recent report into perinatal mortality, including stillbirth, suggest that demographic factors known to be associated with stillbirths such as obesity, ethnicity, deprivation and maternal age may be contributing to this lack of progress.

The MRC spent £1.2 million in 2007-08 on research related to stillbirth. The MRC also funds several large cohort studies which include a component of research into stillbirth and supports a large portfolio of underpinning reproductive medicine and paediatric research.

Petition

Tuesday 3 March 2009

OBSERVATIONS

DEFENCE

Service Accommodation (Glamorgan)

The Petition of the residents and former residents of ex-Ministry of Defence service family accommodation on the West Vale estate, and others,

Declares that Brey Services has billed the residents and former residents of ex-MOD service family accommodation on the West Vale estate for sewage/wastewater charges dating from 1 December 2003 to the present day; notes that these properties had not been billed for the provision of sewage/wastewater services since the MOD's contract with Brey Services began in December 2003; and further declares that this delay has caused great distress to many families who are struggling to find the money to pay the said bills.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of the State for Defence firstly to ensure that these bills are waived on the grounds that an unreasonable amount of time has passed, and secondly to ensure that the party responsible for the delay in issuing the bills settles the sewage accounts for the residents and former residents of the West Vale estate from 1 December 2003 until 2 October 2008.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by John Smith, Official Report,* 20 November 2008; Vol. 483, c. 460.]

[P000291]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Defence:

At the outset let me say that I understand and sympathise with those who have signed the petition. I can imagine that receiving a bill for utilities provided in past years must have come as a considerable surprise. Nevertheless, this Department does have to seek payment.

That said, I can assure you that we will ensure that any repayment process is affordable to the residents, and does not put them under undue pressure. To this end, BREY Services Ltd already has long-term payment plans in place with a significant number of residents, some making repayment of as little as £10 per month over a six-year period. I would encourage all residents to get in touch with BREY Services Ltd, who have been instructed to act sympathetically to put in place payment plans. The following paragraphs set our position on the billing arrangements.

As part of the Aquatrine Public Private Partnership project, MOD transferred responsibility for the supply of water and wastewater services to the majority of its sites and Service Family Accommodation (SFA) estates in Great Britain to three private sector service providers. Thus, responsibility for properties at West Vale housing estate at MOD St Athan, which consists of both current and former SFA properties, was transferred to BREY Services Ltd on 1 December 2003. BREY now acts as MOD's billing agent for the recovery of costs from MOD contracted customers, including residents of the West Vale estate.

A water supply failure on the West Vale estate in 2003 led to the water system being separated from that of the MOD base. It was re-provided by Dwr Cymru. This created a direct relationship between Dwr Cymru and the residents (who were responsible for payment). However, MOD continued to be billed for the water supply to civilian properties, as was confirmed by Dwr Cymru in July last year.

Those who bought their homes when the properties were initially sold were advised by the managing agent at the time of the direct billing arrangement with MOD for water services and of a separate private sewer system, discharging to an off-site public sewer maintained by Dwr Cymru. Those who have bought their homes more recently should have been told who provided the water and wastewater services by their agents (as part of the usual searches). For those reasons, it is clear that responsibility for payment in these cases does and should fall to individual householders.

Thus it is, and has been for some years now, clearly the responsibility of the homeowners at West Vale to meet the costs of their water supply. It is equally clear that these costs should not fall to the taxpayer generally. For that reason MOD is seeking to recover sums owed for previous years. The Water Resale Order—which formed part of the Water Industry Act 1991—provides the authority to bill retrospectively up to a limit of six years.

However, as I said at the beginning of this letter we are very conscious of the burden this may place on some residents. That is why, while fulfilling our duty to protect the taxpayer generally, we are ensuring that the arrangements put in place to collect the money owed are as reasonable as possible.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 23 February 2009

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Redundant Churches

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 983W, on redundant churches, what assessment the Church Commissioners have made of the reasons for churches being closed for regular public worship. [256411]

Sir Stuart Bell: Decisions to propose closure for regular public worship are taken within each diocese and the Commissioners have made no specific assessment of the reasons behind such decisions. Where objections are received, the Commissioners consider whether there is a pastoral need for the church. On average, between 25 and 30 churches are closed each year; this is in the context of over 16,000 churches in use, including a number of new places of worship opening each year.

Religious Buildings: Water Charges

Ben Chapman: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners whether the Church Commissioners plan to take steps to implement the resolution of the General Synod on church water rates; and if he will make a statement. [257043]

Sir Stuart Bell: The General Synod motion urged the Government to press Ofwat to ensure that water companies did not treat places of worship as if they were businesses and, as my hon. Friend will note from my remarks on the Floor of the House on 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 971-72, I fully support the position taken by General Synod.

I might add by way of a statement that the Archbishops Council will take the lead in the Church's ongoing discussions with Government on this matter and it will do so not only with General Synod's support but also the support of the Church Commissioners, the wider Church, other charitable bodies, a good many Members of Parliament and, it seems, an increasing proportion of the general public.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Palace of Westminster: Pedestrian Access

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission with reference to the answer of 6 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 671W, on pedestrian access, what progress has been made in ensuring that pedestrian access to the Palace of Westminster is not impeded by inadequate rainwater drainage on St. Margaret's Street; when the House of Commons Commission last discussed this issue with Westminster City Council; what response was received; on how many occasions since December 2008 pedestrian access to the Palace of Westminster has been impeded by rainwater; and if he will make a statement. [256726]

Nick Harvey: A record is not kept of the number of times pedestrian access to the Palace of Westminster has been impeded by rainwater. The drainage gully on St. Margaret Street adjacent to St. Stephen's Entrance is blocked regularly with rubbish and detritus and Westminster city council arrange for it to be cleared when flooding is causing a nuisance. Further representations will be made to the council to increase the frequency of cleaning in this location and to explore whether the gully can be covered to reduce the likelihood of future blockage. There have been no discussions on this subject between the House of Commons Commission and Westminster city council.

Parliament: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many repairs have been required to the fabric and installations of each building on the Parliamentary Estate in each year since 1990; and what the estimated total cost was for each building. [248141]

Nick Harvey: A list of the repairs to the fabric and installations of each building on the parliamentary estate has been placed in the Library. Information on the number of repairs is available back to 2000, and on the cost of repairs back to 2005-06.

Working Conditions: Temperature

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest temperature measured in the Churchill Room and nearby areas during working hours were between November 2008 and January 2009; what steps are taken in exceptionally cold weather to provide additional heating in the House, with particular reference to the Churchill Room; and what recent representations have been made by (i) House staff and (ii) customers about the temperature in the Churchill Room. [257381]

Nick Harvey: The highest temperature recorded in the Churchill Room—on numerous occasions—between November 2008 and January 2009 was 21 degrees centigrade. The lowest temperature during the same period was 17 degrees centigrade on 12 January 2009. The prevailing weather conditions are monitored by House engineers and the heating system adjusted accordingly to maintain temperatures at acceptable levels. Since November 2008, two requests have been recorded on the estates helpdesk about cool temperatures in the Churchill Room, on 20 November 2008 and 4 February 2009. Work has taken place during the February constituency week to replace the heating and ventilation controls for the Churchill Room and further work will take place in the Easter recess.

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what temperature range is deemed acceptable by the House authorities for staff to work in. [257382]

Nick Harvey: The statutory minimum temperature for office environments is 16°C. There is no statutory upper limit. In line with Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) guidance the House aims to maintain temperatures of 21°C in office areas.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government have taken to assist agricultural producers affected by the outbreaks of foot and mouth disease. [256935]

Jane Kennedy: The Animal Health Act 1981 and Human Rights legislation require that compensation is paid for animals compulsorily killed to prevent the spread of disease. For foot and mouth disease (FMD), compensation is paid for all animals compulsorily slaughtered at the full market value before the animal became infected. Compensation is also paid for other items, such as farm equipment and feed etc. which are seized as they are considered to be contaminated. This includes such things as milk. The amount of compensation payable for animals for FMD is determined by an approved valuer at the time of slaughter.

Animal Welfare

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* incidents of animal cruelty have been reported and *(b)* people have been charged with offences of animal cruelty in (i) England, (ii) the North East, (iii) the Tees Valley and (iv) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. [254890]

Jane Kennedy: The number of people proceeded against at magistrates courts for animal cruelty in *(a)* England, *(b)* the north-east, and *(c)* Cleveland police force area for the years 1998 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Charging data are not held by Ministry of Justice, therefore data on cases proceeded against have been provided in lieu.

Crimes relating to cruelty to animals are summary offences and thus reported cases of animal cruelty are not included in the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

Court data are not collected centrally at constituency level; thus Cleveland police force area data have been provided in lieu of *(c)* Tees Valley, and *(d)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for animal cruelty in Cleveland police force area, north-east region, and England for the years 1998 to 2007[1,2,3,4,5]

									Proceeded against	
Force/Area	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Cleveland	22	26	20	43	26	33	24	33	41	51
North-east	96	93	76	105	89	102	100	106	97	140
England	1,168	1,081	1,110	1,026	1,022	1,005	1,013	1,104	1,048	1,079

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire police force were able to submit sample data only for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

[4] The north-east region comprises the following police force areas: Northumbria Durham Cleveland.

[5] Crimes relating to cruelty to animals are summary offences and are therefore not included within the police recorded crime series. Police recorded crime covers crimes which are recorded by the police and which are notified to the Home Office. All indictable or triable-either-way offences are included together with certain closely associated summary offences.

Birds

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 320W, on birds, about what elements of the report there were uncertainties; what the reasons are for the time taken to resolve such uncertainties; and whether the contract made provision for financial penalties for late or sub-standard delivery. [253683]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Queries about the nature, reliability and robustness of the information reported, have delayed publication of this report. These queries included the extent to which conclusions in the report were supported by reliable evidence, and whether individuals named in the report had agreed to the inclusion of their names.

The report was reviewed with the authors five times as a consequence of officials raising questions about its content. While the authors of the report acted as promptly as possible, delays did occur due to the difficulties of verification of data with third parties overseas, or as key personnel were not available temporarily.

While the contract did allow for penalties none were imposed because at the time, March/April 2008, the report was believed to be reasonably correct. Most of the concerns about the style and content of the report only came to light subsequently, and the contractor then undertook the necessary additional work.

Charities: Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which charities have been prosecuted under the waste management duty of care provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990; and how much revenue has been collected from fines resulting from such prosecutions. [256403]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA does not hold the information requested. Recorded details on prosecutions do not identify the type of business or organisation.

Departmental Buildings

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether a Display Energy Certificate has been produced for each of his Department's buildings. [252630]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I can confirm that Display Energy Certificates (DECs) have been produced for the 39 DEFRA properties meeting the requirements of the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent by his Department on staff reward and recognition schemes in each of the last three years. [248712]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA and its Executive agencies operate a number of different non-financial reward and recognition schemes for staff (excludes bonus schemes) at grade 6 equivalent and below.

These provide DEFRA and its agencies with the flexibility to recognise and reward their employees, with small/symbolic awards.

Details of the costs associated with each scheme are outlined as follows:

DEFRA Team Awards (including Executive agencies)

The DEFRA Team Awards identify and celebrate success across DEFRA and its agencies.

Each year an annual awards dinner and ceremony is held, to which short-listed teams from across DEFRA are invited.

The winning teams in each category receive a certificate of congratulations and are awarded a trophy, made from recycled materials, that has no commercial value.

The cost of staging the event in each of the last three years are given in the following table.

	£
2006	20,557.92
2007	20,533
2008	23,328.20

'Achieving the Best'—Animal Health (AH), DEFRA Executive agency

'Achieving the Best' is the agency's scheme for recognising and rewarding good performance and long service at local and agency-wide level.

The scheme was introduced on 1 April 2007.

There are two recognition and reward schemes that operate under the 'Achieving the Best' scheme:

the Animal Health Instant Award; and

the Animal Health Long Service Award.

Animal Health Instant Award

This takes the form of a voucher up to a value of £50 per employee. The minimum voucher award is £10 and the maximum is £50.

The total cost of providing the Instant Awards for 2007-08 was £89,518.

Animal Health Long Service Awards

Two awards (a 25-Year and a 40-Year Long Service award) are presented locally to individuals who have completed the requisite service in the civil service (including any previous service in MAFF, DEFRA, the State Veterinary Service, Animal Health or any other Government Department).

Recipients receive a certificate and are granted two days special paid leave (for the 25-Year award) or five days special paid leave (for the 40-Year award), which are awarded at the agency's bi-annual awards ceremony that celebrates success.

For 2007-08, 16 25-Year awards were made to Animal Health staff, at a cost of £5,758.02; three 40-Year awards were made at a cost of £3,299.57.

The costs shown are inclusive of a proportion of the costs for staging the Long Service Awards part of the event.

Voucher Scheme—Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), DEFRA Executive agency

The agency operates a voucher scheme, which is designed to recognise one-off achievements throughout the course of the year. These are awarded in £50 lots.

The cost of operating the scheme in each of the last three years are given in the following table.

	£000
2006	15
2007	15
2008	15

Non-Pay Reward Scheme—Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), DEFRA Executive agency

The scheme is designed to act as a motivational award to an individual or team, which underpins VLA's organisational values, aims and objectives. It encourages and rewards good performance, promotes team building or recognises outstanding contribution.

Responsibility for deciding on the award is delegated to Heads of Departments/Units, who are each allocated a share of the non-pay reward budget, relative to the size of the team.

The cost of operating the scheme in each of the last three years are shown in the following table.

	£
2006-07	9,996
2007-08	12,236
2008-09 (to date)	6,004

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 770W, on departmental training, what personal training courses at public expense other Ministers in his Department have undertaken since 1 January 2008. [251326]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA Ministers attended three courses in the period concerned, each of them lasting no longer than one day. The courses were intended to enable Ministers to carry out their duties effectively in line with the ministerial code.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what powers waste collection authorities have to enter premises in relation to suspected breaches of waste regulations; and what powers they have to *(a)* measure and *(b)* photograph household waste; [252326]

(2) whether joint waste authorities will be eligible to undertaken directed surveillance under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000; [252407]

(3) what powers of entry the joint waste authorities will have. [252410]

Jane Kennedy: Section 92A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) gives local authorities powers to serve a litter clearing notice on any open land, requiring the occupier, or failing that, the owner, to clear litter from that land. If the notice is not complied with, they can enter the land, clean up and then reclaim their costs.

Section 59 of the EPA allows waste regulation authorities and waste collection authorities to serve a notice on the occupier or owner of land to require the removal of controlled waste unlawfully and knowingly deposited. Where a person fails to meet these requirements, the local authority or the Environment Agency may clear the waste and seek to recover the costs.

Waste collection authorities have no powers to enter domestic premises to gather evidence of breaches of regulations on how waste is presented for collection.

It is intended that joint waste authorities should have the same powers as are currently available to local authorities when they are carrying out those functions which joint waste authorities may take over.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has provided to local authorities on the use of large communal bins for household waste; [252636]

(2) what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has provided to local authorities on the number of household waste bins to be provided to households. [252637]

Jane Kennedy: There has not been a call for guidance on the use of large communal bins for household waste or on the number of household waste bins to be provided to households, either to DEFRA or WRAP.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have undertaken into means of waste (i) collection and (ii) disposal of mercury-containing compact fluorescent lights for domestic use. [252729]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA and its agencies have undertaken no such research.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps his Department is taking to encourage local authorities to undertake separate food waste collections; [252927]

(2) how many local authorities offer a separate food waste collection service. [252928]

Jane Kennedy: Separate collection of food waste has so far been introduced by 36 local authorities in England, including 17 authorities who are working with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) on trials of the collection of segregated household food waste. These are separate food only schemes and do not include mixed food and garden waste collections.

Separate collection of food waste can help achieve environmental gains more cost-effectively, including through the use of anaerobic digestion to provide energy. Further means of extending separate food waste collections and increasing the proportion of food waste collected which is routed to anaerobic digestion are also under consideration.

EC Law

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what provisions of EU directives within his Department's area of responsibility have not yet been transposed into law; in respect of the provisions of which such directives the UK has been subject to infringement action by the European Commission since January 2005; and what stage has been reached in such action in each case. [255490]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There are 34 Directives within the Department's responsibilities, in relation to which the due date for transposition has not yet been reached, or which have not yet been transposed completely into UK law.

It is the Government's policy to neither confirm nor deny the existence of infringement proceedings or to disclose details of any infringement action by the European Commission except where an overriding public interest in disclosure of such information can be demonstrated on a case-by-case basis.

Electronic Tagging: Sheep

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the effect on the sheep industry's revenue of the introduction of the electronic identification of sheep. [257422]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for East Devon (Mr. Swire) on 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2031W.

Flood Control

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in the development of catchment flood management plans. [256352]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The 68 Catchment Flood Management Plans in England have been completed and signed off by Environment Agency Regional Directors. The Environment Agency is re-consulting on elements of six of the plans that impact on the East Riding of Yorkshire council.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many properties in England and Wales are classified as at risk of flooding. [256355]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency undertakes regular assessments of the number of properties at risk of flooding from rivers and from the sea through its National Flood Risk Assessments. In the most recent assessment (in 2006) DEFRA and the Environment Agency estimated that 2.3 million properties were at risk of flooding in England and Wales.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Aid Scheme

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Rural Payments Agency on the processing of applications by growers to be recognised as producer organisations for the purposes of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Aid Scheme. [252581]

Jane Kennedy: No ministerial discussions have taken place with RPA on the processing of applications by growers to be recognised as producer organisations for the purposes of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Aid Scheme. My predecessor was fully briefed concerning developments following recent European Court of Auditors and European Agricultural Guarantee Fund audits of the scheme and remedial actions required to address audit concerns.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many organisations in England were recognised as producer organisations for the purposes of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Aid Scheme in 2004; how many have been de-recognised since 2004; and how many are currently recognised. [252584]

Jane Kennedy: There are currently 54 recognised producer organisations.

In 2004 there were 73 recognised producer organisations in the scheme. 32 of them have been de-recognised since 2004. In addition some have left the scheme voluntarily and/or merged with other producer organisations.

Joint Waste Authorities

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the latest timetable is for the establishment of joint waste authorities. [253878]

Jane Kennedy: Proposals for Joint Waste Authorities may be submitted until 31 July 2009. It is estimated that it will take 12 months to assess a proposal and to lay the relevant legislation. The first Joint Waste Authorities may therefore be established from 31 July 2010.

Livestock: Exports

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* calves and *(b)* horses were exported from the UK for further fattening and slaughter to each destination country in the latest period for which information is available; and what the average journey times were to each such country. [252865]

Jane Kennedy: The Cattle Tracing System (for Great Britain) and APHIS (for Northern Ireland) show the following numbers of calves (animals under 42 days old) as being exported from the United Kingdom during 2008. Due to the way the data are held, it is not possible to specify whether the animals were intended for breeding, production or slaughter.

Export destination	*1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008*[1]	*Range of travelling times (hours)*	*Average times (hours)*
Belgium	17,548	10.5-17.5	14.38
France	13,469	8.5-18.5	13.24
Republic of Ireland	1,181	19	19.05
Netherlands	21,914	11.5-28	17.40
Spain	1,436	22.5-32.5	29.37
Total	55,548		

[1] Animals under 42 days old

The range of travelling times and averages are taken from new route journey log applications received in 2008 that have been calculated and approved excluding rest times (mid journey rests and rests at control posts). These are only plans and not the actual times recorded from journeys that have taken place.

No horse or pony export welfare licences were applied for or issued for slaughter or fattening during 2008.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter of 12 December 2008 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on the Amazon rainforest. [256809]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 12 February 2009]*: I signed a reply to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire (Sir Michael Spicer) on 10 February.

Public Footpaths

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will bring forward funding to enable British Waterways to undertake *(a)* necessary maintenance of its grade D and grade E assets and *(b)* projects to improve the standard of towpaths to create a national towpath network; [256123]

(2) if he will estimate how many *(a)* employment and *(b)* training opportunities a programme of maintenance and towpath network improvement undertaken by British Waterways would provide. [256127]

Huw Irranca-Davies: £5 million has been brought forward from 2010-11 and will contribute towards British Waterways' maintenance of its grade D and E assets.

An estimation on the number of employment and training opportunities the creation of a national tow path would bring, depends on the scale of the programme. DEFRA is considering a range of possible proposals to support the economy and environment.

Recycling

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Environment Agency and *(c)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme have made of the cost to local authorities of storing paper collected from households for recycling in 2008-09. [252396]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA, the Environment Agency and the Waste and Resources Action Programme have not made an estimate of the cost to local authorities of storing paper collected from households for recycling. However, the Environment Agency has reported that it has not seen significant increases in requests for additional storage capacity for recyclable materials.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate has been made of the percentage of municipal waste consisting of recyclable material landfilled by local authorities in England in the last 12 months which could have been recycled. [256375]

Jane Kennedy: No such estimate has been made by DEFRA.

Recycling: Calderdale

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of *(a)* household recycling rates and *(b)* levels of collection services for materials for recycling in Calderdale; and if he will make a statement. [256813]

Jane Kennedy: [holding answer 12 February 2009]: In 2007-08 Calderdale council's household recycling and composting rate was 24.92 per cent. 96.53 per cent. of households in Calderdale had a kerbside collection of at least one recyclable material.

These data are available at local authority level for the last three years at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/wastats/index.htm.

Rural Areas: Community Development

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make representations to his EU counterparts on a replacement for the LEADER Programme. [257031]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The LEADER approach is now being implemented through mainstream rural development programming rather than as a separate programme in its own right. Under the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), 61 Local Action Groups have been selected so far to deliver the LEADER approach. This element of the RDPE has only been operational since January 2008 and we will want to review progress over the remainder of the programming period with a view to preparing for EU negotiations on the next programming period. The current programme runs until 2013, and therefore we do not envisage discussions at EU level on the future rural development programme for some time.

Sewers: Fats

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the percentage of sewer blockages caused by cooking oils, fats and greases in each water company area in each of the last five years. [256660]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My Department does not collect information on the causes of sewer blockages.

However, Water UK, the representative body for the water industry, estimates that there are on average around 200,000 sewer blockages in England and Wales each year, of which fats, oils and greases are responsible for up to 75 per cent.

Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* household and *(b)* non-household waste was collected by each local authority in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [253201]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is on the DEFRA website and can be found at the following address:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/wastats/bulletin08.htm

Source:

WasteDataFlow

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* Travellers and *(b)* people in domestic dwellings not rated by the Valuation Office Agency due to their transitory nature will be liable to pay charges for the collection of household waste under the forthcoming pilot schemes. [252635]

Jane Kennedy: Paragraph 15 of schedule 2AA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 defines the term "domestic premises" for the purposes of a waste reduction scheme.

Waste Disposal: Private Finance Initiative

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many waste infrastructure plant projects under the private finance initiative scheme have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been granted planning permission in each of the last three years. [251691]

Jane Kennedy: According to available data, since January 2006 there have been 14 planning applications from 13 authorities that have been allocated private finance initiatives. Of these, 11 have been granted planning permission.

Water Supply: Leaks

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the volume of water lost through leaks from water pipes of each individual water company in each of the last five years. [256365]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Water companies report annual leakage figures to Ofwat in June as part of their annual regulatory returns. Ofwat publishes leakage performance annually in the service and delivery report. Leakage performance for each water company for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08 were as follows:

Performance (megalitres/day)

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Anglian	216	214	215	200	210
Bournemouth and West Hants	22	22	22	22	22
Bristol	53	53	53	54	53
Cambridge	14	14	13.9	13.4	13.9
Dee Valley	10	11	11.3	10.6	10.3
Dwr Cymru	231	226	225	210	205
Essex and Suffolk	70	67	67	68	68
Folkestone and Dover	8	8	8	7.8	7.9
Mid Kent	30	29	28	27	27
Northumbrian	160	155	155	145	135
Portsmouth	30	30	30	29	30
Severn Trent	512	502	540	525	490
South East	69	69	69	69	69
South Staffordshire	71	74	73	73	72
South West	84	83	84	83	84
Southern	92	92	93	82	83
Sutton and East Surrey	24	24	24	24	24
Tendring Hundred	5	5	5.1	5.1	5.0
Thames	946	915	860	790	715
Three Valleys	152	149	150	145	140
United Utilities	479	500	475	470	460
Wessex	75	73	73	72	72
Yorkshire	295	293	295	295	295
Industry total	3,649	3,608	3,575	3,420	3,290

Note:
Figures have been rounded and thus may appear not to add up to the total given)

DEFENCE

Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre

8. **John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers seriously injured in Iraq and Afghanistan were treated at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre Headley Court before the introduction of compensation payments. [257887]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Armed Forces Compensation Scheme was introduced on 6 April 2005. Between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2005, 3,507 reviews of inpatients were conducted at Headley Court. Headley Court treats personnel injured as a result of a variety of incidents, including from operational deployment to road traffic or sporting accidents. Headley Court does not record centrally the number of injured personnel they treat from each location.

War Memorials

9. **Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on consulting regimental associations on the protection of war memorials. [257888]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence officially commemorates the final resting place of all those who die in service. The UK Government contribute close to £40 million each year towards the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to mark and maintain the graves, and the official memorials for those who have no known grave, of the Commonwealth Service personnel who died during the two World Wars.

However, the Department does not have the responsibility for war memorials. This responsibility rests with the owner of the memorial, which is normally a local authority, a private individual or organisation.

Iran: Missile Development

10. **Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the implications for UK defence policy of recent Iranian missile development. [257889]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Upminster (Angela Watkinson).

Military Doctors: Reserve Forces

11. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of military doctors serving abroad are members of the Territorial Army and other reserve forces. [257890]

Mr. Kevan Jones: From a total of 11 medical officers currently serving at the field hospital in Iraq on OP TELIC, five are members of the reserve forces. At the field hospital in Afghanistan on OP HERRICK, three, from a current total of 15 medical officers, are reservists.

Aircraft Carriers: Air Defence Capability

12. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he next expects to meet his NATO counterparts to discuss the air defence capability of aircraft carriers. [257891]

Mr. Hutton: There are no specific plans for discussions with NATO counterparts, in the near future, on the air defence capability provided by aircraft carriers.

Afghanistan

13. **Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest assessment is of the armed forces' performance against their military objectives in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [257892]

Mr. Hutton: UK and other ISAF troops are making tangible progress in Afghanistan. In Helmand, all the major towns are now under the Government of Afghanistan's control and the insurgents can no longer rest easy in their traditional heartlands. But Afghanistan's problems cannot be solved by military means alone and nor will they be solved quickly. Significant security challenges remain and we are working with the Afghan Government also to improve governance, economic development and the rule of law.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment of the strength and capabilities of the *(a)* Afghan national army and *(b)* Afghan national police is. [253714]

Mr. Hutton: Good progress has been made with the Afghan national army (ANA). The ANA is 78,000 strong and in 2008 they led in 60 per cent. of the operations in which they participated.

There are now some 82,000 Afghan police (ANP). Through the US and EU-led programmes ANP capacity has improved.

We will continue to work closely with the government of Afghanistan and the international community to build the capacity of the Afghan national army and police.

Chiefs of Staff

14. **Mr. Vaizey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures there are for co-operation between the chiefs of staff of each of the services. [257893]

16. **Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures there are for co-operation between the chiefs of staff of each of the services. [257895]

Mr. Hutton: The chiefs of staff meet informally and formally to discuss matters of mutual interest on a regular and ongoing basis.

Warship Construction Programme

17. **Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made on the warship construction programme; and if he will make a statement. [257896]

Mr. Hutton: Good progress continues to be made across the future warship build programme.

Centred on the Type 45 Destroyers, the Astute class submarines, the Future Aircraft Carriers and the Future Surface Combatant, it is providing industry with a strong order book which will continue well into the next decade and beyond.

Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference

19. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on preparations for the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. [257898]

Mr. Hutton: I have regular discussions with the Foreign Secretary on a range of issues, including non-proliferation. Our respective Departments continue to work closely together, and with international partners, to ensure that the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference will be a success.

Trident

21. **Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent consideration he has given to the future of the UK's Trident nuclear weapons system; and if he will make a statement. [257900]

Mr. Hutton: We laid out the Government's decisions on the nuclear deterrent in the December 2006 White Paper, 'The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent', which the House voted to support, by a large majority, in March 2007. We expect to reach the Initial Gate approval point for the programme to replace

the Vanguard-class submarines in autumn 2009. This will signify the end of the concept phase. We are also participating in a programme to extend the life of the Trident II D5 missile until around 2042.

ATLAS Consortium

22. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the ATLAS consortium's performance against objectives in implementing the Defence Information Infrastructure; and if he will make a statement. [257901]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The performance of the ATLAS consortium is continually assessed by the DII Programme's governing bodies. The most recent assessment is that performance remains satisfactory against the objectives of the programme.

Specifically, just beyond the 31 January 2009 milestone set for the end of the first increment, 62,800 terminals will have been delivered. This increases confidence in achieving the next milestone of 100,000 terminals to be delivered by the end of December 2009. In addition over half of the MOD population currently have DII Future (DII(F)) accounts and a capability to process secret data is now in place allowing the programme to roll DII(F) into the five major headquarters of the MOD, Royal Navy, RAF, Army and Permanent Joint Headquarters.

ATLAS is also on track to deliver a deployed and top secret capability within planned timescales and financial estimates for the on-contract programme remain within 3 per cent. of the original estimates.

Iraq

23. **Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of the security situation in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [257902]

Mr. Hutton: The overall security situation in Iraq continues to improve, with violence remaining down at levels last seen in 2003. This was demonstrated by the recent provincial elections, which passed with just one reported security incident in Basra, where Iraqi security forces are maintaining the significant security gains achieved over the course of 2008.

Afghanistan: Serious Injuries

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British soldiers have been seriously injured in Afghanistan *(a)* since 2001 and *(b)* since January 2006. [257894]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Since the start of coalition operations in Afghanistan in October 2001, 175 British service personnel have been very seriously or seriously injured. 165 of these individuals incurred their injuries since January 2006.

Afghanistan: Civilian Casualties

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps UK forces are taking to minimise the number of civilian casualties in Afghanistan. [257897]

Mr. Hutton: We deeply regret any incidents where civilians are killed as a result of actions by international forces. Procedures are in place, and being constantly updated in the light of experience, both to minimise the risk of these casualties occurring and to investigate any incidents that do happen. In addition troops undergo comprehensive individual and collective training before they go on operations. Significant resources and effort are put into understanding properly the operational environment, including details of the civilian population who wherever possible are warned of impending operations.

We should, however, remember that insurgents are the real threat to the safety and security of the Afghan people through their indiscriminate use of violence.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1016W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, when he expects the review to be completed. [255588]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The review of UK detention records has been a major undertaking; we hope to publish the findings in the near future.

Ammunition

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether British armed forces have used white phosphorus munitions in *(a)* Iraq since 2003 and *(b)* Afghanistan since 2001; [254686]

(2) when white phosphorus munitions were last used in action by British armed forces; and in what circumstances they were used. [254688]

Mr. Hutton: In Afghanistan, white phosphorus munitions are routinely used to protect troops on operations by producing a smoke screen to provide cover. Records show white phosphorus munitions were last used for the same purpose in Iraq in 2005.

In accordance with the UN third convention on conventional weapons, UK training in the use of white phosphorus emphasises that it should be used solely for its intended purpose and not as an anti-personnel weapon.

Ammunition: Exports

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the UK has made any exports of white phosphorus munitions in the last 10 years. [254687]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply:

BERR's Export Control Organisation only has information on licences issued, not actual exports. 67 licences have been issued since March 1999 for munitions that, like white phosphorous munitions, are designed to create illumination or act as an incendiary. Because the export licence application form does not require the exporter to provide the chemical composition of munitions to be exported, it is not possible to say how many—if any—of those 67 related to the export of white phosphorous

Armed Forces: Blood

Mr. Geoffrey Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will request NHS Blood and Transplant to supply pathogen inactivated blood products for military personnel use. [255760]

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will ask the NHS Blood and Transplant Service to supply pathogen-inactivated blood products for use by military personnel. [256969]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Pathogen inactivation (PI) is a process designed to eliminate pathogens—i.e. viruses, bacteria and fungi—from water, air or donated blood. The majority of the blood held in-theatre by the Defence Medical Services is supplied by the UK National Blood Services (NBS), which does not routinely carry out PI on its blood products. However, the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO—a Department of Health NDPB) will be reviewing options to reduce the risk of bacterial infection in platelets, including pathogen inactivation, in early 2009, which will inform decisions on its use in the UK. It would be premature of MOD to pre-empt the results of this review.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of personnel in each pinch point trade in the *(a)* Royal Navy and *(b)* Royal Air Force exceeded harmony guidelines for tour intervals in the latest period for which figures are available. [257685]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As I stated in my answer on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1521W, it is not possible to identify the tour intervals for individual service personnel who are considered to be in pinch point trades. The Joint Personnel Administration system is designed to identify where individual harmony guidelines, as a whole, are being broken rather than the intervals between tours.

Armed Forces: Drugs

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the incidence of substance misuse amongst members of the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [258185]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: MOD monitors regularly the incidence of substance misuse in the armed forces. The services have robust policies and procedures in relation to the taking of unlawful drugs, as well as a comprehensive range of measures for raising awareness of and dealing with alcohol abuse. The evidence is that the level of taking unlawful drugs by service personnel is far below that of their civilian counterparts.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1264W, on departmental housing, how many houses owned by his Department were rated as grade *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007. [251695]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Officials are working to identify what information can be provided. I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Willie Rennie, dated 21 February 2009:

My right hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 305W about grades of Service Family Accommodation.

The following breakdown of Service Family Accommodation properties worldwide by each Grade for Charge (GfC) at 1 April 2005, 2006, and 2007 respectively.

			Number
	2005	*2006*	*2007*
G1fC	15,960	15,007	12,430
G2fC	26,878	27,089	26,447
G3fC	20,123	20,596	22,209
G4fC	7,694	7,867	8,720

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* trained requirement, *(b)* trained strength and *(c)* numbers fit for duty are of (i) Territorial Army staff, (ii) Royal Armoured Corps, (iii) Royal Artillery, (iv) Royal Engineers, (v) Royal Signals, (vi) Infantry, (vii) Army Air Corps, (viii) Royal Army Chaplains Department, (ix) Royal Logistics Corps, (x) Royal Army Medical Corps, (xi) Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, (xii) Adjutant General's Corps, (xiii) Royal Army Veterinary Corps, (xiv) Small Arms School Corps, (xv) Royal Army Dentistry Corps, (xvi) Intelligence Corps, (xvii) Army Physical Training Corps and (xviii) Queen Alexandra's Royal Auxiliary Nursing Corps are. [257775]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In the following table, the trained requirement figures requested are shown by the funded liability. Fit for duty figures are not held centrally, however, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1117-118W, to the hon. Member for North Essex (Mr. Jenkin) which provides infantry figures:

Organisation		*Funded liability*	*Trained strength*
Territorial Army		42,000	36,005
Royal Armoured Corps		5,823	5,570
Royal Artillery		7,512	7,170
Royal Engineers		9,367	[1]9,717
Infantry[2]		24,535	23,135
Army Air Corps		2,034	2,034
Royal Army Chaplains Department		147	130
Royal Logistics Corps		15,553	14,990
Royal Army Medical Corps		3,354	2,980
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers		9,895	9,390
Adjutant	Provost	1,748	1,720
	Staff and Personnel Support	3,819	3,500
General's Corps	Educational and Training Services	315	340

Organisation		Funded liability	Trained strength
	Army Legal Services	109	109
Royal Army Veterinary Corps		216	280
Small Arms School Corps		140	150
Royal Army Dentistry Corps		436	380
Intelligence Corps		1,607	1,440
Army Physical Training Corps		432	350
Queen Alexandra's Royal Auxiliary Nursing Corps		1,146	830

[1] Provisional
[2] Excludes Gurkhas
[3] Reflects increased operational requirements

Armed Forces: Racial Discrimination

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what policies and practices are in place to counter sectarianism and racism in the armed forces. [248689]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* The armed forces aim to create a working environment free from harassment, intimidation and unlawful discrimination in which everyone is not only valued and respected, but encouraged to realise their full potential, regardless of race, ethnic origin, religion, gender, social background or sexual orientation. All complaints of discrimination or harassment are taken seriously, investigated thoroughly, and, when proven, dealt with robustly.

Education is central to the drive to promote awareness of diversity and equality and to eliminate unacceptable behaviour. Diversity and equality training is undertaken at the Joint Equality and Diversity Training Centre and widely across all three services. Other measures include: confidential advice and support helplines; trained equality and diversity advisers in every unit; guidance, videos and briefings on diversity issues, harassment, bullying and complaints.

A Service Complaints Commissioner for the Armed Forces took up her appointment on 1 January 2008. The Commissioner has the power to refer allegations of discrimination, harassment, bullying, and dishonest, improper or biased behaviour to the chain of command for action. The role of the Commissioner is to provide scrutiny and assurance that the complaints process is working effectively and that lessons are learned and implemented.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many recruitment training courses were either cancelled or postponed in each of the last three years; and how many recruits were affected. [245117]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Overall some courses were cancelled or postponed but all entrants were trained without undue delay. The information available for each service is:

Navy

Over the course of the last three financial years, four Royal Marine other ranks initial training courses have been cancelled; this was primarily due to the lack of recruits to fill allocated places. In all, some 120 trainees were affected as their entry to CTCRM was delayed by two weeks. No other Naval Service initial training courses were cancelled or postponed in that time.

Army

Over the last three financial years 12 infantry platoons did not form up due to insufficient trainees and five courses at the Army Training Regiment Bassingbourn were cancelled. Further courses were run with reduced numbers due to trainers not being available. In total 1,197 training places were affected. Planning has ensured that no recruits were affected.

RAF

In total, seven initial training courses have been cancelled over the last three years: six in FY2006-07; and one in FY2007-08. No recruits were affected, as the courses were cancelled before any recruits were allocated places.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on recruitment advertising for each of the armed forces in each month in each year since 1998. [248668]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A monthly breakdown of advertising expenditure is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, a detailed breakdown of armed forces recruitment advertising costs by year for each service is provided in the following table.

£ million

	FY					
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Naval Service[1]						
Press Advertising	0.333	0.213	0.157	0.172	0.093	—
TV	0.399	3.136	2.952	1.529	3.905	1.771
Cinema	1.600	0.641	—	0.481	0.870	1.025
Radio	1.330	1.475	0.689	—	—	—
Posters/Leaflets	0.464	0.055	0.057	—	0.500	0.138
Internet	0.257	0.445	0.257	1.741	1.100	1.144
Regional/Local	—	—	1.076	0.496	0.500	0.500
Media Partnerships	—	—	—	—	—	0.215
Total	4.383	5.965	5.188	4.419	6.968	4.793
Army						
Press Advertising	0.379	0.620	1.443	0.723	1.100	1.272

£ million

	FY					
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
TV	4.138	10.407	10.896	6.877	9.229	10.778
Cinema	—	0.060	—	—	—	—
Radio	—	—	1.501	0.695	0.800	0.479
Internet	—	—	0.143	0.143	0.600	0.210
Outdoor	—	—	0.735	0.735	0.600	0.037
Other	0.029	—	1.017	0.956	1.000	1.222
Total	4.546	11.087	15.735	10.129	13.329	14.000
Royal Air Force[3]						
Press Advertising	0.350	0.308	0.221	0.725	0.694	1.040
TV	1.780	1.718	1.362	1.468	2.527	3.061
Cinema	—	—	—	—	0.235	0.600
Radio	0.560	0.195	0.206	0.465	0.495	0.697
Internet	0.202	0.229	0.251	0.635	0.636	3.240
Other	0.238	0.518	[4]-0.084	1.051	0.271	0.384
Total	3.130	2.968	1.956	4.344	4.858	9.022

[1] Navy figures for FY 2008-09 represent a projected forecast of expenditure.
[2] Army figures for FY 2008-09 represent money spent or already committed and are not speculative.
[3] RAF FY 2008-09 figures are current up to the 14 January 2009.
[4] Rebate from Central Office of Information.

Army: Contracts

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what multi-activity contracts the Army has; and what the *(a)* scope of activities, *(b)* monetary value and *(c)* date of expiry of each is. [257159]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Multi-activity contracts (MACs) provide soft facilities management services including but not limited to:

Catering, retail and leisure;
Waste management and cleaning services;
Pest control; and
Laundry and tailoring services (including footwear repair).

In some locations, several MACs are grouped together into a super MAC (SMAC), which is managed by a single point of responsibility.

The following table provides the information requested for the Army's 19 MACs and SMACs.

Formation	*Contract location*	*Contract expiry date*	*Contract value (£ million)*
2nd Division	Scotland (SMAC)	[1]2013	45
	Catterick (SMAC)	[1]2012	80
	North of England (SMAC)	[1]2013	50
4th Division	Mid Hants (SMAC)	[1]2012	85
	Kent (SMAC)	[1]2012	30
	Oxon (SMAC)	[1]2013	45
	Wessex (SMAC)	[1]2014	95
	Surrey (SMAC)	[1]2014	60
	Manston (MAC)	[1]2012	2
	Southwick Park (MAC)	[1]2012	5
	Innsworth (MAC)	2010	5
	Cotswold and Gloucester (MAC)	2010	20
5th Division	East Midlands (SMAC)	[1]2013	35
	East Anglia (SMAC)	[1]2014	35
	Wattisham and Woodbridge (SMAC)	[1]2014	15
	Wales and West Midlands (SMAC)	[1]2014	85
London District	CapMac (MAC)	[1]2015	60
Army Recruiting and Training Division	Arborfield (MAC)	2009	15
	Sandhurst (MAC)	2009	30

[1] The contract has options to extend it by up to three years.

Army: Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of management of each category of vehicle within the Army's wheeled vehicle fleet. [256427]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Cluster Munitions

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the store of cluster bombs at RAF Welford has been removed since the Government signed the Oslo convention; and whether any cluster bombs remain in the UK. [255603]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We will have eight years, from entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions for the UK, to destroy all cluster munition stockpiles under UK jurisdiction and control. Lord Malloch Brown said in another place on 3 June 2008 that it was his expectation

"that there will be no such weapons on British Territory at the end of the eight year period".

Concerning any cluster munitions stored on UK territory but under United States control, we are engaged with the United States in order to meet the eight year deadline. All UK cluster munition types have been withdrawn from service. A progressive UK cluster munition disposal programme has begun, with some munitions already destroyed. We expect that all UK stockpiles will be destroyed by 2013 which we anticipate will be four or five years ahead of the deadline.

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanisms his Department uses to monitor levels of compliance across military bases with the Government's commitments on cluster munitions under the Oslo Convention on Cluster Munitions. [256495]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All UK cluster munitions, prohibited once the Cluster Munition Convention enters into force, were withdrawn from operational service on 30 May 2008, when the Convention was adopted. All were immediately segregated for disposal to prevent use and transfer and some have already been destroyed.

Those that are awaiting disposal are stored in a number of secure licensed munitions storage locations and, as such, all cluster munitions are fully accounted for at all times. The MOD has contractual control and oversight over all disposal contracts and disposal certificates are issued when each cluster munition has been destroyed. The MOD carries out checks on contractors to ensure compliance. There is no scope in the disposal contracts for a disposal contractor to do anything other than destroy the munitions. Furthermore, cluster munitions are recorded on the Department's inventory and explosives safety management IT systems, which means that they can be tracked and prevented from being inadvertently issued for either operational or training purposes.

In withdrawing these munitions from service on 30 May 2008, the UK complied with the spirit of the Convention immediately and well ahead of ratification at which point the provisions of the Convention will become a legal requirement.

Cyprus: Voting Rights

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether British citizens stationed in 'the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia are entitled to vote. [255861]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Yes.

Defence Training Review Programme

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the Defence Training Review programme; and if he will make a statement. [257678]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The DTR Package 1 Project continues to move forward. A final clarification and confirm exercise, evaluating the Metrix Consortium's revised proposals, is now nearing completion. The focus of the project team's and the Metrix Consortium's effort is on improving certainty of the programme, affordability, maturing the project agreement and in preparing to implement some early works activities to ensure that the contract can be signed in 2010.

Metrix, furthermore, are undertaking a number of key activities with the support of the MOD which include environmental and other survey work at St. Athan, and development of the construction proposal with a view to submitting a planning application before the summer.

Defence: Finance

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the effect on UK military operations of changes to the budget for urgent operational requirements. [257881]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There is no such effect whatsoever.

Departmental Billing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the period in which suppliers to his Department are paid; and whether his Department issues guidance on the prompt payment of invoices. [256700]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Department currently aims to meet the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act requirement of paying valid bills within 30 calendar days of receipt by allowing up to 19 days for MOD branches to confirm that the services or goods supplied have been satisfactorily delivered and then 11 calendar days for the Financial Management Shared Service Centre (FMSSC) to check the invoices and make payment. The FMSSC has introduced daily payment runs to enhance its flexibility in providing a prompt and efficient service to industry and the smaller supplier.

The Department is reviewing the processes associated with the overall payment cycle and is working towards meeting the Government's 10 day target set for small and medium enterprises. Once this work is complete it should ensure that the Department is able to measure the 10 day target and report on performance against it. The 10 day target will apply to all MOD suppliers, irrespective of size, as it would be impractical to differentiate between small and medium-size enterprises and others.

Guidance on prompt payment is provided in the form of a Contract Payment Guide available via the MOD website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/WhatWeDo/FinanceandProcurement/FMSSC/ContractPaymentGuide.htm

The guide does not apply to goods and services covered by the electronic P2P purchasing arrangements as payment advice for this type of invoice is issued separately to suppliers. The FMSSC also operates a help desk facility to assist suppliers with their enquiries.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what percentage of contractors and suppliers to (*a*) his Department and (*b*) its agencies have reported that they are compliant with the Government's security standards following publication of the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government, and the accompanying document, Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action, on 25 June 2008. [245321]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: MOD is a large organisation with a commensurate number of contracts—almost 23,000 contracts were placed in Financial Year 2007-08. MOD is in the process of confirming full compliance with all its suppliers and expects to complete this task by end March. As an initial step those defence contractors who have declared to Defence Security and Safety Assurance (MOD's Accreditation Authority), a requirement to have a connection to MOD's restricted network (the RLI) or work electronically at confidential or above, have been asked to confirm their compliance with MOD's List-X Notice on laptop and media encryption policy, issued in response to the data handling review. Some 73.3 per cent. have confirmed compliance. A further 8.3 per cent. have confirmed that they do not currently comply but have (or are in the process of) submitting risk balanced cases to describe how they are mitigating these risks together with plans to address shortcomings. 18.3 per cent. are still to respond formally and are being hastened.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many reported incidents of lost data there were in his Department in each year from 1987 to 1997. [250736]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally for the years requested. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of maintaining the databases owned and managed by (*a*) his Department and (*b*) its agencies was in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [256140]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Databases can vary in their size and scope from small, locally maintained systems held on standalone computers to those used more widely across the Ministry of Defence. There is therefore no centrally held record of all databases owned and managed by the Department and its agencies and the cost of maintaining them in 2006, 2007 and 2008 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Flowers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on (*a*) pot plants and (*b*) flowers in each of the last three years. [254874]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. All expenditure must comply with the principles of propriety set out in Managing Public Money and in the Treasury's handbook on regularity, propriety and value for money.

Accessibility to expenditure information on discrete items and services is largely determined by the MOD's Chart of Accounts (Joint Service Publication 530), copies of which are placed in the Library of the House for each financial year. It is also published in the MOD's Publication Scheme at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinancialReports/ChartOfAccountsManualJsp530.htm

Departmental ICT

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Chesterfield (Paul Holmes) of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 897-8W, on departmental ICT, how many internal investigations have been held into the (*a*) loss or theft and (*b*) recovery of (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers and (iv) hard drives; and how many such investigations related to the loss of material classified as (A) confidential, (B) secret and (C) top secret in 2008. [255054]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD takes any loss of media storage devices very seriously and has robust procedures in place. In response to the findings of the Data Handling Review and Burton Report new processes, instructions and technological aids are being implemented to mitigate human errors and raise awareness of every individual in the Department. Details of the number of investigations into lost/stolen/recovered media storage devices are not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions an IT system administered by his Department has failed in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [256701]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: IT systems can vary in size and scope from those that stand alone on single computers and are locally managed to major systems, such as the Defence Information Infrastructure programme. There is therefore no centrally held record of all IT systems administered by the Ministry of Defence and details of the number of occasions on which each failed in the last 12 months could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Lobbying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Ministers in his Department received representations from (*a*) Lord Moonie, (*b*) Lord Taylor of Blackburn, (*c*) Lord Soupe and (*d*) Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [254222]

Mr. Kevan Jones: According to our records, the only representations are 47 parliamentary questions tabled by Lord Moonie for the period 1 July 2008 to 31 January 2009.

Departmental Official Visits

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hon. Members have visited (*a*) Iraq and (*b*) Afghanistan in circumstances where his Department assisted in the visit in the last three years; on what dates such visits took place; and what the purpose was of each visit. [248160]

Mr. Hutton: Detailed information on all visits by Members of Parliament to operational theatres over the last three years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maximum monthly allowance in addition to basic salary is for civilian employees of his Department working in (*a*) Iraq and (*b*) Afghanistan. [254019]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: MOD civil servants deploy into Iraq and Afghanistan on a voluntary basis to provide specialist support to UK armed forces. They are required to work long hours, usually over a six-month period and in austere living and working conditions alongside their military counterparts where they are exposed to operational risk.

These living and working conditions are recognised through a system of taxable operational allowances:

Operational deployment allowance (ODA) takes into account the working and living conditions experienced in theatre. It is reviewed on a regular basis.

Operational working allowance (OWA) recognises the very long hours and additional duties undertaken by deployees in excess of their normally contracted employment. The minimum operational working week is 92 hours as opposed to the standard UK 37 hour week. Many work in excess of those hours.

The total sum payable to an individual will vary. It is dependent on both their grade and their location. The current maximum monthly allowance in Iraq is £9,250 before tax for a Band B civil servant based in Basra. In Afghanistan it is £9,000 before tax for an identically graded civil servant based in Lashkar Gah, Helmand province. By comparison a Band D civil servant in Basra and Lashkar Gah would be paid sums of £5,250 and £5,000 respectively.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which of the public appointments for which his Department is responsible are due to be (*a*) renewed and (*b*) filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restriction, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records his Department keeps in respect of such appointments. [254227]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The process for making a public appointment, including guidance on political activity and eligibility criteria, follows the Cabinet Office publication 'Making and Managing Public Appointments'. For appointments regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the appointments process also complies with the 'Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies'. Copies are in the Libraries of the House. Vacancies may be advertised on the Cabinet Office Public Appointments website at

www.publicappointments.gov.uk.

Successful candidates are requested to declare their political activities. Information on MOD's Public Appointments can be found at

www.mod.uk

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many new recruits his Department took on in (*a*) 2005-06, (*b*) 2006-07, (*c*) 2007-08 and (*d*) 2008-09; how many of these were taken on as (i) permanent, (ii) temporary and (iii) agency staff; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11. [254474]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Information on the numbers of recruits appointed in the Department as permanent, temporary or agency staff in years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 is provided in the following table. The Department does not currently have firm estimates for civilian external recruitment for the years 2009-10 and 2010-11.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Permanent	4,260	3,810	3,950	3,270
Temporary	1,930	1,780	1,410	820
Agency	774	783	1,429	1,676

Departmental Staff

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department were disciplined for (*a*) bullying and (*b*) harassment of colleagues in each of the last three years. [254089]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally for all the dates requested. However, records held centrally of civilian staff disciplined specifically for bullying and harassment of colleagues in the Department for the periods:

March 2007 to March 2008 include 16 cases of disciplinary action specifically for bullying and harassment of colleagues.

April 2008 to January 2009 include 10 cases of disciplinary action specifically for bullying and harassment of colleagues.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the policy of his Department and its agencies is on granting staff time off in lieu for working *(a)* in lunch breaks, *(b)* in evenings and *(c)* at other times outside contracted working hours; and if he will make a statement. [252035]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Staff who work in excess of their conditioned hours have the opportunity to receive payment for those hours worked or take the time off in agreement with their local line management.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies for working (i) in lunch breaks and (ii) at other times outside contracted working hours, in the last year for which figures are available. [252036]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department does not hold this information centrally.

EU Rapid Reaction Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1406W, on EU rapid reaction force, what forces are available for planning purposes for EU missions. [257498]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the then Secretary of State my right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne) gave on 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2348W.

Falkland Islands: Air Routes

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he next plans to review the fares applicable to the Falkland Islands Airbridge; and if he will make a statement. [257810]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The fares for civilian access to the South Atlantic Airbridge are presently governed by the 1992 Joint Policy Statement between the FCO and MOD. A new Joint Policy Statement is nearing agreement and, once signed, a new fare structure will be implemented.

HMS Endurance

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects a full assessment of the damage to HMS Endurance on 16 December 2008 to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [256718]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Work has been already undertaken to assess HMS Endurance's material state, but further investigations are required which will take place on her return to the UK at the end of March. It is estimated that a full assessment of its condition will be completed by the end of May.

Infantry: Manpower

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* full strength and *(b)* actual number of deployable troops is of each infantry battalion; and if he will make a statement. [257345]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The figures requested are shown in the following table:

Division	*Unit*	*Actual strength*	*Number of deployable troops*
Guards	1 Grenadier Guards	549	494
	1 Coldstream Guards	511	490
	1 Scots Guards	548	515
	1 Irish Guards	602	528
	1 Welsh Guards	584	492
Scots	1 Scots	554	486
	2 Scots	476	391
	3 Scots	575	512
	4 Scots	588	507
	5 Scots	561	494
Queen's	1 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	683	600
	2 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	524	491
	1 Royal Regt Fusiliers	677	629
	2 Royal Regt Fusiliers	505	412
	1 Royal Anglian	733	683
	2 Royal Anglian	627	568
King's	1 Lancs	670	609
	2 Lancs	607	527
	1 Yorks	519	457
	2 Yorks	489	430
	3 Yorks	626	540
PoW	1 Mercian	523	468
	2 Mercian	564	476
	3 Mercian	594	528
	1 Royal Welsh	583	494
	2 Royal Welsh	625	521
Rifles	1 Rifles	542	477
	2 Rifles	619	518
	3 Rifles	634	602
	4 Rifles	647	558
	5 Rifles	712	613
RI	1 Royal Irish	571	477
Para	2 Para	677	588
	3 Para	662	605
RGR	1 Royal Gurkha Rifles	739	713
	2 Royal Gurkha Rifles	925	895

In addition to the battalions shown in the table there are three incremental Guards companies which are primarily for public duties but which can also be used to augment the other Guards battalions as required.

Unit	Actual strength	Number of deployable troops
Nijmegen Coy Grenadier Guards	109	99
7 Coy Coldstream Guards	90	88
F Coy Scots Guards	108	98

The figures in both tables include personnel filling all roles within each battalion, not just infantrymen. Some of these roles are by their nature non-deployable, for instance forming part of the rear party of a deployed unit.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse of the UK's involvement in military action in Iraq has been in each of the last five years. [256238]

Mr. Hutton: The audited outturn for the net additional costs of military operations in Iraq for each of the last five years is published in the relevant annual report and accounts, as set out in the following table.

Iraq

£ million

	Resource costs[1]	Capital equipment	Total
2003-04	1,051	260	1,311
2004-05	747	163	910
2005-06	798	160	958
2006-07	787	169	956
2007-08	1,055	402	1,457
Total to date	4,438	1,154	5,592

[1] 'Resource' includes both near cash and non-cash costs.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 509W, on the Joint Strike Fighter, what estimate he has made of the effect of the recent changes in the value of sterling against the US dollar on the cost of the development phase of the Joint Strike Fighter programme. [257519]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Since the UK joined the development phase of the joint strike fighter programme in 2001 we have benefited significantly from the strength of the pound against the dollar and as a result forecasted costs are still expected to remain within the approved level. As the UK contributions to this phase of the programme are largely complete, I do not anticipate a significant impact.

Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability Programme

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the planning assumption date for each element of the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability craft is. [257682]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) programme is in its assessment phase. It is MOD policy not to publish internal planning assumption dates while programmes are in this phase and prior to the main investment decision being taken.

Military Aircraft

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many air-to-air refuelling sorties were flown by the (*a*) Tornado and (*b*) Harrier fleets in the United Kingdom in each month of each of the last five financial years; [248571]

(2) what the rate of rejection of eco-engines from first line in the United Kingdom was in each week of each of the last five financial years; [248526]

(3) how much aviation fuel was transferred to the Tornado air defence and ground attack fleets during air-to-air refuelling operations in the United Kingdom in each week of each of the last five financial years; [248527]

(4) how much aviation fuel was used by the Tornado air defence and ground attack fleets in the United Kingdom in each week of each of the last five financial years; [248528]

(5) how much aviation fuel was consumed by the Harrier fleet in the United Kingdom in each week of each of the last five financial years; [248577]

(6) what the rate of rejection of RB 199 aero engines from first line was in the United Kingdom in each week of each of the last five financial years. [248585]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to David Lidington:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your six Parliamentary Questions on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1051W, requesting information about fuel consumption and engine rejection rates for the Harrier and Tornado fleets.

You asked for a range of detailed and specific information about fuel consumption, much of which is not held centrally in the format requested and could only be provided at disproportionate cost. However, you have since indicated that your main interest in asking about fuel consumption was to establish whether there is an unjustified increase in RAF flying patterns towards the end of a financial year, designed to ensure that all available fuel is consumed and to justify future fuel budgets. Relevant data are readily available showing the volume of fuel transferred on the ground and during air-to-air refuelling (AAR) with UK tankers, for the Harrier, Tornado GR4 and Tornado F3 fleets for each financial year. This indicates fuel consumption trends by month across financial years since 2005-06. Data prior to 2005-06 are not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

These data are set out in the following tables. To better show the trends they have also been presented in graphs for each financial year in an annex to this letter. It should be noted that the figures provided do not include fuel transferred from foreign tankers, for example during NATO exercises. They also do not include data for AAR consumption by 14 Squadron (Tornado GR4) based at RAF Lossiemouth, which are not available. Additionally, due to the relatively small level of consumption, figures for the Fast Jet Weapons Operational Evaluation Units are only recorded annually and so have not been included, as to do so would not assist in analysing any possible month on month trends. Because the figures which are missing are relatively small we do not consider them to be statistically significant.

	Fuel transferred (million litres)		
	Tornado F3	Tornado GR4	Harrier GR7/9
2005-06			
April	6.17	8.02	3.04
May	7.77	11.19	3.64
June	8.94	10.13	4.11
July	7.17	16.02	6.50
August	8.09	13.04	3.66
September	7.58	12.69	4.42
October	6.14	12.23	4.47
November	6.58	13.48	4.38
December	3.75	8.27	2.15
January	6.16	10.67	3.24
February	6.62	12.57	4.11
March	5.57	9.73	3.40
Total	80.64	138.04	47.12
2006-07			
April	4.66	8.76	2.03
May	7.20	10.68	2.33
June	7.36	12.08	2.74
July	5.77	22.47	5.40
August	6.14	12.13	2.02
September	5.38	13.59	2.26
October	7.86	12.69	3.95
November	5.48	13.12	2.71
December	4.76	10.95	3.00
January	5.07	9.54	3.02
February	4.44	11.06	3.16
March	6.76	11.76	1.72
Total	70.88	148.83	36.51
2007-08			
April	5.76	11.61	2.62
May	5.29	9.08	2.83
June	6.61	16.15	3.15
July	4.42	11.01	2.97
August	4.51	13.26	2.49
September	4.97	12.33	3.36
October	5.14	12.73	2.85
November	5.73	8.52	2.46
December	3.48	9.03	2.29
January	5.01	11.58	3.22
February	3.02	5.92	1.72
March	4.62	12.28	3.21
Total	58.56	133.50	33.17

As you can see, the data do not indicate a general upturn in fuel consumption in the final months of a financial year. Although this does occur in some cases, there are also some decreases at the end of financial years and peaks occurring at other times of the year. There are a number of reasons why flying rates may increase from December to March, including the improving weather and the fact that there is normally less flying in December and January, owing to traditional periods of leave. Flying may also increase in March because aircrew need to renew certain qualifications before the end of the training year, which coincides with the end of the financial year.

You also asked about the rejection from first line in the UK for the Pegasus and RB 199 engines in each week of the last five financial years. This data is available on a monthly basis for both engine types from 2005-06 only and is provided in the following table. It is to be expected that there will be a higher number of rejected RB 199 engines, due to the much larger size of the Tornado fleet (for example there are currently 210 Tornado F3 and GR4 and only 75 Harrier GR9 in the fleet) and the fact that that the Tornado is a dual-engine aircraft, whereas the Harrier only has one Pegasus engine. However, on average the rate of rejection for the three financial years works out at almost the same: 3.39 engines per 1000 flying hours for the Tornado RB 199 engine as opposed to 3.52 for the Harrier Pegasus engine.

An 'engine rejection' occurs when it is deemed unserviceable and the necessary repair action cannot be carried out with the engine installed or is beyond the capability of the engineers on the squadron. Unserviceability may be caused by, among other things, physical damage to the engine, engine components becoming life expired, unsatisfactory vibration characteristics or poor performance.

	Rejection rate of the RB 199 engine (fitted to the Tornado F3 and GR4) per 1000 flying hours	Rejection rate of the Pegasus engine (fitted to the Harrier GR7/9) per 1000 flying hours
2005-06		
April	3.66	1.59
May	1.89	7.17
June	5.06	0.76
July	2.19	4.45
August	3.60	5.81
September	3.20	4.05
October	3.16	5.29
November	2.60	4.87
December	3.27	4.27
January	2.16	4.22
February	3.65	1.97
March	3.95	2.90
2006-07		
April	3.19	2.22
May	3.63	8.37
June	3.31	1.54
July	5.07	4.77
August	2.79	2.83
September	2.24	3.17
October	3.24	2.14
November	3.74	1.37
December	2.92	4.80
January	3.82	5.22
February	2.55	1.87
March	4.23	1.64
2007-08		
April	2.93	2.51
May	4.00	3.06
June	4.91	4.30
July	3.23	2.30
August	4.12	4.81
September	3.88	4.03
October	4.51	2.63
November	3.61	3.55
December	3.01	1.97
January	2.90	0.94
February	3.47	6.03
March	3.06	3.44

I hope this letter fully addresses your concerns.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters were in service with the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* RAF in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009, broken down by type. [257772]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of helicopters in service in 1997 and 2009 are shown in the tables. "In service" has been taken to mean the effective fleet, that is all aircraft in Forward and Depth, which are those aircraft expected to be flown by the MOD.

Army

Aircraft type/mark	*April 1997*	*Number February 2009*
Augusta 109	4	4
Apache	0	67
Gazelle	208	56
Lynx Mk7/9	130	96

Royal Navy

Aircraft type/mark	*April 1997*	*Number February 2009*
Lynx Mk3/8	78	62
Merlin Mk1	0	42
Sea King Mk2	13	0
Sea King Mk4	37	37
Sea King Mk5	17	15
Sea King Mk6	54	0
Sea King Mk6CR	0	5
Sea King Mk7	0	13

Royal Air Force

Aircraft type/mark	*April 1997*	*Number February 2009*
Chinook Mk2/2a	40	40
Merlin Mk3/3a	0	28
Puma	40	34
Sea King Mk3/3a	23	25
Wessex	16	0

These figures do not include the eight Chinook Mk3 aircraft being reverted to support helicopter standard. Aircraft leased by the MOD are also excluded.

Military Aircraft: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average number of training hours spent by fast jet pilots in each aircraft type in the Royal Air Force was in each *(a)* year since 2003 and *(b)* month of 2008. [255629]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Officials are collating the information requested. I will write to the hon. Member when this work is complete and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average number of training hours spent by personnel serving in each type of tanker and transport aircraft in the Royal Air Force has been in each *(a)* year since 2003 and *(b)* month of 2008. [255630]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 306W.

Information on a monthly breakdown for 2008 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training sorties for each Royal Air Force fast jet type have been cancelled in the last two years. [255631]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Military Bases: Wales

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the active military sites located in Wales. [244797]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Given the way the information is held, it will take officials a little longer to separately identify all of the active military sites in Wales from those that are not in use.

I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to David Jones:

I undertook to provide a list of current Ministry of Defence sites in Wales in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 18 December 2008 (Official Report, column 967W).

It should be noted that the list below does not include the Volunteer Estate, Army Career and Information Offices, Armed Forces Careers Offices or Service Family Accommodation.

Atomic Weapons Establishment Lampeter Seismic Station
Brecon Barracks
Caernarfon Army Museum
Caerwent Training Area
Capel Curig Training Camp
Capel Curig Weather Station
Cardiff Weather Centre
Castlemartin Ranges
Cawdor Barracks
Cwrt-Y-Gollen Training Camp
Former Defence Supply and Distribution Centre Llangennech
Dering Lines Infantry Battle School
Fairbourine Resource Initiative Training Centre
Hightown Barracks
HMS Collingwood Pant-Y-Rhiw Base Camp
HMS Excellent Training Centre Pant-Y-Rhiw
Joint School For Adventurous Training Instructors Llanrwst
Joint Service Mountain Training Centre Indefatigable
Joint Service Mountain Training Centre Tywyn
Kinmel Park Training Camp
Llanuwchllyn Seismic Research Station
Maindy Barracks
Merrion Training Camp
MOD Aberporth
MOD St. Athan
MOD Sealand
Moel-Y-Parc Training Area
Pembroke Marine Salvage Depot
Penally Training Camp
Pendine Range
Pwllholm Training Camp
RAF Mona
RAF Pembrey Sands
RAF Valley

Royal Artillery Range Manorbier
Rogiet Moor Rifle Range
Sennybridge Camp and Army Field Training Centre
Templeton Training Area
Ty-Croes Radar Station
Umchmyndd Weather Station
Ynys Gaint Anglesey

Museums and Galleries: Finance

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to which *(a)* museums and *(b)* other cultural institutions his Department regularly gives a grant; and what the amount of each grant was in the latest year for which figures are available. [256512]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In 2007-08 grants in aid were paid to the following museums:

Body	*Total (£)*
Royal Air Force Museum	7,019,000
National Army Museum	5,489,000
Royal Naval Museum	873,000
Royal Marines Museum	765,000
Fleet Air Arm Museum	614,000
Royal Navy Submarine Museum	576,000

In 2007-08 grants in aid were paid to the following bodies which may be assessed as being cultural institutions:

Body	*Total (£)*
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	34,000,000
Royal Hospital Chelsea	9,000,000
Royal British Legion	202,000
National Memorial Arboretum	189,000

The information relating to Service Museums has been published on pages 330 and 331 of volume II of the MOD's Annual Report and Accounts for 2007-08, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House.

This document is also available in the MOD's Freedom of Information Publication scheme at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/MODAnnualReports0708/

Netherlands: Joint Exercises

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1116W, on Netherlands: military exercises, (1) how many Royal Marines he expects to participate in the 2009 UK/Netherlands amphibious landing force training exercise. [255587]

(2) where the 2009 exercise will take place. [255639]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Up to 700 Royal Marines are expected to participate in support of the 2009 UK/Netherlands amphibious landing force exercise, which is expected to take place in Turkey and Brunei.

Reserve Forces

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the report of the review of the reserve forces to be published. [257347]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In the spring.

Somalia: Piracy

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what legislative or other authority Royal Navy ships may come under European Union command during Operation Atalanta. [256426]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Operation Atalanta was launched by a Joint Action, a unanimous decision of the Council of Ministers of the European Union, which comprises national Ministers from each of the EU member states. In the UK this decision was subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

Royal Navy ships that the UK Government decide to make available to participate in Operation Atalanta come under command of the EU's Operation Commander for the operation, Rear Admiral Philip Jones RN, based in his operation headquarters at Northwood.

In his role as Operation Commander, Admiral Jones reports to the Political and Security Committee, a Council body in which ambassadors from each of the EU member states exercise political control and strategic direction over the operation, on instructions from national authorities.

The Political and Security Committee reports regularly on the progress of the operation to the Council of Ministers.

Stabilisation Aid Fund

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will provide a breakdown of his Department's contribution of £15,350,000 to the Stabilisation Aid Fund as referred to in the written ministerial statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 78-9WS, on departmental expenditure limits. [257969]

Mr. Hutton: The Stabilisation Aid Fund (SAF) amounts to £73 million in 2008-09. For the purpose of the fund's financial management, the SAF sits on the MOD's baseline, but is managed jointly by the Department for International Development (DFID), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the MOD. During the course of the financial year, the MOD has transferred funds to the FCO and DFID according to their forecast expenditure on SAF projects. The transfer of £15.35 million at spring supplementary estimates to the FCO is to cover residual forecast expenditure across a number of projects. Of this, £1.75 million is for project costs in Iraq, and £13.6 million for project costs in Afghanistan.

UK Forces: Afghanistan

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what formal statement of co-operation in relation to UK forces operations and activities in Afghanistan has been approved by *(a)* NATO and *(b)* the EU. [253207]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 2 February 2009]*: UK forces in Afghanistan operate under the auspices of a Military Technical Agreement between the International Security Assistance Force and the Government of Afghanistan. This arrangement is in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1833.

Warships

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of the BVT Surface Fleet; and if he will make a statement. [257677]

Mr. Quentin Davies: BVT Surface Fleet Ltd. (BVT) became fully operational on 1 July 2008 and is one of the Department's key maritime industrial partners. The company is at the heart of the future warship build programme, for example as the prime contractor for the Type 45 destroyers, playing a key role in the Alliance that will deliver the future carrier, and in providing maintenance support to in-service Royal Navy warships through the Surface Ship Support (SSS) Programme and the Warship Support Modernisation Initiative (WSMi).

MOD and BVT are working to establish a new long-term incentive based Terms of Business Agreement (TOBA) which will seek to transform their surface warship business delivering significant benefit to MOD, its industrial partners and taxpayers.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the warship construction programme; and if he will make a statement. [257878]

Mr. Hutton: Good progress continues to be made across the future warship build programme.

Centred on the Type 45 destroyers, the Astute class submarines, the Future Aircraft Carriers and the Future Surface Combatant, it is providing industry with a strong orderbook which will continue well into the next decade and beyond.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by her Office. [256204]

Chris Bryant: The office of the Leader of the House of Commons employs one EU foreign national and no non-EU foreign nationals.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Leader of the House how much her Office has spent on *(a)* pot plants and *(b)* cut flowers in each of the last three years. [256118]

Chris Bryant: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons spent £1,872.72 on the provision of plants and flowers during the 2007-08 financial year.

Following a machinery of government change, information prior to 2007-08 is available only at disproportionate cost.

A decision was taken in January 2009 to terminate the contract for plants and flowers at the earliest possible opportunity.

Members: Allowances

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Chichester (Mr. Tyrie) of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1W, on Members: allowances, how many requests for advances of communications allowance have been granted to date; and what the reasons for the request for the advance was in each case. [257487]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Chichester (Mr. Tyrie) on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1W, in which I answered that no advance from the Communications Allowance had been requested either in the year 2009-10 or the previous year. There have been no requests for advances from the Communications Allowance in the period since this answer.

PRIME MINISTER

Ministers: Pay

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what criteria are used to determine which Ministers receive ministerial salaries and which Ministers receive no salary; and if he will make a statement; [257241]

(2) what percentage of Government Ministers who are unpaid are *(a)* male and *(b)* female; and if he will make a statement. [257242]

The Prime Minister: Details of which Ministers are unpaid are a matter of public record and can be found in the Ministerial Appointments press notices issued by my Office. Copies are available in the Library of the House and are also available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/press-notices

All ministerial salaries are paid in accordance with the "Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975".

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefits Helpline

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will assess the effects of the methods of operation of Benefits Helpline on benefits claimants; and if he will make a statement; [256411]

(2) what representations he has received on the operations of a company called Benefits Helpline; and if he will make a statement. [255784]

Mr. McNulty: The Department for Work and Pensions makes advice on benefits and a wide range of other entitlements easily accessible to everyone through a

variety of channels including information leaflets, telephone helplines, websites, and through intermediary organisations working closely with us.

These sources of help and information are consistently promoted through the Department for Work and Pensions website, phone books, in Jobcentres and pension centres and by local authorities.

In order to streamline public access to this and other Departments' information, it is now government policy that Departments should use Directgov:

www.direct.gov.uk

an online, TV and mobile phone service, providing citizens with access to information and services from across Government. This will replace the large numbers of standalone websites that Government currently run. The change is taking place between now and 2011.

We also run many promotional campaigns to ensure that eligible and vulnerable people are aware of their entitlements.

We would always recommend that where people are seeking information on entitlements, they should turn to the relevant Department for Work and Pensions agency or trusted sources of information like Age Concern and the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

We are aware that other organisations promote benefits advice services on a commercial basis and have received a small number of representations. However, these services are not in themselves illegal, and it is the responsibility of the service Regulator to monitor their operation and to take action where necessary to control them.

Carer's Allowance

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people in receipt of carer's allowance who are over retirement age; [255725]

(2) how many people were *(a)* eligible to receive and *(b)* in receipt of carer's allowance in the last year for which figures are available. [255726]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table.

Carer's allowance caseloads: May 2008

	Total	*Pension age*
Cases in payment	480,730	29,270
Entitlements	882,800	374,530

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Pension age means women aged 60 and over, and men aged 65 and over.
3. "Cases in payment" shows the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended.
4. "Entitlements" shows the number of people who, following an application for carer's allowance, were assessed as eligible. This figure includes those who receive no actual payment as well as those who are actually receiving benefit.
5. These figures are published on the DWP website at:
www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: Marketing

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission plans to spend on advertising in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [250927]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission plans to spend on advertising in (a) 2009-10 and (b) 2010-11. [250927]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is currently developing its communication strategy, and therefore any plans for spend on advertising have not yet been finalised.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what guidance the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has issued in fulfilment of its obligations under section 5 of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008; [249027]

(2) how many *(a)* parents with care and *(b)* non-resident parents have been referred by the Child Maintenance Options Service to the face-to-face service in each month since July 2008. [249028]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people who have made applications to the Child Support Agency since March 2003 have not yet received any maintenance payments; and if he will make a statement. [255262]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many and what proportion of people who have made applications to the Child Support Agency since March 2003 have not yet received any maintenance payments; and if he will make a statement.

Table 2.1 of the December 2008 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS) shows that 1,677,000 applications have been received between March 2003 and December 2008 under the current scheme. The QSS is available in the House of Commons library or online at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/publications/statistics.html

Table 2.3 of the QSS shows that of the 1,677,000 applications received since March 2003, 39,600 cases with a positive maintenance assessment have still not resulted in a payment to the parent with care. This represents 2% of all applications received.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what criteria the Child Support Agency uses in determining whether a consolatory payment may be made; and if he will make a statement; [256032]

(2) how many *(a)* consolatory payments and *(b)* other compensatory payments the Child Support Agency has been made to residents of (i) Ribble Valley constituency, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) the UK in each of the last 10 years; and what the monetary value of such payments was in each such year; [256136]

(3) what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* average value of consolatory payments made by the Child Support Agency for maladministration was in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [256162]

(4) how many consolatory payments for maladministration were made by the Child Support Agency in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [256163]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Minister promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what criteria the Child Support Agency uses in determining whether a consultancy payment may be made; and if he will make a statement. [256032] and:

How many (a) consolatory payments and (b) other compensatory payments the Child Support Agency has been made to residents of (i) Ribble Valley constituency (ii) Lancashire and (iii) the UK in each of the last 10 years; and what the monetary value of such payments was in each such year. [256136] and:

What the (a) highest and (b) average value of consolatory payments made by the Child Support Agency for maladministration was in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [256162] and:

How many consolatory payments for maladministration were made by the Child Support Agency in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [256163]

We spoke to your office who confirmed that, in parliamentary question number 256032, the word 'consolatory' should be substituted for 'consultancy'.

Since the 1st November 2008, the Child Support Agency has been the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. The Commission is focused on providing high standards of customer service and seeks to provide rapid and satisfactory resolution of client complaints. In the event that official error or delay has had an adverse impact on a client, the Commission operates a discretionary scheme providing financial redress.

Consolatory payments form part of financial redress and are made by way of an apology for the handling of a client's case. These payments are not usually large amounts but do acknowledge that a client's case has not been handled as well as might have been expected. Consolatory payments are considered in very exceptional circumstances, where maladministration has had a direct adverse impact on the life of the client or, much more exceptionally, on that of another person, for example the client's spouse. Each case is considered individually.

Information on the number of consolatory and compensatory payments made to residents in specific geographic areas is not available as the information is not routinely recorded in this format.

However, the remainder of the information requested regarding the total number of consolatory payments for residents of the UK and the highest, average and total amount of consolatory payments made for maladministration is presented in the attached tables. Information prior to December 2001 is not available, therefore the first full year is 2002/03.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Annex B

Consolatory payments (UK figures)

	Consolatory		*Financial loss*		*Compensation for delay*	
	Value[1] (£ million)	*Number of payments[2]*	*Value[1] (£ million)*	*Number of payments[2]*	*Value[1] (£ million)*	*Number of payments[2]*
2002-03	0.7	8,400	1.3	5,900	0.2	700
2003-04	0.4	5,600	1.4	4,900	0.1	800
2004-05	0.6	9,000	2.4	7,100	0.1	1,700
2005-06	0.6	9,200	3.1	5,900	0.2	2,100
2006-07	0.7	9,200	2.5	4,700	0.4	1,900
2007-08	0.7	9,300	3.4	4,700	0.4	1,900

Consolatory payments made for maladministration (UK figures)

	Upper range of award (£)	*Consolatory payments*		
		Average payment[1]	*Value[1] (£ million)*	*Number of payments[2]*
2002-03	1,550	78.00	0.7	8,400
2003-04	500	69.00	0.4	5,600
2004-05	1,000	65.00	0.6	9,000
2005-06	1,500	66.00	0.6	9,200
2006-07	1,000	72.00	0.7	9,200

Consolatory payments made for maladministration (UK figures)

	Consolatory payments			
	Upper range of award (£)	*Average payment*[1]	*Value*[3] *(£ million)*	*Number of payments*[2]
2007-08	2,000	78.00	0.7	9,300

[1] The figures for average payment are rounded to the nearest £1.
[2] The figures for the total number of payments are rounded to the nearest 100.
[3] The figures for the value of payment are rounded to the nearest £0.1 million.
Note:
Information prior to December 2001 is not available.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many liability orders were issued in each region in each of the last three years by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the (i) agencies and (ii) commissions for which he is accountable. [256242]

Kitty Ussher: I would refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1977-79W.

Cold Weather Payments: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households in areas covered by weather stations situated in North Yorkshire which will be eligible for cold weather payments in 2008-09. [254220]

Kitty Ussher: The only weather station used for the cold weather payments scheme which is situated in North Yorkshire is Linton on Ouse. The estimated number of benefit units which are eligible for cold weather payments in 2008-09 and whose postcodes are linked to Linton on Ouse weather station is 138,900.

Notes:

1. Some postcodes in North Yorkshire are not linked to Linton on Ouse weather station and some postcodes outside North Yorkshire are linked to Linton on Ouse weather station.

2. Cold Weather Payments are made to benefit units rather than households. For example, a disabled adult on income support living with his mother on pension credit counts as two benefit units but would be thought of as one household. Estimates of the number of households eligible for cold weather payments are not available.

3. The estimate has been rounded to the nearest 100.

Compensation

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions compensatory payments have been made by *(a)* the Pension Service and *(b)* the Child Support Agency in each of the last 12 months; and what the total monetary value of such payments was in each of those months. [255757]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department is focused on providing high standards of customer service and seeks to provide rapid and satisfactory resolution of any customer complaints. In the event that agency error or delay may have an adverse effect on a customer, the Department operates a discretionary scheme providing financial redress. Under these arrangements a special payment can be made to compensate for the impact of any error on the customer.

The information requested is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following tables.

Compensatory payments authorised by month by the Pension, Disability and Carers Service

	Number of payments authorised	*Value of payments authorised (£000)*
2008		
January	613	1,414
February	562	1,338
March	467	1,128
April	609	1,360
May	592	3,044
June	630	1,765
July	804	2,311
August	695	2,210
September	825	2,126
October	756	2,046
November	695	2,078
December	684	1,990

Compensatory payments authorised by month by the Child Support Agency and the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

	Number of payments authorised	*Value of payments authorised (£000)*
2008		
January	1,461	4,623
February	1,852	5,689
March	1,351	4,583
April	1,772	6,744
May	1,759	5,416
June	1,474	3,686
July	1,624	3,975
August	1,254	2,747
September	1,072	2,639
October	1,304	3,476
November	964	2,853
December	1,190	2,302

Notes:
1. The figures represent the number of payments authorised in each month.
2. Figures for the amount paid have been rounded to the nearest hundred pounds.
3. The figures do not include special payments awarded on an extra statutory basis or as part of a special exercise.
4. The Pension Service and the Disability and Carers Service were brought together into a single agency from 1 April 2008. The figures quoted reflect payments authorised by the Pension Service element of the new agency.
5. The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission replaced the Child Support Agency from 1 November 2008.

Council Tax Benefits: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many outstanding unprocessed *(a)* council tax benefit and *(b)* housing benefit claims

there were in each London borough in each (i) quarter of each year from 1998 to 2008 and (ii) of the last 12 months; and what the average number of days taken to process (A) council tax benefit and (B) housing benefit applications was in each London borough in each (1) quarter of each year from 1998 to 2008 and (2) of the last 12 months. [257175]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Northavon (Steve Webb) on 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1417W.

Crisis Loans

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what percentage of refusals of crisis loan applications were *(a)* subject to appeal and *(b)* overturned on appeal in each of the last four years; [255324]

(2) how long on average it took for successful crisis loan applicants to receive payment in each of the last four years; [255325]

(3) how long the process of appealing against refusal of a crisis loan application took on average in each of the last four years. [255326]

Kitty Ussher: A first review is a review at Jobcentre Plus requested by an applicant. Data are not available on the number of refusals of crisis loan applications which were *(a)* subject to first review and *(b)* overturned on first review. This is because some crisis loan applicants apply for a review of a partial award and data are only available on the number of all crisis loan applications which were *(a)* subject to first review and *(b)* overturned on first review. Similarly, data are not available on the average time taken to process a first review of a refusal of a crisis loan application, but are only available on the average time taken to process all first reviews of crisis loan applications.

Information regarding reviews by the Independent Review Service is a matter for the social fund commissioner.

Crisis loan awards for items are normally sent by post, so data are not available on the average time taken for successful crisis loan applicants to receive payment. However, data are available on the average time taken to process all crisis loan applications, but not on the average time taken to process successful applications only.

Crisis Loans: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time was for decisions to be taken on crisis loan applications in the North East in each month of 2008; and if he will make a statement. [254916]

Kitty Ussher: The available information is provided in the following table.

Crisis loan applications in the North East in 2008 by month

Month	*Average actual clearance time (working days)*
January	1.3
February	1.3
March	1.3
April	1.3
May	1.3
June	1.2
July	1.3
August	1.3
September	1.2
October	1.2
November	1.2
December	1.4

Notes:

1. The clearance time for an individual crisis loan application is measured in whole working days from the date the application is received until the date the decision is taken on whether to make a loan offer, plus, if a loan offer is made, the number of whole working days between receiving the applicant's reply to the offer and the recording of that reply. The minimum clearance time recorded for an individual crisis loan application is one working day, even if the application is cleared immediately.
2. Numbers are based on applications cleared in each month, not on applications received during that month.

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many members of staff in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for losing (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers and (iv) mobile telephones belonging to his Department in each year since 1997. [248255]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on the numbers of staff in the Department for Work and Pensions that have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for losing (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers and (iv) mobile telephones belonging to the Department in each year since 1997 is not available in the format requested.

The Department for Work and Pensions records the numbers of staff investigated, suspended and dismissed for misconduct under general headings, but does not record this information under the specific categories requested. To extract more detailed information from individual records under the categories requested would be at disproportionate cost.

Departments have taken urgent and decisive action across government to improve data handing including minimising the amount of data put on removable media, encryption programmes for data and mobile devices that carry personal protected data and the introduction of training and education programmes to improve staff awareness of information risks.

Government take data security very seriously which is why a report into data handling procedures across government was commissioned and new measures to improve and strengthen controls in the protection of personal data were introduced.

Following publication of the Data Handling Report in June 2008, the Department for Work and Pensions has clarified its disciplinary rules and standards of behaviour to reinforce security measures around the safeguarding of data and equipment.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of inaccurate records held on his Department's customer information system. [256069]

Jonathan Shaw: The DWP customer information system (CIS) holds over 90 million records, of which around 35 million relate to people receiving benefits who have an obligation to report changes to their personal information. There is no such obligation for those people who are not receiving benefits and for that reason it is not possible to provide an estimate of the number of records which may contain details which are not up to date.

The Department has put in place procedures to ensure that queries about the accuracy of personal information held on the customer information system are dealt with as soon as they are identified.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department were disciplined for *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment of colleagues in each of the last three years. [254089]

Jonathan Shaw: This information is not available in the format requested. To extract more detailed information from individual records under the category requested would be at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [256195]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested on *(a)* EU foreign national and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals employed by the Department for Work and Pensions is not available and to obtain it would involve disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* original expected cost, *(b)* original expected delivery date, *(c)* actual cost incurred and *(d)* actual delivery date was of each ICT project undertaken and completed by his Department in each year since 1997; who the contractors for each project were; what the (i) initial estimated and (ii) outturn payment to each contractor was; and if he will make a statement. [251145]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) was created in June 2001. Prior to that, the provision of detailed project information was the responsibility of different departments and agencies.

Although the DWP does not have any discrete IT projects, it has a number of projects and programmers that include changes to, or new enabling, IT to a greater or lesser extent.

At present the Department has over 200 change projects, a number of which have an IT element which is critical to the success of the project. The number of projects in train at any one time will vary and the duration of the project lifecycle is usually more than one calendar year.

Information on projects that completed more than 4 years ago could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The information requested in relation to contractor payments is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows:

Completed projects where the IT element supported the development and/or implementation of services that underpin the delivery of departmental business;

the original expected and actual investment costs of these projects;

the original expected delivery date and the actual delivery date where appropriate;

the main IT contractors involved in delivering the project.

Table 1: completed projects

Project	*Original expected costs (i) (£ million rounded)*	*Actual costs of project (ii) (£ million rounded)*	*Original expected delivery date (iii)*	*Actual deliverldate (iii)*	*Main IT contractors (v)*
Pensions Forecasting	72	75	April 2003	July 2005	Accord and Affinity (EDS consortium)
WATCh 2	56	52	October 2006	October 2006	IBM and EDS
State Pension Deferral Project	7	6	April 2006	April 2006	Accenture
Real Time Pensions Forecasts(RTPF) – Strategic Alignment	1	1	February 2007	May 2007	Accenture and EDS
Resource Management	90	207	April 2005	April 2.007	Oracle, Fujitsu and EDS

Table 1: completed projects

Project	*Original expected costs (i) (£ million rounded)*	*Actual costs of project (ii) (£ million rounded)*	*Original expected delivery date (iii)*	*Actual deliverydate (iv)*	*Main IT contractors (v)*
Customer Management System(previously known as Working Age Services Modernisation Project (WASMP)	252	268	April 2008	April 2008	IBM and EDS
HR IS/IT Programme	63	52	March 2006	March 2006	EDS
Centralisation of Benefit Processing	140	118	March 2008	March 2008	BT and EDS
Provider-Led Pathways to Work	17	10	April 2008	April 2008	EDS
DWPIT Transformation Programme (inc TREDSS & ICONS)	169	155	July 2006	December 2008	BT and EDS
Fraud Referrals and Interventions Management System	12	30	October 2007	June 2008	IBM and EDS

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy that temporary and permanent employees of his Department employed at the same grade receive the same hourly rate of pay. [248422]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 27W.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to advise staff of pension options available to them in relation to added years or additional voluntary contributions. [253262]

Jonathan Shaw: Members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of their pension on retirement if they continue in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement prompts the member to consider boosting their pension and provides details of the civil service pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including options for making additional voluntary contributions and a calculator to work out costs for added pension (previously added years).

New entrants are informed of pension options in the employment offer and are provided with a pension information pack.

Cabinet Office provides leaflets that explain added pension and additional voluntary contributions for members. The information is also available in scheme booklets. These are available on the civil service pensions website or on request from the member's pensions administrator.

The Department for Work and Pensions regularly communicates with its staff about Civil Service Pension Schemes via the DWP Intranet.

Departmental Pilot Schemes

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of people participating in each *(a)* pilot programme run by his Department and *(b)* pathfinder area programme in (i) each of the last two years and (ii) each of the next five years. [249192]

Mr. McNulty: The activities of the Department for Work and Pensions cover a very wide range of programmes and services. Pilots and pathfinders are a normal part of departmental business. The information requested is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which of the public appointments for which his Department is responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restriction, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records his Department keeps in respect of such appointments. [254244]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on appointments made by the Department is published in the Annual Appointments Plan which can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/sdpb/public_bodies.asp

More detailed information about individual appointments is set out in the relevant body's Annual Report which is also available through this link.

Vacancies may be advertised on the Cabinet Office Public Appointments website at:

www.publicappointments.gov.uk

The process for making a public appointment, including guidance on political activity and eligibility criteria, follows the Cabinet Office publication "Making and Managing Public Appointments". For appointments regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the appointments process also complies with the "Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies". Copies are in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much capital expenditure has been brought forward in response to the economic downturn by his Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies to *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; from which years such expenditure has been brought forward; and if he will make a statement. [251402]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has not brought forward any capital expenditure.

Departmental Telephone Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the percentage of telephone calls to his Department's helplines which were answered at the latest period for which information is available. [256368]

Jonathan Shaw: The latest available figures for the percentage of calls answered by DWP's businesses relate to the quarter October to December 2008 and are as follows:

	Percentage
Jobcentre Plus	93.0
Pension Disability and Carers Service	93.4
Debt Management	93.0

The figures represent the percentage of calls answered as a proportion of total calls offered to DWP network or centre. Total calls answered will include those answered by agents/advisers and voice recognition/auto attendant if applicable.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* agency and *(b)* temporary staff in each financial year since 2005-06. [251350]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions utilises both staff employed by agencies and temporary staff employed direct on a casual basis; these costs are shown in the following table:

£ million

	Agency staff	Temporary staff	Total
2005-06	46	32	78
2006-07	43	29	72
2007-08	41	19	60

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on digital media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008; how many such training sessions were held in 2008; and how many staff in his Department attended at least one such training course. [252240]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department does not hold records on the information requested centrally; individual business units retain records locally and as such this information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Disability Living Allowance: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in West Chelmsford constituency claimed the higher rate care component of disability living allowance in 2007-08. [254675]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table.

Disability living allowance higher rate care component—cases in payment in West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency

	Number
May 2007	710
August 2007	710
November 2007	730
February 2008	720

Notes

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. These figures are published on the DWP website at: www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Source

DWP Information Directorate: work and pensions longitudinal study.

Disability Living Allowance: Sight Impaired

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of visually impaired people who would be classified as having no useful sight for orientation purposes who are not in receipt of disability living allowance higher rate mobility component; what the eligibility criteria for this group are; and how much he estimates it would cost to change the rules so that this group received the component. [250240]

Jonathan Shaw: There is no accepted definition of "no useful sight for orientation purposes". However, during helpful discussions with the RNIB they have suggested that this could be interpreted as meaning that a visually impaired person would have: no perception of light; perception of light only; perception of hand movement; or a visual acuity of 3/60[1] and either "total"

or "extensive" loss of visual field. Using these definitions of visual impairment we estimate that, if implemented in 2010-11, we would require additional annual benefit expenditure of around £45 million to extend the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance to this group.

[1] This means that a person with 3/60 can see at three metres an object which a person with normal vision can see at 60 metres.

Disabled: Children

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to increase the financial support for mentally and physically disabled children given up for adoption by their parents. [254801]

Jonathan Shaw: We keep the level of all benefits constantly under review. In addition, in the White Paper "Raising Expectations and Increasing Support: Reforming Welfare for the Future" we accepted that there is a need to look closely at the challenges that the current system of benefits presents to carers. We remain committed to looking at carers' benefits in the context of our wider ambitions for the welfare state and to ensuring that the needs of carers are central to the future reform of the benefit system.

Discrimination: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what procedures are available to individuals to lodge complaints against *(a)* a public body and *(b)* a private organisation in relation to failure to comply with disability discrimination legislation; and if he will make a statement. [257257]

Jonathan Shaw: There is a range of procedures available to individuals who wish to pursue complaints where they consider that an organisation has failed to meet its duties under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA). There is no distinction between the arrangements for complaints brought against private organisations and those brought against public bodies.

An individual who wishes to bring a complaint that an organisation has failed in its duties under the DDA may do so by informal means, such as a direct approach to the organisation, the questions procedure, or conciliation.

The Act provides for formal enforcement through civil proceedings. Where the complainant wishes to bring legal proceedings against the organisation, different legal processes apply according to the nature of the complaint.

For complaints concerning employment and vocational training an application may be made to an employment tribunal.

For complaints concerning post-16 education, access to goods, services, facilities and premises, private clubs, and the functions of public bodies, the complainant may bring legal proceedings in a county court in England and Wales, or in a sheriff court in Scotland. In respect of post-16 education in Scotland the claim must be served on the education service provider.

For complaints involving education in schools in England, claims of unlawful discrimination may be made to the 1st Tier Tribunals (formerly Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal), and for Wales to the Special Education Needs Tribunal for Wales. The 1st Tier Tribunal in England will also hear appeals on grounds of disability discrimination in relation to fixed-period (temporary) exclusions from all schools and also, admissions to, and permanent exclusions from, all schools other than maintained schools and academies. Appeals on grounds of disability discrimination in respect of a refusal to admit to, and permanent exclusions from, maintained schools and academies are heard by admissions appeals panels or independent appeals panels. Appeals are dealt with in a similar way in Wales. In Scotland, complaints involving education in schools are dealt with in the sheriff court.

Individuals may also instigate judicial review proceedings against a public authority if they believe it has failed to pay due regard to the disability equality duty.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has powers of enforcement in respect of the provisions in the DDA that cover discriminatory job advertisements; instructions and pressure to discriminate in employment and vocational training; and the disability equality duty. An individual may raise their concerns about these issues with the EHRC, but it is for the Commission to determine whether enforcement action should be taken.

Discrimination: Mentally Ill

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to increase public funding aimed at reducing levels of discrimination on grounds of mental health. [253138]

Jonathan Shaw: We are committed to ending disability discrimination, including on the grounds of mental health, and are targeting resources in a number of areas to ensure that disabled people have the opportunity to benefit from the positive impact on health and well-being that work can bring.

Through the "Employ ability" programme, we are engaging with employers to improve their understanding of disability and their attitudes towards employing disabled people. Employ ability activity is aimed at small to medium-sized employers and is being rolled out to Scotland, Wales and seven English regions between 24 March 2008 and 27 February 2009. The Government have committed £4 million to the campaign.

Access to Work helps around 24,000 disabled people take up or stay in work annually by helping to fund specialist equipment, such as writing support software, reading rulers or a Job Coach who can work with the customer to help them develop strategies for organising their work. The Access to Work budget has been increased from £15 million in 1994-95 to £69 million in 2008-09. In the White Paper, "Raising Expectations and Increasing Support", we made a commitment to double the budget for Access to Work. This will be a major expansion of the support we can offer to disabled people to help them get and sustain employment. We estimate that this could potentially double the number of people helped annually by 2013-14.

The Government's response to Dame Carol Black's review of the health of Britain's working age population set out our plans to launch a range of initiatives to improve working age health and well-being, including mental health. These include the development of the

first ever cross-Government National Mental Health and Employment Strategy which will bring employment and health services closer together, support employers and health care professionals and tackle issues such as discrimination and stigma.

We have also improved and strengthened the Disability Discrimination Act to provide disabled people with a full and comprehensive set of enforceable rights in all areas of life, including in employment. The Disability Discrimination Act provides protection from disability discrimination for anyone who meets the Act's definition of a disabled person. A person with a mental health condition will therefore be covered by the provisions of the Act if the effect of their impairment meets the various elements of the definition.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions his Department has had with outside organisations to discuss policy on reducing the effect of the recession on matters within his Department's responsibility. [254067]

Jonathan Shaw: The global economic downturn has far-reaching consequences and requires a co-ordinated response from across Government and businesses. We have been working hard to promote closer working between employers and Jobcentre Plus. On 12 January, for example, we hosted an Employment Summit, bringing together around 120 employers, representative groups and training providers to discuss how businesses can play their part in the response to rising unemployment. The total cost of the event was £162,076.18.

Building on this, the Secretary of State jointly hosted the first meeting of the National Employment Partnership on 11 February. This event was attended by 22 key employers from across a number of sectors to discuss the implementation of the Government's new package of support for those who are still unemployed six months into a jobseeker's allowance claim, and to discuss the role and importance of Local Employment Partnerships.

In addition to these events, Ministers and senior officials continue to meet with outside organisations on a regular basis to discuss specific issues arising from the recession across the whole spectrum of the Department's work.

Employment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent steps the Government has taken to assist the long-term unemployed gain employment; [253245]

(2) what recent steps the Government has taken to help people returning to work. [253246]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 3 February 2009]*: The Government are doing everything they can to help those who become unemployed back into work as quickly as possible. We recognise that extra support is needed during the downturn, and a range of new help is being made available to jobseekers.

We are investing an extra £1.3 billion to ensure that through Jobcentre Plus we can continue to provide personal help and advice to everyone who needs it—help in finding a job, filling in job applications and writing a CV plus advice on re-training and acquiring new skills.

From April 2009 we will also be investing a further £0.5 billion to guarantee more support to every person still looking for work after six months by making a range of additional options available including providing up to £2,500 for employers who recruit and train people unemployed for over six months; money and support to set up their own business; training to improve skills to get a job; and the opportunity to volunteer where this will help a person move towards work.

And we are pressing ahead with our welfare reforms from this year that will increase support for unemployed people as their claim to benefit continues. We are creating a new contract for jobseekers, promising help with skills and with employability.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many vacancies were advertised by jobcentres in the *(a)* fourth quarter of 2008, *(b)* third quarter of 2008, *(c)* fourth quarter of 2007 and *(d)* fourth quarter of 2006. [254035]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is in the following table:

Number of Vacancies advertised in Job centres: Great Britain

Quarter ending	*Vacancies*
October 2006	397,652
November 2006	347,079
December 2006	308,414
October 2007	504,290
November 2007	469,282
December 2007	394,904
July 2008	353,493
August 2008	348,451
September 2008	373,922
October 2008	383,331
November 2008	343,274
December 2008	271,011

Notes

1. These are not whole economy figures. Coverage relates just to vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and as such represents a market share of vacancies throughout the whole economy. This proportion varies over time, according to the occupation of the vacancy and industry of the employer, and by local area.
2. These figures are of stocks of unfilled vacancies which reflect more accurately job opportunities available via Jobcentre Plus. In the case of unfilled vacancies, use of the figures on live vacancies is recommended (i.e. excluding suspended vacancies), and this is the default option. Live vacancies may still include some vacancies which have already been filled or are otherwise no longer open to recruits, due to natural lags in procedures for following up vacancies with employers.
3. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.
4. Interpretation of these data needs to take account of changes in recent years to Jobcentre Plus procedures for taking and handling vacancies. These figures are not fully comparable over time and may not indicate developments in the labour market. A more detailed explanation is available on the nomis website.
5. Data labelled as "Month X" predominantly relate to the previous month. The release calendar gives details of the monthly release dates and the periods covered. For example, *January 2009* relates to the period 16 December 2008–12 January 2009).
6. Reporting months relate to either a four week or five week period depending on count dates. Users should be cautious about comparing monthly flows and may wish to standardise the figures. For example the *January 2009* period is a four week period whereas February 2009 is a five week period.
7. Vacancy data are collected by month and quarterly data are not available. It is not possible to sum up each month in the quarter as this would lead to some job vacancies being counted twice.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System

Employment Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the personalised employment programme pilots are part of *(a)* the progression to work pathfinders and *(b)* the invest to save pathfinders. [255101]

Mr. McNulty: The Personalised Employment Programme pilots will test a single, integrated, flexible employment programme for jobseeker's allowance claimants, new employment and support allowance claimants and parents with younger children. These pilots are designed primarily to test a new delivery model for contracted out employment support across multiple client groups.

We intend that the Progression to Work pathfinders will be separate from personalised employment programme pilots. However, we will apply the same broad conditionality framework for the Progression to Work group in the pilots as we plan to use in the pathfinders.

The invest to save pathfinders will be separate from the Personalised Employment Programme pilots in order that we can properly evaluate the impacts of the different delivery and funding models.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of *(a)* lone parents and *(b)* partners of existing benefit claimants will participate in progression to work pathfinders. [255115]

Mr. McNulty: The 'Progression to Work' pathfinders will, subject to the passage of legislation, cover approximately 10 per cent. of lone parents on income support with children aged one to six. This equates to approximately 60,000 lone parents falling into the Progression to Work group each year, based on current volumes.

Subject to the passage of legislation, the 'Progression to Work' pathfinders will cover approximately 10 per cent. of partners of benefit recipients with children aged one to six. Based on current volumes, this equates to approximately 10,000 partners of benefit claimants falling in the Progression to Work group each year.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals claimed travel expenses for journeys to and from *(a)* work-focussed interviews and *(b)* meetings with personal advisers at Jobcentre Plus offices in each of the last 60 months; how much on average was claimed by each individual; and how much was claimed for such expenses in each month. [256807]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 February 2009]*: The information is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Employment Services: Down's Syndrome

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to help people with Down's syndrome into work. [253097]

Jonathan Shaw: We have significantly improved and strengthened the employment provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, so that it now provides a comprehensive set of enforceable rights for disabled people, including those with Down's syndrome.

We also operate a number of different schemes that disabled people can access in order to help them find work.

Remploy offers support to disabled people with job search facilities and includes one-to-one advice and guidance. Remploy can also set up individually designed development plans, as well as offering in-work support and access to a range of local employment opportunities. Remploy has a proven track record of finding jobs for disabled people.

Jobcentre Plus is committed to supporting disabled people, including those with Down's syndrome, to find suitable, sustainable employment in their local area. It does this through its personal advisers, including Disability Employment Advisers.

Jobcentre Plus works with a range of providers from the private, public and voluntary sectors to provide specialist disability programmes to help disabled people to overcome the labour market barriers they may face. these include Work Preparation, WORKSTEP (a programme of supported employment), New Deal for Disabled People, Residential Training and the Job Introduction Scheme. Disability Employment Advisers have access to work psychologists to assist them in supporting customers if appropriate.

Disability Employment Advisers are also able to facilitate disabled people's applications to Access to Work, which can assist an individual who already has a job or has a job to start. Access to Work can provide practical advice and support to the disabled person and their employer to help them overcome work related obstacles resulting from disability. All Access to Work support is tailored to the individual's needs.

The Government have also set up the "Employ ability" programme, in which we are currently engaging with employers to improve their understanding of disability and their attitudes towards employing disabled people, with long-term health conditions. "Employ ability" is aimed at small to medium-sized employers and is being rolled out to Scotland, Wales and seven regions between 24 March 2008 and 27 February 2009.

Employment Services: General Practitioners

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 615W, on employment services: general practitioners, (1) what the location is of each GP surgery in which an employment adviser is placed; [248399]

(2) how many Jobcentre advisers have been placed in GP surgeries in each financial year since the programme started; [248400]

(3) what future projections his Department has made for *(a)* expenditure on and *(b)* the number of Jobcentre employment advisers in GP surgeries; [248401]

(4) how much has been spent on placing Jobcentre advisers in GP surgeries in each financial year since the programme started. [248402]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* Information about surgery locations in the original pilot and expansion is in the following table. In addition, advisers provide services in approximately 70 GPs surgeries in Scotland. Information about the towns where the surgeries are located is also provided.

In the original five pilot sites the project was funded for one full time adviser. The current projection for expenditure is £309,996 per year per district. This includes staff costs, training and set up costs for the surgery which will include a risk assessment. The number of advisers will remain at one full-time post per district. Occasionally a district will split the post to two part-time posts. The projected total is therefore 15 to 17 advisers. The original pilot had five to seven advisers.

The original five pilot sites were funded from Pathways to Work programme money with £1.5 million for three years. However, individual sites added funding from a variety of sources to boost provision for the Pathways Advisory Service. For the expansion no significant spend has taken place as the districts are currently working to set up the project. It is expected each district will keep within the projected £309,996 figure.

Pathways Advisory Service surgery locations

District		*GP Practice*
Stoke on Trent	Longton	Willow Bank Health Centre
	Longton	Single practitioner
	Longton	Single practitioner
Cumbria	Barrow-in-Furness	Atkinson Health Centre
	Barrow-in-Furness	Bridgegate Medical Centre
	Barrow-in-Furness	Duke Street Surgery
	Barrow-in-Furness	Norwood Medical Practice
	Barrow-in-Furness	Risedale Surgery
Lancashire	Accrington	Richmond Medical Centre
	Burnley	Ruskin Health Centre
	Burnley	Rosehill Surgery
	Burnley	Kiddrow Lane Health Centre
	Burnley	St Nicholas Group Practice
	Burnley	Yorkshire Street Medical Centre
	Nelson	Whitefield Health Care
South Wales Valleys	Pontypridd	Ynysangharad Surgery
	Abertillery	Abernant Surgery
	Treorchy	Forest View
	Aberdare	St. Johns Surgery
Swansea	Pontardawe	Pontardawe Health Centre
Tyne and Wear	South Shields	Flagg Court Health Centre
Manchester	Salford	Gamvier Centre
	Salford	Little Hulton Practice
	Salford	Willow Tree Healthy Living Centre
	Salford	The Surgery
	Salford	Sorrel Bank Medical Practice
Tees Valley	Norton	Norton Medical Centre
	Middlesbrough	Park Surgery
	Hartlepool	McKenzie Practice
	Darlington	Orchard Practice
Somerset and Dorset	Cheddar	Cheddar MC
	Bridgwater	Redgate MC
	Bridgwater	Victoria Park MC
	Bridgwater	East Quay MC

Pathways Advisory Service surgery locations

District		*GP Practice*
	Bridgwater	Somerset Bridge MC
	Bridgwater	Glastonbury MC
	Weymouth	Royal Crescent Surgery
	Dorchester	Broadmayne Surgery
	Boscombe	Boscombe Surgery
Highlands Islands, Clyde Coast and Grampian	Paisley	Northcroft Glenburn
	Barhead	Levern Medical Centre
	Johnstone	Linden
		Linwood
	Renfrew	Renfrew Health Centre
	Aberdeen	Carden Medical Centre
		Ferryhill Medical Practice
		Garthdee Medical Group
		Holburn Medical Group
		Rubislow Place Medical Group
		Marywell Health Centre
		Torry Medical Practice
		Elmbank Group
		Northfield/Mastrick Medical Practice
		Victoria Street Medical Practice
		Westburn Medical Group
		Woodside Medical Group
		Hamilton Medical Group
		Links Medical Practice
		Old Aberdeen Medical Practice
		Oldmachar Medical Practice

Towns in Scotland with advisers in GPs surgeries

Aberdeen
Airdrie
Ayr
Blantyre
Coatbridge
Cumbernauld
Cummnock
Dalmellington
Dumfries
Dundee
Edinburgh
Galston
Girvan
Glasgow
Greenock
Irvine
Moffat
Paisley
Patna
Portland, Kilmarnock
Rutherglen
Stranraer.

For Scotland, information about the number of whole time equivalent advisers who have worked in GPs surgeries is in the following table. Funding for the project is not ring-fenced but comes from outreach work budgets. Therefore, associated costs such as risk assessment will be part of this spend and mirror the costs incurred for the main project. The cost of the personal advisers is met from general Jobcentre Plus staff cost budgets. It is planned to continue to provide the equivalent of nine full-time advisers for the foreseeable future.

Whole-time equivalent number of advisers which have worked in GPs surgeries in each of the following years in Scotland

	Number
2008	8
2009	9

Employment: Coastal Areas

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of levels of under-employment in English coastal towns. [252929]

Mr. McNulty: The Department has made no assessment of under-employment in seaside towns.

Employment: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies were notified to Jobcentre Plus in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [255641]

Mr. McNulty: The information is in the following table:

As at December each year	*Hemel Hempstead*	*Hertfordshire*
2006	7,718	53,791
2007	8,811	66,075
2008	9,777	67,030

Notes:
1. These are not whole economy figures. Coverage relates just to vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and as such represent a market share of vacancies throughout the whole economy. This proportion varies over time, according to the occupation of the vacancy and industry of the employer, and by local area.
2. Notified vacancies include any speculative placings recorded by Jobcentre Plus. Datasets from May 2006 may reflect substantially reduced levels of speculative placings as part of the notified series. Consequently, care should be taken in interpreting time-series data.
3. Data are unrounded.
4. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.
5. Interpretation of these data needs to take account of changes in recent years to Jobcentre Plus procedures for taking and handling vacancies. These figures are not fully comparable over time and may not indicate developments in the labour market. A more detailed explanation is available on the NOMIS website:
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/Default.asp
Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

Employment: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many vacancies for positions within the Jobcentre Plus network have been advertised in each of the last 12 months in the North East; and what proportion of those were advertised in local newspapers. [254914]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many vacancies for positions within the Jobcentre Plus network have been advertised in each of the last 12 months in the North East and what proportion of those were advertised in local newspapers. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The table below gives the total number of vacancies in the North East Region of Jobcentre Plus, and the number and proportion of these that are externally advertised through a variety of routes. We are not able to identify which specific vacancies were advertised in local newspapers. However, external vacancies were advertised by grouping these into 16 separate recruitment exercises and of these, 12 recruitment exercises advertised vacancies through the local press.

Month	*Total vacancies*	*Vacancies grouped into external adverts*	*Proportion of total vacancies advertised externally (percentage)*
2008			
February	31	30	97
March	58	40	69
April	23	20	87
May	42	20	48
June	13	0	0
July	19	0	0
August	108	88	81
September	53	50	94
October	3	0	0
November	9	0	0
December	153	110	72
2009			
January	233	210	90

Employment: Wimbledon

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies were notified to the Jobcentre Plus branch which serves residents of Wimbledon constituency in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [256616]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* The information is in the following table.

Number of notified vacancies in Wimbledon parliamentary constituency in 2006-08

	Number
2006	4,463
2007	4,667
2008	4,903

Notes:
1. Changes to Jobcentre Plus vacancy handling procedures have lead to a major discontinuity in the vacancy statistics pre and post May 2006. See
http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/articles/177.aspx#may06
before comparing data over this period. Interpretation of this data needs to take account of changes in recent years to Jobcentre Plus procedures for taking and handling vacancies.
2. These figures are not fully comparable over time and may not indicate developments in the labour market. A more detailed explanation is available on the nomis website.
3. These are not whole economy figures. Coverage relates just to vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and as such represent a market share of vacancies throughout the whole economy. This proportion varies over time, according to the occupation of the vacancy and industry of the employer, and by local area. Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.
4. Notified vacancies include any speculative placings recorded by Jobcentre Plus. Datasets from May 2006 may reflect substantially reduced levels of speculative placings as part of the notified series. Consequently, care should be taken in interpreting time-series data of the notified series.
5. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly Office for National Statistics Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the Office for National Statistics survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

Fines

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what administrative financial penalties may be levied by his Department and its agencies. [253589]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP and local authorities offer administrative penalties as an alternative to prosecution for benefit fraud. The amount of the administrative penalty is set in legislation (Section 115A of the Social Security Administration Act 1992) as 30 per cent. of the amount of the overpayment.

Health and Safety Executive: Marketing

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of the Health and Safety Executive's Make the Promise campaign was; and if he will make a statement. [254069]

Jonathan Shaw: The cost of Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) 'Make the promise - Come home safe' farm safety campaign to date is £692,000. This covers development work; advertising in the trade press and online publications; a direct marketing pack to nearly 68,000 farmers; a press and PR campaign.

Farming is one of the most dangerous ways to make a living in Britain. Agriculture comprises about 1.5 per cent. of the working population but accounts for 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. of fatal incidents each year. This new campaign is part of a wider HSE initiative targeted at reducing the number of work related deaths in farming. The 'Make the promise' campaign has very strong support from the National Farmers' Union and other stakeholders.

Housing Benefit

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* calendar days and *(b)* working days on average each local authority took to process (i) new housing benefit claims and (ii) housing benefit claims submitted by existing recipients as a result of a change in circumstances in each of the last (A) 12 months and (B) five years. [257192]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave to the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central (Jenny Willott) on 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 762W.

Information is not available in working days or for individual months.

Incapacity Benefit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on the administration of incapacity benefit in each of the last 10 years. [249152]

Jonathan Shaw: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to your question asking how much was spent on the administration of Incapacity Benefit in each of the last 10 years. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus started recording the costs of activities such as Incapacity Benefit processing in 2003/04. The available information is in the following table.

Incapacity benefit administration costs

	£ million
2003-04	100
2004-05	97
2005-06	94
2006-07	95
2007-08	91

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest million.
2. Figures are from the Jobcentre Plus Activity Based Information system for 2003-04 and 2004-05. The figures for 2005-06 onwards are from the Jobcentre Plus Activity Based Management System.
3. Figures represent salary costs only for Jobcentre Plus staff undertaking the task of incapacity benefit processing.
4. Various changes to incapacity benefit policy and the centralisation of benefit processing have had an effect on the costs of incapacity benefit processing and administration costs. However, the Activity Based Management system cannot quantify these changes separately.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Activity Based Information and Activity Based Management systems.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of existing incapacity benefit claimants will take part in *(a)* a single work-focused interview, *(b)* three work-focused interviews and *(c)* mandatory work preparation activities in (i) 2009, (ii) 2010, (iii) 2011 and (iv) 2012. [255182]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 9 February 2009]*: From April 2008, all incapacity benefits claimants have been able to access Pathways to Work on a voluntary basis, including work-focused interviews and a range of back-to-work support.

From late 2009 we plan to start providing three work-focused interviews to existing incapacity benefit claimants under the age of 25 in Jobcentre Plus-led Pathways to Work areas.

For the majority of existing incapacity benefits customers, the mandatory engagement announced in the White Paper 'Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future' (Cm 7506) will occur once those claimants have been transferred to employment and support allowance between 2010 and 2013. Customers placed in the support group will not be required to undertake any mandatory activities, although they will be able to volunteer for back-to-work support.

As the exact timing and profile of the transfer of these customers is still being developed, it is not possible to fully answer the question at this point in time.

Industrial Health and Safety: Nuclear Power

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the budget of the Nuclear Directorate of the Health and Safety Executive *(a)* was in each of the last five financial years, *(b)* is in 2008-09 and *(c)* will be in each of the next five financial years; [255929]

(2) what the budget of *(a)* the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, *(b)* the Office for Civil Nuclear Security and *(c)* the Health and Safety Executive Nuclear Directorate (i) is for 2008-09 and (ii) was for each of the last five financial years. [256000]

Jonathan Shaw: The budgets for 2008-09 and for each of the last five years are set out in the following table:

						£ million
	2008-09[1]	*2007-08*[2]	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*
Nuclear Installations Inspectorate	25.389	21.844	19.034	19.203	18.215	[3]n/a
Office for Civil Nuclear Security[4]	2.867	2.481	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nuclear Directorate[5]	28.256	24.977	19.643	19.881	19.252	19.397

n/a = Not available

[1] The figures for 2008-09 are for budgets.

[2] The figures for 2007-08 to 2003-04 are for outturns.

[3] The figure for 2003-04 for the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate are unavailable other than at disproportionate cost to HSE.

[4] The Office for Civil Nuclear Security was transferred to HSE on 1 April 2007 from the then Department for Trade and Industry.

[5] Some 97 per cent. of ND's direct costs and overheads are recovered through charges to industry under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 and Health and Safety (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2007. Since 2007-08 this has also included 100 per cent. recovery of the Office for Civil Nuclear Security direct costs and overheads recovered under the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001, the Energy Act 2004, the extant security provisions of the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (as amended) and, in respect of nuclear material, the Import of Goods (Control) Order 1954. These costs exclude the HSE central service costs.

Nuclear Directorate's (ND) indicative budget for 2009-10 is £36.4 million[1]; and for 2010/11, £37 million[1]. ND's budget beyond 2010-11 has not yet been set.

[1] ND's indicative budgets for 2009-10 and 2010-11 were revised in January 2009 to reflect the forecast costs of ND's transition to a statutory corporation. The figures will be further revised to reflect the outcome of HSE's pay negotiations with its trades unions.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of the budget of *(a)* the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, *(b)* the Office for Civil Nuclear Security and *(c)* the Health and Safety Executive Nuclear Directorate is allocated to (i) staffing costs and (ii) transport costs. [256001]

Jonathan Shaw: The answer is provided in the following table.

			Percentage
Financial year 2007-08[1]	*Nuclear Installations Inspectorate*	*Office for Civil Nuclear Security*	*Nuclear Directorate*
Staffing costs[2]	76	61	75
Transport costs[3]	6	10	7

[1] The percentages are calculated based on the outturns for the last full financial year, rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Staffing costs cover permanent staff payroll costs and the cost of staff substitutes such as agency workers.

[3] Transport costs cover travel and subsistence, official vehicle hire and detached duty costs both in the UK and internationally.

Industrial Health and Safety: Prosecutions

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many successful prosecutions the Health and Safety Executive brought for breaches of health and safety law by employers that led to an illness believed to be caused or made worse by their current or past work in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [254210]

Jonathan Shaw: From 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2008, the Health and Safety Executive took the following number of successful prosecution cases against employers for instances of work related ill health:

	Number
2004-05	5
2005-06	3
2006-07	2
2007-08	3

These prosecutions resulted from action taken following the investigation of cases of reported occupational disease, or where employee work related ill health was identified during other HSE interventions.

Across the same period, HSE has successfully prosecuted many more employers for failing to control the risks of their work activities to their workers' and others health.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many successful prosecutions the Health and Safety Executive made for breaches of health and safety law by employers that led to a workplace fatality in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [254284]

Jonathan Shaw: From 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2008, the Health and Safety Executive took the following number of successful prosecution cases against employers for instances of work related fatalities:

	Number
2004-05	108
2005-06	79
2006-07	104
2007-08	98

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many successful prosecutions the Health and Safety Executive brought for breaches of health and safety law by employers that led to a workplace injury in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [254209]

Jonathan Shaw: From 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2008, the Health and Safety Executive took the following number of successful prosecution cases against employers for instances of work related injury:

	Number
2004-05	380
2005-06	306
2006-07	277
2007-08	274

These figures exclude prosecutions of work-related fatalities.

Industrial Health and Safety: Temperature

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints the Health and Safety Executive received on high temperatures in the workplace in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [254274]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is as follows:

	Number of complaints
2004-05	2
2005-06	2
2006-07	2
2007-08	1

Source
The information has been obtained from HSE's operational information system (COIN)

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many prosecutions of employers the Health and Safety Executive undertook in cases of failure to manage high temperatures in the workplace in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [254275]

Jonathan Shaw: From 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2008, the Health and Safety Executive took no prosecutions as a result of employers' failures to manage high temperatures in the workplace.

Although outside the period specified in the question, legal proceedings have recently been initiated by HSE related to a workplace fatality in 2006-07 in which heat stress was implicated.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who have a condition believed to have been caused or exacerbated by exposure to high temperature in their work. [254276]

Jonathan Shaw: There is insufficient evidence to allow a reliable estimate to be made.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance the Health and Safety Executive has issued on workplace temperatures *(a)* which are not considered reasonable and *(b)* at which control measures to manage heat must be put in place. [254283]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Rochdale (Paul Rowen) on 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1450W.

The guidance issued by HSE does not specify a maximum workplace temperature at which control measures must be put in place.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many workplace injuries where exposure to high temperature was a factor were reported to the Health and Safety Executive during *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [254277]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Rochdale (Paul Rowen) on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 88W.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many instances of stress due to exposure to high temperatures in the workplace were reported to the Health and Safety Executive in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [254286]

Jonathan Shaw: Instances of heat stress, as a medical condition, may be included in injuries reported under the Reporting of Injuries Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 but it is not possible to identify them separately.

Jobcentre Plus: Closures

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the administrative cost of the Jobcentre Plus closure programme was in each of the last five years; [251468]

(2) what savings were achieved by the Jobcentre Plus closure programme in each of the last five years; [251469]

(3) what the cost of running the Nairn Jobcentre Plus office was in each of the last five years before it was closed. [251471]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking: what the administrative cost of the Jobcentre Plus closure programme was in each of the last five years; what savings were achieved by the Jobcentre Plus closure programme in each of the last five years; and what the cost of running the Nairn Jobcentre Plus office was in each of the last five years before it was closed. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The costs of running the Nairn Jobcentre in 2004/5, the last full year of operation, were approximately £200,000. Costs for earlier years are unavailable. The available information on administrative costs and savings from office closures is in the following tables.

Disposal costs from office closures

	£ million
2003-04	0
2004-05	1
2005-06	17
2006-07	24
2007-08	21
Total	63

Note:
All figures rounded to the nearest million.
Source:
NAO report February 2008, Jobcentre Plus reports.

Savings arising from office closures including any savings arising from new investment to existing estate for modernisation

	£ million
2004-05	23
2005-06	34
2006-07	51
2007-08	40
Total	148

Note:
All figures rounded to the nearest million.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus reports for the DWP Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Return.

Jobcentre Plus: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints Jobcentre Plus have received from customers on the physical inaccessibility of Jobcentre Plus offices and facilities in each year since 1997. [249631]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* The information is not available.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria will be used to allocate the additional 2,000 staff at Jobcentre Plus offices proposed in the pre-Budget report; what the timetable for their recruitment is; how many staff have been recruited; how many additional staff will be allocated to the Sutton Jobcentre; whether a Rapid Response manager has been appointed in each district; and if he will make a statement. [254511]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what criteria will be used to allocate the additional 2,000 staff at Jobcentre Plus offices proposed in the pre-Budget report; what the timetable for their recruitment is; how many staff have been recruited to date; how many additional staff will be allocated to the Sutton Jobcentre; if a Rapid Response manager has been appointed in each district. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In October 2008 the Secretary of State announced that Jobcentre Plus would retain 2,000 more staff than originally planned in 2008-09. In November 2008, following the pre-Budget report, the Secretary of State announced that there will be an extra 6,000 staff in place in Jobcentre Plus for the 2009-10 financial year.

Jobcentre Plus will allocate the additional staff on a proportionate basis between our Jobcentres, Contact Centres and Benefit Delivery Centres. My operational directors will use their judgement and workload information to decide where to deploy the resources.

Since November we have recruited 2,700 additional staff nationally and plan to recruit at least 1,200 a month until we reach the right level. We have already placed an additional ten staff in Sutton Jobcentre and are in the process of recruiting further staff. The precise number of extra staff who will be placed in Sutton Jobcentre is not yet known.

I can confirm that each Jobcentre Plus district has a named Rapid Response Manager. When redundancies in local businesses become known, this Manager co-ordinates the Jobcentre response and support. I am pleased to report that since November over 650 employers have accepted help from Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus: Sutton

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* staffing and *(b)* office space capacity of the Jobcentre Plus office at Helena House, Sutton, in connection with increased demand resulting from (i) the economic downturn, (ii) changes to incapacity benefit and (iii) changes to other welfare benefits; and if he will make a statement. [254512]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question on what assessment has been made of the need for additional staff and office accommodation at Sutton Jobcentre in connection with increased demand resulting from the economic downturn, changes to incapacity benefit and other welfare benefits. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We have already placed an additional ten staff in Sutton Jobcentre and are in the process of recruiting further staff. We are currently looking at the possibility of taking on an extra floor at Helena House to give us extra capacity. I am unable to provide a firm timescale at this stage as the space we are seeking is currently occupied by another Government Department. I have asked my District Manager for South London, Chris Nichol, to keep you updated with progress on this and related work to respond to the rise in unemployment in Sutton, and changes to the welfare system.

Jobcentre Plus: Temporary Employment

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the policy of Jobcentre Plus on the employment of temporary staff *(a)* up to and *(b)* beyond 52 weeks is; and if he will make a statement. [245446]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what is the policy of Jobcentre Plus on the employment of temporary staff up to and beyond 52 weeks. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Department for Work and Pensions policy, which applies in Jobcentre Plus, is that in normal circumstances we recruit temporary staff for up to 39 weeks. In very exceptional circumstances they can be extended up to a maximum of two years.

I hope this is helpful.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many contribution-based claimants of jobseeker's allowance who were entitled to receive an income-based allowance after 182 days experienced a gap in payments before receiving an income-based allowance, in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [255557]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* The information is not available.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department plans to respond to the letter of 19 September 2008 from the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight on unemployment and the Isle of Wight economy. [247039]

Mr. McNulty: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 26 January 2009.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when he expects to reply to the letter of 12 December 2008 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on benefits; [256811]

(2) when the Minister of State plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 12 December 2008, on benefits. [256924]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 11 February 2009.

National Insurance: Foreigners

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance number registrations have been granted to *(a)* non-UK EU and *(b)* non-EU citizens in each quarter since 1 April 2005. [248439]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is in the following table:

National insurance number registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the United Kingdom by quarter of registration and EU/Non EU status

	EU Nationals	*Thousand Non EU nationals*
2005		
April to June	80.93	68.91
July to September	95.43	75.81
October to December	90.53	68.09
2006		
January to March	107.64	75.15
April to June	77.39	56.38
July to September	91.04	60.37
October to December	98.64	65.94
2007		
January to March	153.18	102.44
April to June	99.41	66.63
July to September	121.38	68.46
October to December	108.29	76.67
2008		
January to March	110.83	80.93
April to June	100.68	74.65

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten and displayed in thousands.
2. There are a small number of registrations where citizens' nationalities are unknown, these are not included.
3. Registration date is derived from the date at which a national insurance number is entered on the National Insurance Recording System.
4. When presenting the EU time series, countries which joined the EU during the time series have been included in the EU for the whole of the time series, to facilitate comparisons over time.
5. The EU time series excludes national insurance numbers registered to UK nationals.
6. The figures do not include any national insurance numbers that may have been issued to young foreign nationals under Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs juvenile registration scheme.

Source:
100 per cent. extract from National Insurance Recording System. This information is taken from a table published on the DWP website at: http://83.244.183.180/mgw/final/final/qtr/world/a_stock_r_qtr_c_world_apr08.html

Natural Gas: Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to raise public awareness of the fact that CORGI is no longer the body responsible for gas safety; and if he will make a statement. [249900]

Jonathan Shaw: As part of its contract with HSE, Capita are responsible for promoting and communicating the new Gas Safe Register™ brand to installers and the general public. Capita have a Key Performance Indicator to achieve at least 40 per cent. unprompted brand recognition of the New Gas Safe Register™ among gas consumers by the end of October 2009, rising to 75 per cent. by 2011. HSE also plans to communicate directly with gas installers and through the trade press to make clear that, from 1 April 2009, the Gas Safe Register is the only register approved by HSE for gas work under gas safety law, and that the CORGI register will no longer count for these purposes.

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish the letter recently sent by his Department to bidders for Flexible New Deal contracts regarding the Department's revised assumptions for customer volumes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter. [254959]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* A letter was issued to shortlisted bidders in the Flexible New Deal competition on 30 January. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what timetable he has set for awarding contracts for providers under the flexible new deal; and if he will make a statement. [256607]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 February 2009]*: The competition for contracts to deliver Flexible New Deal is under way; 124 bids were submitted and these are being evaluated. The number of people expected to start the programme is likely to increase from the numbers provided to bidders earlier in the competition. DWP believe it prudent to now ask bidders to submit an additional bid.

This consultation will delay the announcement of preferred bidders. However the Government remains committed to bringing in the Flexible New Deal phase 1 from October 2009.

New Deal Schemes: Per Capita Costs

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on average per claimant on the New Deal for *(a)* Young People, *(b)* 25 Plus, *(c)* 50 Plus, *(d)* Disabled People, *(e)* Lone Parents, *(f)* Partners and *(g)* Musicians in each year since each scheme was established; and if he will make a statement. [246790]

Mr. McNulty: Available information is shown in the following table:

Amount spent on average per claimant on the New Deals in each year since each scheme was established

£

	New Deal for Young People and New Deal 25 Plus combined	New Deal 50 Plus	New Deal for Disabled People	New Deal for Lone Parents	New Deal for Partners
1997-98					
1998-99	816			43	
1999-2000	1,766			211	
2000-01	2,034			254	
2001-02	1,977		390	135	
2002-03	2,064		577	217	
2003-04	2,443	3,967	915	233	
2004-05	2,534	85	1,239	245	212
2005-06	1,852	40	1,114	259	297
2006-07	1,295	14	1,259	463	272
2007-08	1,433	16	1,453	307	170

Notes

1. The average cost has been calculated by dividing the total expenditure each year by the number of customers joining the programme within that year. This provides a good approximation, but since the costs for any one individual occur over a period of time (and are not possible to track) the figures will not be exact.
2. Expenditure figures exclude administration costs as they cannot be identified since 2002-03 when ring fences were removed with agreement from HM Treasury.
3. In the case of New Deal for Young People and New Deal 25 Plus, the expenditure does include associated Annually Managed Expenditure (weekly training allowances).
4. New Deal for Young People and New Deal 25 Plus started in 1998, with phased introduction between January and July. Average expenditure per customer on New Deal for Young People and New Deal 25 Plus has reduced year on year since 2005-06 due to changes to New Deal from April 2004 (which included reducing the length of the options period to 13 weeks). The full impact of this change did not take effect until 2005-06.
5. New Deal 50 Plus started in 2000. Performance information is not available until 2003-04. New Deal 50 Plus costs reduce after 2002-03 as the employment credit element of ND50+ (funded by DWP) ceased and was replaced by the 50 plus element of the working tax credit (funded by HMRC). The small residual spend relates to the New Deal 50 Plus Training Grant.
6. New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP) started in 2001. Spend prior to this date is for pilots in selected areas. Performance information is not available until 2001-02. Both costs and participant numbers have risen significantly following re-tendering in 2004. As participants can stay on the programme for longer than a year, dividing spend by starts is not really a valid comparison of spend per person. Furthermore, NDDP is no longer a national programme (it only operates in 19 districts) so costings would be further affected since the programme was subsumed by provider led Pathways from December 2007.
7. New Deal for Lone Parents started in 1998. Average expenditure per customer on the New Deal for Lone Parents programme increased from 2006 due to the additional help available by way of in work credit, child care costs and the increased availability of training opportunities.
8. New Deal for Partners started in 1999 and was re-launched in 2004. Performance information is not available until 2004-05.
9. New Deal for Musicians started in 1999. Performance information is not available for the New Deal for Musicians Programme.

Sources:

1. DWP financial systems (numerator).
2. DWP Tabulation Tool (denominator).

Peers: Interests

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether Ministers in his Department received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [255234]

Jonathan Shaw: None of the DWP Ministers received representation from Lord Moonie, Lord Taylor of Blackburn, Lord Snape or Lord Truscott in the last seven months.

Pension Credit: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in West Chelmsford constituency *(a)* were entitled to claim and *(b)* claimed pension credit in each of the last five years. [254756]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Estimates of eligibility to pension credit are not available below the level of Great Britain.

The latest estimates of the take-up rates and the number of those entitled to but not receiving pension credit is published in the report "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2006-07".

The numbers of claimants in receipt of pension credit in West Chelmsford in each of the last five years are shown in the following table:

Claimants of pension credit in West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency[1]

As at May each year	Total claimants
2004	2,890
2005	3,180
2006	3,170
2007	3,210
2008	3,130

Notes:
1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Pension credit is claimed on a household basis. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Pension Protection Fund

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have claimed pension payments from the Pension Protection Fund in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last five years. [245864]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Pension Protection Fund was set up to up to protect members of eligible defined benefit and hybrid pension schemes when the sponsoring employer experiences a qualifying insolvency event and the scheme cannot afford to pay members' benefits at PPF levels of compensation. Individuals do not need to make a claim to be eligible for PPF compensation.

The PPF commenced operations in April 2005 and the first schemes transferred to the PPF in December 2006.

As at 30 November 2007 there were 1,167 members receiving compensation from the PPF, with 6,024 members due to receive compensation in future as it falls due. 10 members receiving compensation and 29 deferred members, resided in the North East of England.

As at 30 November 2008 there were 7,703 members receiving compensation from the PPF, with 12,942 members due to receive compensation in future as it falls due. 345 members receiving compensation and 518 deferred members, resided in the North East of England.

A breakdown of the aforementioned figures below regional level is not available.

While in the PPF assessment period, the process which determines whether a scheme transfers to the PPF, the trustees remain responsible for the running of the scheme with benefits being paid to members at PPF levels when they fall due. As at 30 November 2008 there were 121,300 scheme members, across the UK, in the assessment period.

Pension, Disability and Carers Service: Correspondence

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of inaccurate letters sent out to pensioners by the Pension, Disability and Carers Service in each of the last five years. [257086]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The requested information is unavailable.

Pensioners: Carer's Premium

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants above state pension age currently receive a premium for being a carer; what the cost to the Exchequer is expected to be over the next 12 months of such payments; if he will estimate the cost of making a payment equal to the current carers premium to the pensioner carers of recipients of attendance allowance or the pensioner recipients of the care component of disability living allowance; and if he will make a statement. [250398]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* Pension credit ensures a guaranteed minimum income for all people aged 60 and over. People who are entitled to carer's allowance—whether or not carer's allowance is in payment—may benefit from the additional amount for carers in pension credit. The pension credit standard minimum guarantee of £124.05 for single pensioners (£189.35 for couples) is increased by £27.75 where the additional amount for carers is payable—if both members of a couple are entitled to carer's allowance the additional amount is doubled.

Approximately 240,000 pension credit claimants had an additional amount for carers in May 2008.

In addition, approximately 20,000 claimants of housing benefit and/or council tax benefit aged 60 or over were in receipt of a carers' premium in May 2004, the latest available data.

It is estimated that, all else remaining unchanged, the current additional amounts for carers increase the costs of income related benefits by some £300 million in 2009-10.

Information necessary to estimate the cost of making a payment equal to the current carers premium to the pensioner carers of recipients of attendance allowance or the pensioner recipients of the care component of disability living allowance is not available.

Sources:

Pension Credit claimants: DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

HB and CTB claimants: Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, Annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 2004.

Modelling based on the Policy Simulation Model.

Pensioners: Income

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the percentage of pensioners who fall below *(a)* 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income, *(b)* 50 per cent. of contemporary median household income and *(c)* 60 per cent. of the 1998-99 contemporary median household income top rated in line with (i) prices and (ii) earnings in (A) each constituency in Greater London and (B) England. [256756]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2006-07".

Latest figures for the percentage of pensioners in Greater London and England who fall below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income, 50 per cent. of contemporary median household income and 60 per cent. of the 1998-99 contemporary median household income uprated in line with prices are shown in the following table:

Percentage of pensioners falling below various thresholds of median household income after housing costs, London and England: 2004-05 to 2006-07

	Greater London	England
Below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income[1]	22	18

Percentage of pensioners falling below various thresholds of median household income, after housing costs, London and England, 2004-05 to 2006-07

	Greater London	England
Below 50 per cent. of contemporary median household income	12	9
Below 60 per cent. of the 1998-99 median household income uprated in line with prices	12	9

Notes:
1. Three survey year averages are given as robust single year estimates cannot be produced because of small sample sizes.
2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. The figures are based on OECD equalisation factors.
4. Figures are based on survey data and as such are subject to a degree of sampling and non-sampling error.

The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below the level of Government office region. Information on the percentage of pensioners who fall below 60 per cent. of the 1998-99 contemporary median household income uprated in line with earnings is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Pensions: Teachers

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of recipients of pensions under the Teachers' Pension Scheme were receiving incorrect pension payments when the errors in payments to some public service pensioners were discovered. [255758]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

Of the estimated 95,000 pensioners referred to in the written ministerial statement made on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 111-12WS, just over 20,000 were members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme. This equates to less than 4 per cent. of pensioners in the scheme.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many companies submitted bids for the Post Office card account successor contract prior to the cancellation of the tendering process. [256114]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Three suppliers submitted bids for the Post Office card account successor contract.

Poverty

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 849W, on jobseeker's allowance, if he will estimate the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of households who have someone in work but where the household was in poverty in each of the last five years. [256113]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 10 February 2009]:* The information is shown in the following table.

Number and proportion of households who have someone in work and have a household income below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, 2002-03 to 2006-07, before and after housing costs

	Before housing costs		After housing costs	
	Number (million)	Proportion (percentage)	Number (million)	Proportion (percentage)
2002-03	1.5	9	2.1	13
2003-04	1.5	9	2.0	12
2004-05	1.5	9	2.1	13
2005-06	1.6	10	2.3	14
2006-07	1.6	9	2.3	14

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures is single financial years.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using OECD equivalisation factors.
6. Numbers of households have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand households and proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage.
Source:
Households Below Average Income

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cardiff Central of 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1406-07W, on poverty, if he will provide the same information for 1998-99. [256155]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 10 February 2009]:* The information is shown in the following table.

Number and risk of working age adults who are not in work living in households with incomes less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income before and after housing costs, Great Britain, 1998-99

	Number/percentage
Before housing costs	
Number (million)	3.2
Proportion (percentage)	35
After housing costs	
Number (million)	4.2
Proportion (percentage)	46

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures is single financial years.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using OECD equivalisation factors.
6. Numbers of adults have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand adults and proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage.
7. Adults have been classified as workless if they are unemployed or economically inactive.
8. Adults have been classified as being of working age if they are 64 or below for men or 59 or below for women.
Source:
Households Below Average Income

The risk of a working age adult who is working being in a low income household in Great Britain in 1998-99 is much lower at 7 per cent., before housing costs and 10 per cent., after housing costs than for workless

working age adults, where the equivalent proportions are 35 per cent. (before housing costs) and 46 per cent. (after housing costs) as shown in the aforementioned table.

Poverty: Children

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to reduce levels of child poverty in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency since 1997. [256401]

Kitty Ussher: Since 1998-99, 600,000 children have been lifted out of relative poverty and the number of children in absolute poverty has halved from 3.4 to 1.7 million.

Government measures over the past two years will lift around a further 500,000 children from relative poverty, these include increasing the rate of child benefit and disregarding child benefit in calculating income for housing benefit and council tax benefit from October 2009.

We have also helped nearly 600,000 lone parents into work through the new deal for lone parents programme. As two-fifths of children in poverty live in lone parent families, new deal for lone parents is invaluable in contributing to the target of abolishing child poverty.

A number of pilot schemes will be introduced shortly to trial innovative initiatives to reduce child poverty. The Work-Focused Services in Children's Centres initiative will pilot in Redcar and Cleveland, with other child poverty pilots to be trialled in other local authorities within the north-east region.

Legislation, planned for this session, will ensure all levels of Government play their part in meeting our target to eradicate child poverty by 2020.

Rail Warrants

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on rail warrants for customers to attend appointments required by the Department in the last year for which figures are available; and how many rail warrants were issued in this period. [245800]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available.

Rapid Response Service

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what qualifications would make a person over-qualified and therefore not eligible for Government-funded re-training as part of the Rapid Response Service; and if he will make a statement; [254043]

(2) what qualifications are available from Government-funded re-training offered by the Rapid Response Service; and if he will make a statement; [254044]

(3) what guidance is available to Jobcentre Plus district managers to help them decide when a significant redundancy which warrants the use of the Rapid Response Service has taken place; and if he will make a statement. [254046]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 3 February 2009]*: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what qualifications would make a person over qualified and therefore not eligible for Government-funded re-training as part of the Rapid Response Service; what qualifications are available from Government-funded re-training offered by the Rapid Response Service; and what guidance is available to Jobcentre Plus District Managers to help them decide when a significant redundancy which warrants the use of the Rapid Response Service has taken place. These are issues that fall within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Rapid Response Service is available to all employers Jobcentre Plus identify as being in the process of making redundancies. We will contact every employer who meets their statutory requirement to notify the Insolvency Service when making 20 or more people redundant. In addition we will offer support to any other employers we identify as making redundancies where, based on their knowledge of the local labour market, the District Manager determines that the cumulative impact of redundancies justifies using the Rapid Response Service.

If the employer accepts our offer of support, we give help and advice on claiming benefits and jobsearch to those people faced with redundancy. As part of the support package, where the type of work being lost is not readily available in the labour market, a Skills Transfer Analysis is offered to all those affected.

The Skills Transfer Analysis compares the skills the person has with those required to find work in the labour market in which they are looking for work. Where skill gaps are identified Job Focused Training is sourced to fill the gaps and help people quickly fill the skills gaps. A person cannot be over qualified for Job Focused Training, provided the Skills Transfer Analysis identifies that there is a need for the training.

The prime purpose of the Job Focused Training is to help the person gain the necessary skills to find work quickly. There is no expectation that this training will lead directly to a qualification.

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the take-up of the Jobcentre Plus Rapid Response services by employers contemplating redundancies. [254429]

Mr. McNulty: Jobcentre Plus offer support to employers when they receive formal notification of 20, or more, potential redundancies from Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform or when they are made aware through other means. Since the announcement of the expansion of the Rapid Response Service in November 2008, over 650 employers have accepted the offer of support.

The Rapid Response Service is a voluntary service. Employers are free to take it up or make their own arrangements to help their redundant staff.

Rented Housing: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much and what proportion of private rented accommodation in *(a)* Southend-on-Sea local authority area, *(b)* Essex county council area and *(c)* Southend West constituency is available for rent at or below the median rent established by the Rent Service for the relevant rental market area; and if he will make a statement. [255103]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 469W.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to enable Jobcentre Plus customers to receive emergency assistance in addition to provision available under the Social Fund. [253451]

Kitty Ussher: In terms of emergency assistance, the social fund provides financial support to vulnerable people in times of genuine need through crisis loans. This type of assistance has first call on the social fund loans budget and all crisis loan applicants who satisfy the eligibility conditions are given an award. Gross expenditure on crisis loans in Great Britain has increased by 31 per cent. between January and December 2007 and January to December 2008.

From January to December 2008, around 45 per cent. of crisis loan awards in Great Britain were made to people representing hardship before their first benefit payment. The current legal provisions do not specify that an advance payment of benefit can be made in such circumstances. The current Welfare Reform Bill contains powers that will address this point, allowing the consideration of advance payments for this group of people. This will reduce the need for such crisis loans.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will reduce the rate of national interest on savings taken into account when assessing a person's entitlement to means-tested benefits. [258045]

Mr. McNulty: The first £6,000 of capital/savings (£10,000 for those in care homes) is fully disregarded in the income related benefits:

Income support;

Jobseeker's allowance (income-based);

Pension credit;

Housing benefit; and

Council tax benefit.

The formula for calculating the amount of income that can be generated from capital/savings above £6,000 in the income related benefits, known as tariff income, is not intended to represent any rate of return that could be obtained from investing capital. It provides a simple method of calculating the weekly contribution that people with capital in excess of the level of the disregard are expected to make from their resources to help meet their normal living costs.

As there is no link with actual market rates, the tariff income rates within the income-related benefits remain unaltered regardless of whether interest rates rise or fall.

The tariff income levels are kept under continual review but they can be increased only when priorities and resources allow.

Social Security Benefits: Control Orders

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 275W, on control orders, (1) how many individuals subject to control orders are in receipt of benefits administered by his Department; [248842]

(2) how much his Department has spent on *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance, *(c)* disability living allowance and *(d)* income support in order to assist individuals who are subject to control orders in each year since 2005. [248845]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Secretary's last quarterly written ministerial statement on control orders, covering the period 11 September to 10 December 2008, was published on 15 December 2008. The figures provided in this report are the latest published figures on control orders. These show that on 10 December 2008 there were nine individuals whom the Home Office cited as being subject to a control order who were in receipt of Department for Work and Pensions administered benefits. Seven individuals were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance only; one was in receipt of incapacity benefit and income support; and one was in receipt of incapacity benefit, income support and disability living allowance.

The requested information on expenditure is not available other than at disproportionate cost.

Social Security Benefits: Dual Nationality

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account his Department took of the situation of UK citizens with dual nationality when it decided to require a passport as proof of identity for the purpose of access to services it provides. [256654]

Mr. McNulty: The Department for Work and Pensions follows a robust process to verify an individual's identity prior to providing access to benefits.

The Department accepts passports, including those passports held by citizens with dual nationalities, as well as birth certificates and a range of other supporting identity documentary evidence when assuring a person's identity.

Social Security Benefits: Inverness Nairn Badenoch and Strathspey

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of each type of benefit there were in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency in each of the last 60 months. [251475]

Mr. McNulty: Constituency information is not available prior to 2005. The available information is in the following table.

Working age and pensioner client groups, by statistical group in the Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency, as at May each year

	2005	2006	2007	2008
All	25,590	25,720	25,940	26,300
Jobseekers	990	980	760	730
Incapacity benefits	4,320	4,320	4,330	4,110
Lone parent	890	870	800	770
Carers	900	1,000	1,030	1,040
Other income related benefits	3,680	3,790	3,770	3,750

Working age and pensioner client groups, by statistical group in the Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency, as at May each year

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Disabled	2,790	2,880	2,940	3,140
Bereaved	330	290	250	230
State pension only	11,690	11,670	12,050	12,550

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Figures for attendance allowance, carers allowance, and disability living allowance include those cases with entitlement but where payment is currently suspended (for example because of an extended stay in hospital or being in receipt of an overlapping benefit).
4. Statistical group is a hierarchical variable. A person who fits into more than one category will only appear in the top-most one for which they are eligible:
Jobseeker: claimant on jobseekers allowance;
Incapacity benefits: claimant on incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance;
Lone parent: claimant on income support with child under 16 and no partner;
Carer: claimant entitled to carer's allowance;
Other income related benefit: claimant on income support or pension credit; disabled: claimant on attendance allowance or disability living allowance, anyone of working age in this group will be claiming DLA only, and is likely to be in work;
Bereaved: claimant on bereavement benefit or widow's benefit;
State pension only: claimant in receipt of state pension only.
For example a claimant of disability living allowance and jobseekers allowance would appear in "job seeker", not in "disabled".
5. Jobseeker's allowance data have been revised following improvements to the methodology for compiling Department for Work and Pensions jobseeker's allowance statistics. To ensure consistency overtime the improved methodology was applied to historical data. The preferred source of data for jobseeker's allowance claimants is the Office for National Statistics' claimant count. However, in this case, the Department for Work and Pensions Work and Pensions Longitudinal Survey has been used for consistency with the other benefit statistics.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which medical examination centres in London are contracted by his Department to carry out medical assessments in relation to claims for benefits; which such centres have parking spaces for disabled people; and what requirements his Department makes in respect of the accessibility of such centres to people with disabilities. [255459]

Jonathan Shaw: There are seven medical examination centres in the London area. These are Balham, Highgate, Croydon, Marylebone, Romford, Ealing and Wimbledon. None of these buildings have any car parking facilities. Under the terms of the Medical Services Contract, Atos Healthcare is required to comply with all appropriate legislation in delivering medical services which includes the Disability Discrimination Act. Where a customer's disability would give rise to difficulties in accessing an examination centre, Medical Services are required to make alternative arrangements for the examination to take place.

Social Security Benefits: Offenders

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many written warnings have been issued to benefit claimants in *(a)* pilot and *(b)* other areas on sanctions in relation to refusal to engage in a rehabilitation programme in respect of anti-social behaviour or criminal behaviour under the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 as amended by the Welform Reform Act 2007 in each month since November 2007; in how many cases benefit sanctions have been applied; what assessment he has made of progress in the pilot areas against the objectives of the pilot scheme; and if he will make a statement. [254031]

Mr. McNulty: Although the pilots for the sanction in housing benefit related to anti-social behaviour have been running since 1 November 2007, none of the eight local authorities has issued a written warning under section 130B of the Contributions and Benefits Act.

The courts for the pilot areas have notified the department of only five repossessions on the grounds of anti social behaviour. There are no data for other areas. Research conducted so far has concluded that, although the sanction has been publicised and used in routine warning letters to tenants engaged in anti-social behaviour, the general view is that the impact of a warning of a sanction at an early stage is limited and the threat of eviction is taken more seriously. However, the pilots have 10 more months to run and we will continue to research the deterrent effect of the sanction and the impact of any sanctions administered during that period.

Social Security Benefits: Overpayments

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many overpayments of each type of benefit were made to claimants in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* the UK in the last 12 months. [257207]

Kitty Ussher: The information is not available for claimants in Eastbourne. Information in relation to how many overpayments of each type of benefit in the UK is in the following table. The information is not available in the format that covers the last 12 months, but is broken down for the year April 2007 to March 2008, and then from April to December 2008 inclusive.

The data include all identified overpayments, including those classified as fraud, customer error and official error.

Volumes of overpayments by benefit

	2007-08	2008 April to December
Attendance Allowance	127,894	97,829
Bereavement Allowance	480	309
Carers Allowance	25,865	14,126
Constant Attendance Allowance	26	11
Disability Living Allowance	53,427	42,107
Employment and Support Allowance	0	7
Incapacity benefit	81,200	47,498
Industrial Death benefit	280	205
Industrial Injuries benefit	137	64
Industrial Injuries Disablement benefit	4,982	3,152
Income Support	402,834	225,232
Invalidity Benefit	76	19
Job Seekers Allowance	181,974	80,649

Volumes of overpayments by benefit

	2007-08	2008 April to December
Maternity Allowance	646	681
Pension Credit	136,031	112,466
Retirement Allowance	53	72
Reduced Earnings allowance	109	173
State Pension	229,608	168,596
Severe Disablement Allowance	1,454	1,058
Winter Fuel payments	403	1,205
Widowed Mothers allowance	427	195
Widows pension	715	516
Widowed parents allowance	1,127	895
Christmas Bonus	6,178	3,746
Others	424	18
Total	1,256,350	[1]800,829

[1] Data for April to December 2008 do not include small overpayments that are not deemed cost effective to pursue. These were recorded separately during this period and cannot be broken down by benefit. They totalled 267,632 for this period.

Note:
Data for April to December 2008 are indicative only.

Social Security Benefits: Overseas Residence

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to which allowances and benefits UK citizens living in other EU member states and Switzerland may be entitled; and when the Government plans to implement the decisions of the European Court of Justice on the matter. [255298]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* People who move from the UK to live in other EU member states and Switzerland may continue to receive certain UK social security benefits. For example they continue to be paid some UK contributory benefits such as state pension or bereavement benefit.

UK citizens who live in other states may be able to claim benefits from their state of residence. The exact nature of the benefits they can receive depends on where they have worked, what benefits they receive from the UK, whether they meet the relevant entitlement conditions and how the benefits are covered under the European social security coordination rules. These rules cover benefits for old age, survivors, invalidity, unemployment, industrial injury and prescribed diseases, sickness, maternity, and family.

The UK does not hold detailed information on the benefits systems of other states.

We expect to set out entitlement conditions for those wishing to claim the UK disability benefits from abroad shortly. The Directgov website will be updated at that time:

www.directgov.gov.uk.

Social Security Benefits: Postal Services

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent discussions he had held with Royal Mail on redirecting benefit-related communications sent by his Department; and if he will make a statement; [253490]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness in reducing benefit fraud and error of the agreement with Royal Mail to redirect benefit-related communication sent to customers by his Department. [253491]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* The Secretary of State has not held any recent discussions with Royal Mail regarding redirection of benefit-related mail by his Department.

The Department has not made any recent assessments of the effectiveness of the agreement between Royal Mail and the Department to redirect benefit-related communications.

However, responses from a recent local authority survey and discussions with local authorities' representatives suggest that it acts as an effective deterrent against fraud.

The Do Not Redirect agreement between Royal Mail and DWP is an anti-fraud measure that applies specifically to local authorities' housing benefit and council tax benefit correspondence.

I would also like correct previous answers given regarding this matter—16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1376W and 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 698W, do not make clear that the agreement with Royal Mail relates to local authority housing benefit and council tax benefit only. It does not apply to any of the benefits administered by the DWP. I apologise to my hon. Friend for this error.

Social Security Benefits: Proof of Identity

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons his Department has decided to require the production of a passport as proof of identity for the purpose of access to the services it provides; and what consideration was given to continuing to accept a birth certificate as proof of identity. [256666]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* The Department for Work and Pensions follows a robust process to verify an individual's identity prior to providing access to benefits.

The Department accepts passports, including those passports held by citizens with dual nationalities, as well as birth certificates and a range of other supporting identity documentary evidence when assuring a person's identity.

Social Security Benefits: Reform

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of drug users who would be liable to be required to *(a)* answer questions, *(b)* undertake substance-related assessment, *(c)* undertake relevant tasks and *(d)* undertake rehabilitation plans under the provisions of Schedule 1(a) of the Welfare Reform Bill during the first full year following its entry into force. [256245]

Mr. McNulty: We expect approximately 15 to 20 per cent. of new problem drug user claimants to flow through the pilots. This equates to 2,500-3,500 problem drug users each year. It is anticipated that a significant number of this group will participate in the key components of the new employment and support programme.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of basic state pension claim forms were processed within 60 days of receipt in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 to date. [257099]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The answer is in the following table:

State pension clearance times

Target	*2007-08*	*Percentage January YTD[1] 2008-09*
Clear 95 per cent. of non-complex state pension claims within 60 days	93.11	
Clear 91 per cent. of complex state pension claims within 85 days[2]	90.10	
Clear at least 95 per cent. of new claims to state pension within 60 days[3]		94.71

[1] YTD - Year To Date.
[2] Complex claims are claims to state pension from customers who have been widowed or divorced and the spouse's national insurance contributions are taken into consideration.
[3] Target changed in 2008-09.
Sources:
Pension Service Legacy System (The 2008-09 figure should be considered to be indicative at this stage) and The Pension Service Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08.

Train to Gain Programme

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the written ministerial statement of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2-4WS, on support for jobseekers, whether companies which had *(a)* made redundancies and *(b)* dismissed employees by the date of the Statement are eligible for (i) the funding and (ii) the recruitment subsidy. [254225]

Mr. McNulty: The Government's intention is that the recruitment subsidy should not be available to companies which have dismissed or made redundant employees. We are currently in discussions with key stakeholders, including employers and unions about the details of the recruitment subsidy scheme and how it will operate.

All businesses in England which qualify for the recruitment subsidy will be able to access the Train to Gain funding.

Unemployed: Drugs

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what programmes his Department has to assist problem drug users to obtain jobs. [252131]

Mr. McNulty: Problem drug users on jobseekers allowance and incapacity benefit/employment and support allowance have access to mainstream employment programmes through the New Deals and Pathways to Work. In addition, recovering drug users have voluntary access to the Department's progress2work programme which supports around 12,500 people each year.

The Welfare Reform Bill includes provisions to introduce a new regime for problem drug users. This includes a new mandatory programme which will support problem drug users to make progress in addressing their drug use and any other barriers to work that they face.

Unemployment

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in the UK were unemployed in accordance with the International Labour Organization definition of unemployment in each year since 1997. [255738]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in the UK were unemployed in accordance with the International Labour Organisation definition of unemployment in each year since 1997. (255738)

The information requested is provided in the attached table. The estimates are consistent with those published in Table 1 of the Labour Market Statistics First Release Historical Supplement, which is available on the National Statistics website via the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/OnlineProducts/LMS_FR_HS.asp

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Unemployed people aged 16 and over, three month period ending December, 1997 to 2008, United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted

	Total[1] Thousand
1997	1,865
1998	1,765
1999	1,684
2000	1,519
2001	1,519
2002	1,514
2003	1,457
2004	1,423
2005	1,566
2006	1,698
2007	1,602
2008	1,971

Note:
It should be noted that the aforementioned estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Unemployment Benefits

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people aged *(a)* under 60 and *(b)* 60 and over who are out of work and seeking work and who have not signed on because they are not entitled to receive contribution- or income-based jobseeker's allowance owing to their receipt of an occupational pension or other income. [249391]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available.

Vocational Training

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether an applicant's age is taken into consideration in determining eligibility for re-training programmes funded by his Department; and if he will make a statement; [254288]

(2) whether eligibility for (*a*) the Rapid Response Service and (*b*) any other re-training courses for the unemployed funded by his Department are determined wholly or partially by reference to the postcode area of the applicant; and if he will make a statement; [254289]

(3) what criteria have to be met for an unemployed person who does not qualify for the Rapid Response Scheme to be eligible for a Government-funded re-training course; and if he will make a statement. [254290]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 4 February 2009]*: Work-focused training is available to everyone who participates in the New Deal regardless of age or post code.

Jobseeker's allowance customers aged 18 to 24 are currently required to participate in the New Deal for Young People when they have been continuously claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months. jobseeker's allowance customers aged 25 or over are currently required to participate in the New Deal 25 Plus when they have been continuously claiming jobseeker's allowance for 18 months, or have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for 18 out of the previous 21 months if there has been a break in their claim.

Voluntary New Deal programmes are available to customers across benefit groups. Access to New Deal 50 Plus is restricted to benefit recipients aged 50 or over. The New Deal for Lone Parents, New Deal for Partners and New Deal for Disabled People each have their own specific qualifying criteria in order to target particular customer groups.

The work-based training courses currently available via the New Deal are decided by each Jobcentre Plus district to meet the needs of local labour markets and so provision will vary throughout Great Britain.

The introduction of the Flexible New Deal later this year will establish a new, unified approach for all jobseekers, whatever their age, skills or barriers to work. The Flexible New Deal will deliver work-focused support, tailored to each individual's needs and local labour market requirements.

Jobcentre Plus offers the Rapid Response Service to all employers who notify more than 20 redundancies and can also offer its support to employers who make fewer than 20 redundancies. The service is not limited to specific postcode areas.

An unemployed person's eligibility for re-training courses is not determined by postcode area. However, there is some specific provision that is targeted at deprived areas. The Working Neighbourhoods Fund, for example, tackles worklessness in specific deprived areas in England. The City Strategy Pathfinders align a range of funding, including the Working Neighbourhoods Fund and the Disadvantaged Areas Fund, to tackle worklessness and social exclusion in some of the country's most disadvantaged locations.

Vocational Training: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what courses were offered to jobseeker's allowance claimants in Vale of York constituency in the last 12 months; how many people completed each course; and what the cost to the public purse of each completed course was per person. [254219]

Mr. McNulty: The specific information requested is not available separately for the Vale of York.

Depending on their needs, customers in the Vale of York are able to access the range of provision that is available across the North Yorkshire district.

Winter Fuel Payments

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the amount of winter fuel allowance overpaid in each of the last three years; and how much of the sum overpaid has subsequently been repaid. [244908]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Winter fuel payments are made based on a customer's personal circumstances in the qualifying week.

Any overpayment of winter fuel payment is recoverable if it arose in consequence of a misrepresentation of, or failure to disclose a material fact.

Recoverable winter fuel overpayments[1]

£

	Value of winter fuel recoverable overpayments in year	*Total value of recoveries in year*
2005-06	11,800	12,018
2006-07	98,782	36,277
2007-08	764,271	202,894

Non recoverable winter fuel overpayments[1]

£

	Value of winter fuel non recoverable overpayments in year	*Total value of recoveries in year*
2005-06	12,725	None
2006-07	7,900	None
2007-08	122,585	None

[1] Actual amounts.

Notes:

1. In year recoveries are amounts received against the total debt stock each year and therefore may exceed the amount of payments recorded in any one year.
2. Of £764,271 winter fuel recoverable overpayments recorded in 2007-08 a total of £403,568 related to overpayments from October 2005 to March 2008.
3. Calculation and recovery action was pursued on all cases in accordance with the Overpayments Recovery Guide. Recoveries of £403,568 for the period October 2005 to March 2007 were recorded on an interim Overpayment Recovery System. These were then migrated and brought to account on the Debt Manager system in December 2007 and appear in the figure for 2007-08.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people (*a*) were eligible for and (*b*) received cold weather payments in the week commencing 5 January 2009. [249425]

Kitty Ussher: A weather station is said to 'trigger' when the average temperature has been recorded as, or is forecast to be, 0°C or below over seven consecutive days. An eligible customer receives a cold weather payment when the weather station to which the customer's postcode is linked triggers. The number of customers who were entitled to cold weather payments because of triggers notified in the week commencing 5 January 2009 is estimated to be 2.4 million.

Some customers received two payments based on triggers notified in the week commencing 5 January 2009. This happened if the weather station to which the customer's postcode is linked triggered once for a 'recorded' period of seven consecutive days and once for a 'forecast' period of seven consecutive days.

Information oh the number of customers who received payments in that week is not available.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on cold weather payments in respect of the period of cold weather since 25 December 2008, broken down by weather station area. [249441]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Estimated cold weather payment expenditure in respect of the period of the cold weather from 25 December 2008 to 13 January 2009 by weather station in Great Britain

Weather station	*Admin area*	*Estimated expenditure (£)*
Aberporth	Ceredigion	117,500
Albemarle	Northumberland	3,652,500
Andrewsfield	Essex	3,410,000
Aultbea	Highland	0
Aviemore	Highland	40,000
Bedford	Bedfordshire	4,205,000
Bingley	West Yorkshire	8,045,000
Bishopton	Renfrewshire	5,132,500
Boscombe Down	Wiltshire	650,000
Boulmer	Northumberland	0
Braemar	Aberdeenshire	80,000
Brize Norton	Oxfordshire	1,295,000
Cardinham (Bodmin)	Cornwall	335,000
Carlisle	Cumbria	372,500
Cassley	Highland	10,000
Charlwood	West Sussex	2,150,000
Charterhall	Scottish Borders	0
Chivenor	Devon	245,000
Coleshill	Warwickshire	15,515,000
Crosby	Merseyside	6,792,500
Culdrose	Cornwall	0
Dundrennan	Dumfries and Galloway	132,500
Dunkeswell Aerodrome	Devon	2,040,000
Dyce (Aberdeen airport)	Aberdeen	0
Edinburgh Gogarbank	Edinburgh	0
Eskdalemuir	Dumfries and Galloway	320,000
Filton	South Gloucestershire	2,940,000
Heathrow	Greater London	14,585,000
Hereford-Credenhill	Herefordshire	2,660,000
Herstmonceux West End	East Sussex	662,500
High Wycombe	Buckinghamshire	1,060,000
Hurn (Bournemouth Airport)	Dorset	1,900,000
Isle of Portland	Dorset	0
Kinloss	Moray	745,000
Kirkwall	Orkney	0
Lake Vyrnwy	Powys	300,000
Leconfield	East Riding of Yorkshire	0
Lerwick	Shetland	0
Leuchars	Fife	1,065,000
Linton on Ouse	North Yorkshire	3,472,500
Liscombe	Somerset	385,000
Loch Glascarnoch	Highland	40,000
Loftus	Redcar and Cleveland	0
Lusa	Highland	17,500
Lyneham	Wiltshire	1,840,000
Machrihanish	Argyll and Bute	0
Manston	Kent	2,727,500
Marham	Norfolk	642,500
Norwich Airport	Norfolk	1,260,000
Nottingham	Nottinghamshire	6,315,000
Pembrey Sands	Carmarthenshire	1,397,500
Plymouth	Plymouth	0
Redesdale	Northumberland	155,000
Rhyl	Denbighshire	835,000
St. Athan	Vale of Glamorgan	1,457,500
St. Catherine's Point	Isle of Wight	0
Salsburgh	North Lanarkshire	377,500
Scilly St. Mary	Isles of Scilly	0
Sennybridge	Powys	3,375,000
Shap	Cumbria	245,000
Shawbury	Shropshire	3,235,000
South Farnborough	Hampshire	3,020,000
Stornoway Airport	Western Isles	0
Thorney Island	West Sussex	2,825,000
Tiree	Argyll and Bute	0
Trawsgoed	Ceredigion	170,000
Tulloch Bridge	Highland	110,000
Valley	Anglesey	0
Waddington	Lincolnshire	2,250,000
Walney Island	Cumbria	0
Wattisham	Suffolk	2,730,000
West Freugh	Dumfries and Galloway	0
Wick Airport	Highland	0
Wittering	Peterborough	1,410,000
Woodford	Greater Manchester	10,430,000
Yeovilton	Somerset	1,370,000
Great Britain		132,550,000

Notes:
1. The admin area gives the location of each weather station, not the area which is linked to the weather station. For example, Heathrow weather station covers almost all of Greater London, but not all of it, and some areas outside Greater London are linked to Heathrow weather station.
2. The estimates of expenditure are the most recently available, but they are only estimates.
3. The estimates of expenditure have been rounded to the nearest £2,500 (as they are based on estimates of the number of eligible benefit units rounded to the nearest 100 and the payment per week of cold weather is £25).

Sources:
1. Admin areas for weather stations: the Met Office, October 2008.
2. Estimated expenditure: analysis of a scan of benefit recipients eligible for cold weather payments taken at the end of October 2008 and departmental records of triggers.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioner households will receive the extra £60 winter fuel allowance payment in *(a)* January, *(b)* February and *(c)* March 2009; and whether these households will be informed when they can expect to receive the payment. [253625]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is no extra £60 winter fuel allowance payment. However, there is an additional £60 payment to the Christmas bonus.

Around 12.5 million Christmas bonus recipients are pensioners. It is not possible to determine from the system generated payments the precise number of pensioners who have been paid the additional Christmas bonus as eligibility for the payment is not based on age. However out of the 12.2 million payments issued by 9 February we estimate that over 90 per cent. were to people of pension age.

The remaining pensioners, paid by a different computer system, are due to receive their payments by the end of February with exceptionally some clerical payments after 15 March 2009.

The table sets out the payment schedule for the additional £60 for all entitled customers including pensioners.

Actual and forecasted volumes for additional £60 payment

	Volume payments to be made	*Percentage of forecasted total*
1 January 2009 to 15 January 2009	12,175,120	81.94
16 January 2009 to 31 January 2009	41,630	0.28
1 February 2009 to 15 February 2009	49,390	0.33
16 February 2009 to 28 February 2009	1,302,100	8.76
1 March 2009 to 15 March 2009	1,289,700	8.69
16 March 2009 to 31 March 2009	[1]0	0

[1] Exceptionally some payments may be issued clerically after 15 March 2009

Notes:
1. All payment figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. As of 9 February 2009 DWP have issued 12,231,904 payments.
3. The total volume of payments forecast to be made is 14,857,929.

Source:
Special Payment Programme weekly review document 11 February 2009.

A series of newspaper advertisements were published in the week of 5 January to alert all recipients of the Christmas bonus to the additional £60 payments and to explain that payments would be made between January and March 2009.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioner households in each constituency are entitled to receive the extra £60 winter fuel allowance payment. [253626]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The extra £60 is an increase in the Christmas bonus payment not the winter fuel payment. It is not possible to provide the number of pensioner households in receipt of the Christmas bonus as the Christmas bonus is paid according to an individual's eligibility.

However, I have placed in the Library information on the approximate number of individual pensioners in each constituency eligible to receive the extra £60 Christmas bonus payment.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints his Department has received regarding incorrect winter fuel payments in each of the last five years. [255976]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In winter 2008-09 we made over 12 million winter fuel payments to over 8.5 million households. The answer is in the following table.

Complaints regarding incorrect winter fuel payments for the past five years

	Number
2004	330
2005	613
2006	527
2007	415
2008	464
Total	2,349

Source:
CDC Respond

Winter Fuel Payments: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people entitled to a winter fuel payment in Greater London are yet to receive their payment from the last round of applications. [254805]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not available.

Of the 12 million winter fuel payments, the vast majority, over 95 per cent. are made automatically before Christmas based on information already held in DWP records. In these cases individuals do not need to make an application.

However there are a small group of people who may qualify for winter fuel payments who need to make an application. This is usually because they are not in receipt of a state pension or other benefit administered by the DWP. Applications for this year must be received by March 2009. Payments are made in stages between November 2008 and May 2009 depending on when the application and supporting information is received.

In winter 2006-07, the last year for which figures are available, 1,082,070 people in the London Government Office region received a winter fuel payment.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government is taking to protect the Jewish community from anti-Semitic attacks; and if she will make a statement. [256730]

Mr. Khan: Following the dramatic rise in anti-Semitic attacks recorded since the onset of the conflict in Gaza, the Secretary of State and I met with representatives

from Jewish organisations to provide reassurance that we are taking the action necessary to tackle the recent upsurge in anti-Semitism. The Government will continue to engage with relevant agencies including the Community Security Trust to ensure that the Jewish community is fully protected from the scourge of anti-Semitism.

The 'All-Party Inquiry into Antisemitism: Government Response One year on Progress Report' published in May 2008 set out the Government's current programme of work to combat anti-Semitism. On 11 February, I attended a ministerial seminar hosted by my hon. Friend the Minister for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism to discuss the Government's strategy towards tackling anti-Semitism on the internet. This was one of the key commitments set out in the progress report.

The UK is also taking an international lead in tackling anti-Semitism and hosted a landmark conference in February which brought together MPs and experts from across the globe to tackle anti-Semitism.

Bellwin Scheme

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was claimed under the Bellwin scheme following the summer floods of 2007; and how much has been paid out to local authorities. [257331]

John Healey: Local authorities claimed a total of £24,074,196 under the Bellwin scheme for the 2007 summer floods. £5,278,917 was excluded as it was not eligible expenditure under the scheme. A total of £18,795,279 was therefore paid out under the Bellwin scheme by the Department.

Community Relations

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government has taken to improve community relations between diverse populations. [257705]

Mr. Khan: In 2007 we announced a renewed commitment to community cohesion with a £50 million investment over three years and a new public service agreement to build cohesive, active and empowered communities. We continue to support local authorities in delivering improvements in cohesion by providing a framework of guidance and targeted local support.

In addition in July 2008 we published the Inter Faith framework which aims to facilitate inter faith dialogue, thus building understanding and celebrating the values held in common by the different faith communities, such as integrity in public life, care, compassion and respect. The framework, which is supported by a funding commitment of over £7.5 million, is also intended to increase the level of collaborative social action involving different faith communities and wider civil society, so that people work together to bring about positive and concrete change within their local communities. Finally, it aims to maintain and further develop good relations between faith communities and wider civil society.

This work will also make a positive contribution to work we are undertaking to deliver the Meaningful Interaction strand of PSA21 (Cohesive Engaged Empowered Communities) which aim to encourage meaningful interaction between people from different backgrounds.

Council Housing: Hampshire

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people are on local authority housing waiting lists in *(a)* Winchester and *(b)* Hampshire; and what the equivalent figures were (i) five and (ii) 10 years ago. [257788]

Mr. Khan: Information is available on numbers of households rather than people. The number of households registered on local authority housing waiting lists in each local authority, as at 1 April each year, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600. The latest available data are at April 2008. The link for this table is given below:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table600.xls

Local authorities in England report the numbers of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. The number of households on local authorities' waiting lists in Hampshire is provided in the following table. This includes numbers for each local authority in Hampshire, including Winchester.

Number of households on the waiting list (excludes households looking for transfers)

	April 1998	*April 2003*	*April 2008*
Basingstoke and Deane	3,584	4,497	5,633
East Hampshire	2,109	2,238	2,153
Eastleigh	1,169	3,424	5,604
Fareham	669	1,625	1,717
Gosport	1,047	1,412	3,076
Hart	739	970	1,882
Havant	2,220	2,349	4,232
New Forest	1,455	2,428	5,228
Rushmoor	1,290	2,189	3,102
Test Valley	1,768	2,189	3,048
Winchester	1,094	1,237	2,230
Hampshire (administrative)	17,144	24,558	37,905
Portsmouth UA	4,264	5,525	4,562
Southampton UA	3,902	6,697	11,662

Note:
The cities of Southampton and Portsmouth are not included in the administrative Hampshire total.

Source:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA).

Further information on the number of households on the local authority housing waiting lists for England, can be found in the statistical release "Local Authority Housing Statistics England: 2007-08: Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) and Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA)". This was published on 22 January 2009 on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/lahousing200708

Copies of the statistical release and live table have been deposited in the Library.

Departmental Contracts

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1137-40W, on departmental contracts, what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* project topic is of each consultancy contract in the table provided in the answer. [252798]

Mr. Khan: A revised table showing *(a)* purpose and *(b)* project topic, has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will publish a copy of her Department's website accessibility plan. [257236]

Mr. Khan: The Department publishes its commitments on the accessibility of its websites at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/help/accessibility/

This has been updated in line with recent Cabinet Office guidelines on accessible and inclusive websites.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many expert advisers, excluding special advisers, have been commissioned by her Department since June 2007; and on which topics they have advised. [254742]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 239W.

Departmental Overseas Visits

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1392W, on departmental overseas visits, how many of the overseas visits were made in order to attend foreign conferences; and what conferences were attended. [252792]

Mr. Khan: Records on overseas visits held in Communities and Local Government (CLG) do not identify separately the number of overseas visits made to attend foreign conferences or information on what conferences were attended. This information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All ministerial travel and travel by CLG staff is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code" and the "Ministerial Code".

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has allocated for staff bonuses in 2008-09. [252251]

Mr. Khan: There are three ways in which staff in this Department might be entitled to a non-consolidated award in the financial year 2008-09.

The Government have accepted a recommendation by the Senior Salaries Review Body that for senior civil servants over the period 2008-11 there should be an indicative envelope, of 7 per cent. of paybill per head, available for normal base pay increases and increasing the non-consolidated performance pot. Under these arrangements, the Department has made non-consolidated payments in 2008-09 to 111 staff at a total cost of £856,392.

The pay settlement for staff below the senior civil service for 2008-09 has yet to be determined and so we cannot provide information in relation to the cost of non-consolidated payments at this time.

All non-consolidated payments above are funded within existing pay bill controls, have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs.

In Communities and Local Government, non-consolidated payments are made to those members of staff who are found to have made a significant contribution towards the achievement of the teams, and/or Department's objectives. Individuals are expected to show that they have exceeded the requirements set for the achievement of the objective and have demonstrated exemplary behaviour in doing so.

Our senior civil service staff members are also assessed against a range of factors, such as:

- The achievement of their Prime Objective which focuses on the way in which they lead, manage and develop their staff;
- Degree to which business objectives are met;
- Delivery for Ministers;
- Demonstration of skills such as judgment, leadership and the PSG skills;
- Effective resource management.

The Department also operates a scheme for all staff below the senior civil service under which individuals or teams may receive a small non-consolidated award in recognition of an outstanding contribution over a limited period. A formal allocation of funding is not made for this scheme but a limit of 0.2 per cent. of the paybill is placed on expenditure under these arrangements. The maximum payment under these arrangements is £600 but records are not available to show the number of payments made under this scheme in 2008-09.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to her Department of conducting comprehensive performance assessments has been each year since the assessments were introduced. [255592]

John Healey: The cost of the Audit Commission's work on comprehensive performance assessment (CPA) was covered by income from fees paid by local authorities, along with grant to the Audit Commission from the Department. The cost to local authorities of Audit Commission fees was offset by the revenue support grant paid to them by the Department.

I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member directly with an estimate of the costs of conducting CPA since its introduction in 2002.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 23 February 2009:

Parliamentary Question: what the cost to the Department for Communities and Local Government of conducting comprehensive performance assessments has been each year since the assessments were introduced

I have been asked to follow up your Parliamentary Question on what the cost to the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) of conducting comprehensive performance assessments has been each year since the assessments were introduced, with some further information.

For local authorities, the Audit Commission's work on comprehensive performance assessment (CPA) has been funded by a mixture of direct grant from CLG and fees charged to the local authorities being assessed. For fire and rescue authorities, CPA work is wholly funded by CLG grant. I attach two schedules providing the details of this funding since the respective frameworks started.

I trust this information is helpful.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Funding for CPA of local authorities

	CLG grant	*Inspection fees*	*£ million Total*
2002-03	21.7	18.7	40.4
2003-04	21.7	15.5	37.2
2004-05	20.0	14.7	34.7
2005-06	18.4	8.0	26.4
2006-07	17.8	10.8	28.6
2007-08	18.2	11.7	29.9

Funding for CPA of fire and rescue authorities

	CLG grant (£ million)
2003-04	0.4
2004-05	2.8
2005-06	1.4
2006-07	1.5
2007-08	1.9

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have been employed to work on comprehensive performance assessments in each year since the assessments were introduced. [255593]

John Healey: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 23 February 2009:

Your Parliamentary Question on how many people have been employed to work on comprehensive performance assessments in each year since the assessments were introduced has been passed to me to reply.

I attach two schedules (one for local authorities and one for fire and rescue authorities) setting out the number of inspections and associated inspector days in connection with Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) undertaken by Audit Commission staff in each year since 2002/03. The schedules also show the number of full-time equivalent inspectors represented by the volume of inspection work in each year.

In addition, the CPA ratings for local authorities draw on the work of external auditors appointed by the Audit Commission. This use of resources assessment forms part of the external audit programme and the days spent on this element are not collected separately.

I trust this information is helpful.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Comprehensive Performance Assessments – local authorities

Inspection year	*Single tier and county councils*		*District Councils*		*Total*		*FTE staff*
	Inspections	*Days*	*Inspections*	*Days*	*Inspections*	*Days*	
2002/03	424	20,371	217	8,803	641	29,174	172
2003/04	417	10,746	264	21,622	681	32,368	190
2004/05	351	9,669	427	10,615	778	20,284	119
2005/06	222	7,103	358	6,539	580	13,642	80
2006/07	225	9,430	335	6,575	560	16,005	94
2007/08	242	10,147	333	7,417	575	17,564	103
2008/09	199	5,717	305	4,341	504	10,058	59

Comprehensive Performance Assessments – fire and rescue authorities

Inspection year	*Fire and rescue authorities*		*FTE staff*
	Inspections	*Days*	
2004/05	31	2,170	13
2005/06	16	1,120	7
2006/07	47	564	3
2007/08	46	552	3
2008/09	54	1,296	8

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many language translators are employed in each of her Department's executive agencies; and what the cost of translating services provided by such people was in the latest period for which information is available. [257155]

Mr. Khan: The Fire Service College engaged three part-time translators to work with staff delivering courses to Saudi Arabian students (during various periods between 5 January 2009 and 27 March 2009). Full costs have been recovered from the sales revenue.

The Planning Inspectorate procures translation services, and spend was £59,215 in 2007-08.

As a trading fund, the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre would buy in and recharge if translation services were requested by its clients.

Some Ordnance Survey staff have second language skills which are used when expedient. Ordnance Survey contracts a commercial agency to provide the bulk of

its language translation needs. In the twelve months to 31 January 2009, Ordnance Survey spent £20,055 on external language translations; predominantly in the translation of documentation and web-based information into Welsh in support of its commitment to the Welsh Language Act 1993.

Design for Manufacture Programme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were constructed for approximately £60,000 under the Design for Manufacture programme. [252746]

Margaret Beckett: The Design for Manufacture (DFM) competition was launched in April 2005 and was run by English Partnerships until the end of last year. English Partnerships was replaced in December 2008 by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), operating on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government. The competition was the Government's challenge to the house building industry to build high-quality, well-designed homes for £60,000. The figure of £60,000 relates to a target construction cost for building a two-bedroom home and does not reflect the development cost or sale price.

The competition is expected to deliver more than 1,100 high-quality, well-designed, sustainable homes. Of these, developers were asked to build around 30 per cent. for the target construction cost of £60,000 or less. However, the other 70 per cent. were expected to be larger and smaller homes built at an equivalent cost-efficiency.

Construction of all of the homes being built through the DFM competition is still under way, so it is not possible to predict how many homes will be completed for the target cost. However, the HCA last year commissioned a professional firm of chartered surveyors and cost consultants to analyse cost data received from the various developers building the homes.

It is not practical at this stage to compare the sites in this study and draw any firm conclusions, as the property designs and types are so varied. Also, the sites are located in different areas in the country and each site has reported different obstacles to overcome. However, early indications from this study show that out of a sample of 135 units surveyed and completed at the time of the study, and with appropriate cost adjustments to reflect price inflation since the competition was launched in April 2005, 79 were built for close to or less than £60,000.

Durham County Council: Pay

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many employees of Durham County Council have salaries in the range (*a*) £80,000 to £89,999, (*b*) £90,000 to £99,999, (*c*) £100,000 to £149,999, (*d*) £150,000 to £199,999 and (*e*) £200,000 and above. [255310]

John Healey: The information requested is not held centrally.

Eco-Towns

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the costs incurred by local authorities which have a proposed eco-town site in their area arising from the eco-town initiative to date. [255668]

Margaret Beckett: We are working closely with local authorities and have encouraged promoters of eco-towns to engage locally with authorities and key stakeholders. It is not possible for this Department to estimate the total costs incurred by individual local authorities with an eco-town proposal in their area, some of which is planning and assessment work which would be needed in any event. As part of the assessment process we have agreed to contribute to local authority costs in supporting this process, and so far £820,000 has been allocated to provide support to local authorities and agencies to undertake work in support of the eco-towns assessment process, including funding for impact reports.

Eco-Towns: Consultants

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultancy advice (*a*) the Town and Country Planning Association, (*b*) Mr. Jim Duggan and (*c*) Mr. David Locke are providing to her Department on eco-towns; and at what cost in each case. [255250]

Margaret Beckett: As set out in the written ministerial statement given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper) on 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 128WS, we asked the Town & Country Planning Association (TCPA) with Professor David Lock, then Chair of the TCPA, to provide further advice on the practical application of the key sustainability and development criteria for eco-towns. More recently the TCPA has continued to advise my Department through developing best practice guidance on the laying out and planning of eco-towns and similar development, and co-ordinating the input of experts to this. This is generic guidance which is publicly available and at no time have TCPA been involved in advising us or assessing any individual eco-town projects.

To manage any potential conflicts of interest with Professor Lock's role as a planning consultant and Chair of the TCPA at that time, a protocol of roles and responsibilities was drawn up and is publicly available on the TCPA's website. Professor Lock's involvement in advising this Department on eco-towns has only been through the TCPA and their work on the practical application of the key criteria for eco-towns. Professor Lock stood down as Chair of the TCPA last year, having served two terms in that role. In terms of the funding that we provide to the TCPA for this work I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 771W.

Mr. Jim Duggan has not been employed by this Department to provide advice on eco-towns.

Eco-Towns: Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has spent on its eco-towns initiative to date; under what budget headings such expenditure has been incurred; and what estimate she has made of such expenditure incurred in 2008-09. [255669]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar on 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1265W. This sets out details about spending on the eco-towns programme, and the following table provides an update on the costs related to technical consultancy and marketing. This is of course ongoing work involving private consultants, and it would not be appropriate to provide further details of the anticipated costs at this time. In terms of costs in relation to the recent judicial review, the Department's legal costs were awarded to the Secretary of State. Such costs are the subject of agreement between the parties and in the absence of this a judge will decide the amount in a detailed assessment hearing. It is therefore not possible to provide an estimate in advance of this process.

	Funding (£)
Sustainability appraisal	[1]805,000
Financial assessment	[2]20,800
Challenge panel	[3]20,000
TCPA work on practical guidance and best practice advice to local authorities and other stakeholders including running the Eco-towns Support Group, running events with stakeholders and producing workbooks	[4]225,000
	[5]205,000
Local authority/agency assessments—the Department has agreed to contribute to local authority costs in supporting the assessment process.	[6]820,000
Communications—this includes spending on market research, regional media, design work, digital media and public engagement activities.	[7]960,700

[1] Contract value—this work is not complete
[2] Contract value so far—this work is not complete
[3] The Challenge Panel members were entitled to claim the Government rate of £350 per day when working for the Panel.
[4] 2007-08
[5] Allocated funding for 2008-09
[6] Allocated funding for 2008-09
[7] Contract value so far—this work is ongoing

Note:
All figures for expenditure have been rounded to the nearest 100. However, please note that a large proportion of the overall figure represents contract value, not all of which has been realised (work is still to be completed).

Emergency Services

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many near misses were recorded by fire and rescue services in each of the last 10 years. [256987]

Mr. Khan: Available information, on the number of health and safety near misses, is set out in the following table.

Number of health and safety near misses 1998-2008

	RIDDOR[1] Dangerous occurrences	*Potential injury to persons*	*Potential damage to vehicles*	*Potential damage to operational equipment*	*Potential damage to buildings*	*Total*
1998-99	60	919	229	190	48	1,466
1999-2000	67	1,859	234	311	75	2,137
2000-01	121	1,567	330	270	112	2,380
2001-02[2]	117	1,928	319	415	71	2,846
2002-03	150	2,098	480	432	137	3,203
2003-04	72	2,628	519	596	141	3,957
2004-05	91	2,820	588	518	120	3,737
2005-06	69	2,592	603	547	188	3,900
2006-07	66	2,397	662	517	170	3,790
2007-08	52	2,426	590	568	140	3,776

[1] Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)
[2] Three fire and rescue services were unable to provide data.
[3] Three fire and rescue services were unable to provide data.

Source:
Annual returns to Communities and Local Government

Energy Performance Certificates

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make all energy performance certificates accessible to the public. [256567]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* Individual energy performance certificates are provided to prospective buyers and tenants of properties by sellers and landlords. All EPCs are lodged in a central register, and I have no current plans to provide public access to this register.

Fire Prevention: Hotels

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has considered the merits of awarding a certificate of compliance to bed and breakfast establishments which have complied with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. [258076]

Mr. Khan: Fire certificates were abolished when the raft of fire safety legislation was replaced by the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. There are no plans to reintroduce any certification regime for fire safety in England.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect on the bed and breakfast industry of variations in application of the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 between local authorities. [258078]

Mr. Khan: As no two premises are likely to be the same, a 'one size fits all' approach to fire safety is inappropriate. The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 is non-prescriptive. It is for the responsible person to assess what fire safety measures will best deliver an adequate level of protection in the light of the specific circumstances of their premises.

In carrying out their audit and enforcement responsibilities, individual fire safety officers will use their professional judgment and expertise to consider the extent to which the fire safety measures in place in a particular building deliver an adequate level of compliance with the provisions of the Order. Under the Regulators' Compliance Code local fire and rescue authorities are expected to implement the Hampton principles of better regulation when delivering these functions.

We have commissioned a qualitative evaluation into the initial impact of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 on representatives from the business community, the enforcing authorities and the fire safety industry and hope to be in a position to publish this shortly.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has made an assessment of the merits of awarding a grant to bed and breakfast establishments to assist them in complying with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. [258080]

Mr. Khan: All those with responsibility for commercial premises or other buildings to which the public have access should ensure that an adequate level of fire protection is in place to minimise the risk to life in the event of a fire. These costs will vary according the nature of individual premises and the risks associated with their use.

We do not consider it would appropriate to offer any specific segment of the business community financial assistance to comply with the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* enforcement notices were issued, *(b)* prohibition notices were issued and *(c)* prosecutions were brought by fire authorities against bed and breakfast establishments under the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in (i) England, (ii) Devon and (iii) East Devon in each year since it came into force. [258177]

Mr. Khan: The first full year for which this information is available is 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. During this period Fire and Rescue Services in England reported issuing 947 enforcement notices and 71 prohibition notices, and bringing seven prosecutions to hotels or bed breakfast premises. The information provided to the Department from Fire and Rescue Services does not require distinction between hotels and bed and breakfast premises.

Separate information on Devon and East Devon is not centrally held. The figures for the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority area are 173 enforcement notices, two prohibition notices and no prosecutions.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has considered the merits of providing free professional assistance to bed and breakfast establishments in complying with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. [258178]

Mr. Khan: We have not considered providing free professional advice on complying with the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 to businesses in any sector. We believe that those with responsibility for the premises are best placed to understand and manage the risk from fire in their premises by carrying out and implementing the findings of a fire safety risk assessment.

To help the proprietors of bed and breakfast establishments in particular comply with their duties under the order, we have recently published a free booklet 'Do you have paying guests?' which aims to offer straightforward and practical fire safety advice. This is in addition to the suite of technical fire safety risk assessment guidance documents, including one specifically for those involved in the provision of sleeping accommodation, which is available to download free from:

www.communities.gov.uk/firesafety

or to purchase in hard copy.

Where a responsible person feels unable to carry out their duties under the order they can ask or employ someone with greater knowledge, experience or expertise to help them. We believe it is right that businesses should pay for professional services where they deem it necessary or appropriate to use them.

Fire Services: Injuries

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many major injuries were sustained by firefighters in each of the last 10 years. [256988]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Number of RIDDOR[1] major injuries sustained by firefighters, England 1998-2008

	Number
1998-99	77
1999-2000	70
2000-01	67
2001-02	96
2002-03	92
2003-04	53
2004-05	92
2005-06	71
2006-07	113
2007-08	106

[1] Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations

Source:
Annual returns to Communities and Local Government

Government Office For the Regions: Public Relations

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many press, marketing or public relation officers were employed by the Government Office in each region in each year since 1997. [257484]

Mr. Khan: The Government Office Network have not employed any public relations or marketing staff but have used the services of central Departments and COI to support press announcements and public information campaigns.

A number of Government Offices have employed information officers, the specialist grade in Government dealing in press work, in the following years during the period specified.

Years in which information officers employed	*Government office*	*Staff numbers*
2005-06 and 2009	London	1
2005-09	North East	1
2002-09	North West	1
2004-09	Yorkshire and the Humber	1
2008-09	Regional Co-ordination Unit	1

Home Information Packs

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people selling their homes she estimates will be required to renew their home information pack in 2009. [255441]

Margaret Beckett: There is no requirement for sellers to renew their home information pack as long as the property remains on the market.

Homebuy Scheme: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to her Department's press release of 15 December 2008 on Homebuy, from which such budget the extra £100 million of funding from the project will come. [253895]

Margaret Beckett: In light of the strong response to the scheme from developers, the Government have pledged to make a further £100 million available for Homebuy direct (over and above the £300 million announced in September). This will allow the scheme to help up to 18,000 first-time buyers into home ownership (compared to the 10,000 announced in September). The precise sum that is spent on the scheme will depend on the level of take-up by first-time buyers. Any expenditure over and above the initial £300 million will be drawn from the National Affordable Housing Programme.

Homelessness

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the likely change in the numbers of people becoming homeless in the next 12 months; what plans her Department has put in place to cope with that change; and if she will make a statement. [258035]

Mr. Khan: We allocated over £200 million to local authorities and the voluntary sector between 2008-09 to 2010-11 to tackle homelessness effectively. The latest statutory homelessness statistics were published on 11 December 2008, and include statistics up to the July to September quarter. This showed that local authority housing homelessness acceptances fell compared to the previous quarter and year, with 14,340 during the quarter, and the number of households placed in temporary accommodation has continued to fall, for the twelfth consecutive quarter, to 72,130 by the end of September.

We also recently announced a £200 million Mortgage Rescue Scheme to help vulnerable homeowners. This scheme is available to all local authorities and will aim to help up to 6,000 of the most vulnerable households avoid the trauma of repossession over the next two years. This scheme is now operational.

Alongside this, the new Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme, which was announced in the Queens Speech, will enable households that experience a significant and temporary loss of income as a result of the economic downtown to defer a proportion of interest payments on their mortgage for up to two years. The Government will guarantee a proportion of the deferred interest payments in case the borrower defaults.

Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the funds allocated to local authorities under the local authority business growth incentive scheme will be ring-fenced for the provision of assistance to local businesses. [255584]

John Healey: No.

Local Government Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much local authority expenditure was provided by (*a*) central government, (*b*) council tax revenues and (*c*) special grants for each local authority in each of the last 12 years, broken down by region with authorities ranked in order of total expenditure. [257336]

John Healey: I have placed in the Library of the House tables showing the details of local authority revenue expenditure funded by central Government grant including specific grants and council tax by each local authority and region in England from 1996-97 to 2007-08.

Local Government: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have Disability Equality Schemes in place; and if she will make a statement. [257255]

Mr. Khan: Information on the number of local authorities who have disability equality schemes in place is not held centrally.

Local Government: Essex

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will commission a review of the (*a*) cost-effectiveness and (*b*) legal basis of the procurement process used by Essex County Council to award a contract for transformational services and delivery support. [258206]

Mr. Khan: The Department has no plans to commission a review of the cost-effectiveness or legal basis of the procurement process used by Essex county council.

Local Government: Land

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will *(a)* intervene personally or *(b)* appoint an arbitrator under the provisions of Liverpool Corporation Act 1902 and the Lever Park Act 1969 to resolve the dispute over the proposed commercial development at Rivington. [256906]

Mr. Khan: As I set out in my answer of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 778W, no request has been made to resolve any dispute, nor are we aware of such a dispute between the parties.

Local Government: Public Participation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps the Government has taken to improve facilities for local community use. [257703]

Mr. Khan: The "Communities in Control" White Paper set out the Government's aim to increase the number of people engaged in the running and ownership of local services and assets. More widely, the Department for Communities and Local Government has a range of policies and programmes designed to improve and increase the use of facilities for community use. These include:

£70 million Community builders programme which will strengthen the resilience of a range of new and existing multi-purpose community-led organisations. These organisations provide facilities for community activities, local services and the development of community enterprise to take place.

We have established an Asset Transfer Unit, operational from January 2009, building on the work of the Advancing Assets for Communities programme, led by the Development Trust Association (DTA) and its partners.

A commitment to working with and promoting the role of social enterprises (businesses with primarily social or environmental objectives) which play a key role in empowering local communities through activities such as managing and supporting community owned assets.

In addition to this, the Office of the Third Sector run a number of programmes which can be used to increase the use of community facilities including:

Grass-roots Grants: £130 million providing small amounts of money to enable grass-roots groups to thrive and direct their energies to the particular challenges they see in their local community.

Futurebuilders: an innovative programme which provides loan and grant-based finance to support third sector organisations develop their delivery of public services.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps the Government has taken to promote community empowerment. [257706]

John Healey: The White Paper "Communities in control: real people, real power", which was published in July 2008, was the first major government policy statement on transferring power to citizens and communities, giving people more control and influence over decisions in their local areas and promoting vibrant local democracy. These ideas should be seen as essential for public agencies, the third sector and communities in responding to the challenges of the economic downturn.

Current work on implementing the White Paper and promoting community empowerment includes:

Participatory budgeting (PB): involves local people in making decisions on the spending from public budgets. We have rolled out a national strategy setting out how the Government will achieve their ambition for PB to be used in all local authority areas by 2012. There are currently 34 pilot areas, covering a wide variety of different areas. PB exercises have so far engaged local people on spending for activities such as local environmental issues, community facilities, parks and play areas, road safety measures, and anti-crime measures.

The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill: currently being debated in Parliament includes:

a new duty on local councils to promote democracy—putting local authorities at the forefront of the drive to reconnect people with public and political decision-making. The duty will ensure all sections of their community understands how the council works, who makes the decisions on their behalf in their neighbourhood, and how they can get involved if they wish to;

new rights for the citizen to have more information and influence over the local decisions;

new powers to hold politicians and officials to account;

a new duty on local councils to respond to petitions.

Asset Transfer Unit: The White Paper set out the Government's aim to increase the number of people engaged in the running and ownership of local services and assets. The "Asset Transfer Unit" opened for business in January 2009, and over the course of the year, it will:

create an interactive web-based resource detailing sources of support for organisations engaging in asset transfer;

deliver an England-wide information, advice and referral service on asset transfer to both community organisations and local authorities and other statutory bodies;

implement up to 38 local authority asset transfer projects, supported by a capital investment of £30 million from the Office of the Third Sector;

develop and introduce model asset transfer strategies in a number of local authority areas across England;

promote and refine the use of community shares and bonds issues as methods of tapping new sources of community investment and involvement in local projects.

Take Part: In order for more people to be able to participate in local decision- making, they need to have a better understanding of how local services are managed and local democracy operates. We are launching the "Take Part local pathfinder programme" to support people and encourage them to have the confidence to speak up and get involved.

18 pathfinders will be announced during 2009. They will operate as partnerships between local authorities and other key organisations, such as third sector bodies and educational institutions. The first eight pathfinders will offer tailored support (through learning and community leadership programmes etc.) to at least 3,400 people during 2009. More general support will also be given to the wider community, through the use of Take Part websites and other communications methods (such as newsletters) produced by the pathfinder partners and disseminated throughout the local authority area.

Communitybuilders: is a £70 million investment fund, run jointly with the Office of the Third Sector, to strengthen the sustainability of multi-purpose inclusive community-led organisations operating at the neighbourhood level. We are currently in the process of tendering for a national partner organisation to deliver the fund on the Government's behalf. The national partner will use their skills and expertise to identify and fund projects through an open and transparent process.

The national partner will be announced and the programme will become open to applications in spring 2009.

Empowerment Fund: The Government are seeking to create an ever stronger partnership with the third sector, both nationally and locally, in the design, development and delivery of policy making to help build cohesive, empowered and active communities. The "Empowerment Fund", launched last year by Communities and Local Government, will strengthen national infrastructure and intermediary bodies, who can translate key proposals into practical action and support for frontline organisations.

The Empowerment Fund will provide £7.5 million to support organisations operating across the country assist local communities to take forward key themes of the White Paper. It will:

be open to partnership applications with an eligible lead;

have a more flexible allowance on the Department's financial contribution;

give added weight to those working with excluded groups across all themes.

The closing date for receiving applications was 6 January 2009. We have received 157 applications and are currently working through the evaluation process, aiming to announce the successful organisations in March.

The Fund will begin in April 2009 and will last until March 2012.

Youth Advisers: Young people are being placed at the heart of government policy formulation. A panel of nine young people—recruited from the national pool of young advisors—act as youth advisors to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, giving a young person's perspective as policies are developed and implemented. These young advisors are the Secretary of State's eyes and ears on issues that affect them the most, from the housing offer for young people and the impact of the economic downturn, to their role in community cohesion and the Olympics legacy.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government has taken to encourage participation in local democracy. [257707]

Mr. Khan: The Electoral Administration Act 2006 requires local electoral officers to take appropriate steps to increase participation in the electoral process, the costs of which may be reimbursed by the Secretary of State. The intention is to encourage electoral officers to pursue activities aimed at increasing awareness of and involvement in the democratic process.

The White Paper "Communities in Control" set out additional actions including a new duty on local councils to promote democracy. This has the aim of making citizens more aware of the democratic process including who makes decisions about local services; how to influence and take part in making those decisions; and how to stand for civic roles, such as councillor, school governor or magistrate.

Government are also supporting a range of programmes to enable and encourage a wider range of people to become involved in local democracy, including the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Women Councillors Taskforce and the Take Part programme.

London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority: Finance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding has been allocated to the London Fire Brigade in 2008-09 to meet the costs of *(a)* resilience and *(b)* the threat of a terrorist attack on London; and if she will make a statement. [256697]

Mr. Khan: Details of funding allocated to the Greater London Authority in respect of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) for the period in question, relating to *(a)* resilience and *(b)* the heightened threat of a terrorist attack on London are given in the following table.

Funding allocated to the Greater London authority in respect of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority relating to resilience and the heightened threat of terrorist attack in 2008-09 -position as at 9 February 2009

	£
New Dimension capabilities[1]	3,698,440
FiReControl implementation	876,173
Firelink-LFEPA iMass Gateway Procurement	653,000
CBRN New Capabilities[2]	
CCA Contingency Planning Regulations requirements	606,000
Total	5,833,613

[1] Further allocation is planned for this year but amounts to individual authorities have not yet been determined.
[2] Funding allocation is being discussed with LFEPA and no payments made to date.

Microgeneration

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to consult on the introduction of permitted development rights in respect of the installation of micro-generation units on non-domestic buildings; and if she will make a statement. [257654]

Mr. Khan: The Government are currently considering the scope for the introduction of permitted development rights for the installation of microgeneration units on non-domestic buildings. We aim to consult on the proposals in the summer.

Mortgage Interest Deferral Scheme

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 683-84W, on the Mortgage Interest Deferral Scheme, what estimate her Department has made of the cost and take-up of the scheme; when the scheme description commenced; when each remaining stage in devising the

scheme descriptors is expected to be completed; when she expects to publish the full impact assessment; and if she will make a statement. [254506]

Margaret Beckett: Our intention to set up a new Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme was announced by the Prime Minister on 3 December 2008. As part of a much wider package of real help for home owners, the scheme should enable ordinary hard-working households that experience a redundancy or significant loss of income to reduce their monthly payments to a more manageable level, by deferring a proportion of the interest payments on their mortgage for up to two years. The Government will guarantee the lender against a proportion of any loss incurred on the deferred interest payments in case the borrower defaults.

I wrote to all lenders on 18 December 2008, setting out the proposed scheme design and seeking their views by 14 January. The legal authority to pursue such a scheme was established when the Banking Act gained Royal Assent on 12 February 2009. We are now working closely with the lenders and debt advice agencies to finalise scheme design and agree plans for scheme implementation. Once discussions with the lenders to agree the scheme design have concluded, we will publish an Impact Assessment setting out the cost and anticipated take-up of the scheme. We currently expect the scheme to be up and running in the spring.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications have been made to the Homeowner Mortgage Protection Scheme. [256187]

Margaret Beckett: Following announcement of the proposed homeowners mortgage support scheme on 3 December 2008, we have been working urgently with a range of lenders and representatives from the money advice sector to finalise the detail of the scheme and ensure it delivers the right help to households in difficulty. The Government want to see this scheme help as many struggling homeowners as possible. We are working to open the scheme as soon as possible but as the hon. Member will be aware legislative authority to proceed had to be sought and was only received when the Banking Act received Royal Assent on 12 February 2009.

Non-Domestic Rates: Business

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of houses in each county were registered for business rates in each year since 1997. [256457]

John Healey: This information is not collected by Communities and Local Government.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of paying business rates on empty commercial properties to local government in 2009-10. [255741]

John Healey: An estimate of the cost to local government of providing empty property relief on non-domestic properties was published on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0910/dacalcs.xls

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty hereditaments were eligible to pay non-domestic rates in each region in each of the last five years. [258138]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden on 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 968W.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department required the Valuation Office Agency to take to assess port businesses for individual rating *(a)* before and *(b)* after the end of prescriptive rating. [256926]

John Healey: The legislative framework for non-domestic rating is set out in Part III of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (c.41). Property which is subject to non-domestic rating is valued every five years, and valuation is carried out by a valuation officer. He is appointed by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, and he has a duty to compile and maintain an accurate list of property subject to non-domestic rating (a 'rating list').

This Department does not instruct the Valuation Office Agency in tasks relating to that duty.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what date port businesses are required to make *(a)* the first payment of part of their annual assessment and *(b)* the first payment towards their arrears from 2005. [256927]

John Healey: Local authorities are responsible for the billing and collection of business rates.

The regulations covering the procedures to be followed (Non Domestic Rating (Collection and Enforcement) (Local Lists) Regulations 1989)) are in the process of being amended to permit the payment of arrears in instalments over up to eight years where appropriate.

The Business Rates Information Letter (BRIL) 2009/02 providing guidance and information on the impact of the changes was issued 10 February to all English billing authorities. I have placed a copy in the Library of the House.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many port businesses in which ports have not yet been assessed for their liability for non-domestic rates. [256928]

John Healey: There are two port reviews, reflecting the circumstances at 1 April 2005, that are still outstanding. Only one, at Humber Sea Termina., is in England. The port businesses affected in these reviews are in discussion

with the Valuation Office Agency and the delay in completing the reviews is at the request of the ratepayers affected.

There will be continuous amendments into and out of the port rating assessments as changes to and occupations of properties occur over time. Where a change is required, the Valuation Office Agency is consulting with the businesses affected prior to the rating lists being amended.

Non-Profit Making Associations

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will simplify and speed up her Department's procurement procedures of in relation to social enterprise. [257061]

Mr. Khan: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 48W by my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda).

All procurement is undertaken in line with the European Commission's procurement regulations and to obtain value for money. Communities and Local Government is committed to working with and promoting the role of social enterprise and has set up a social enterprise unit to co-ordinate this activity.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to improve procurement procedures operated by local authorities in relation to social enterprise. [257062]

Mr. Khan: Social enterprises can play an important role in supporting local authority objectives by bringing dynamism and innovation to the design and delivery of public services. They can also help local authorities achieve more with their money, engage local communities and stimulate new markets.

In December 2006, Communities and Local Government, alongside other Government Departments, launched "Partnership in Public Services", an action plan for social enterprise and wider third sector engagement with public bodies, including local authorities.

CLG also published statutory guidance to local government and its key partners earlier this year. "Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities" states local authorities should recognise and embrace diversity in the way services are provided, with the focus on desired outcomes and not whether the service is delivered by the public, private or third sectors.

On 9 February 2009, Communities and Local Government, alongside other Government Departments, launched "Real Help for Communities: Volunteers, Charities and Social Enterprises", an action plan to support the third sector and social enterprise during the economic downturn. This highlights measures to improve commissioning and procurement practice including the National Programme for Third Sector Commissioning, which provides training to public sector commissioners to improve their in practices when working with the third sector, including social enterprise, and a national campaign among public sector finance professionals to raise awareness of the Government's commitment to pay invoices within 10 days.

Parish Councils

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the new rules for parish councils on the procedures to be followed for the appointment of additional members will come into effect; and what guidance is available if these rules are not met. [255485]

John Healey: Provisions on the power to appoint additional councillors have been inserted into the Local Government Act 1972 by section 76 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. We are aiming to bring the regulations into effect in the spring, and will publish the supporting guidance at the same time.

Racial Harassment

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to reduce racial discrimination in the workplace. [253125]

Mr. Khan: The Department leads on the development and implementation of the cross-Government strategy for race equality and community cohesion Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society. We hope to announce shortly a further report on progress made in implementing the strategy, including in relation to the labour market.

The legislative and practical actions relating to discrimination, including in the workplace, are the responsibility of several Departments including the Government Equalities Office and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Regarding the employment position, the Department for Work and Pensions, whose Minister chairs the Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force, leads on public service agreement 8 (maximising employment opportunity for all) to close the ethnic minority employment rate gap. The labour force survey figures for quarter 4 2008, which were released on Wednesday, show that the gap between the ethnic minority employment rate and the overall British employment rate has narrowed to 12.9 percentage points, compared to 14.1 percentage points a year ago (Q4, 2007).

Regional Ministers

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what responsibilities Regional Ministers have in relation to regional finance allocations. [258175]

Mr. Khan: Regional Ministers have been tasked, within the guidance on the Regional Funding Advice exercise produced in July 2008, to work with regional partners to facilitate development of the regions' advice and broker agreement on the regions' priorities where necessary.

Regional Planning and Development: EC Grants and Loans

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much European regional aid structural funding was allocated to England between 2000 and 2006; how much of this

funding had been spent by 31 December 2008; whether a request was made to the European Commission to extend the spending deadline beyond that date; and if she will make a statement. [255462]

John Healey: The 2000-06 round of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programmes in England were allocated €5793 million. Over 2,900 claims by projects for reimbursement of ERDF expenditure are being processed, more made up to 31 December 2008 are still being received and we do not yet have final figures for any of the 20 English programmes.

Government did not request extension of the spending deadline for any of the European Structural Funds programmes operating in England.

Regional Planning and Development: Finance

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects for which her Department is responsible are planned to be funded through the *(a)* New Ventures Fund, *(b)* New Deal for Communities and *(c)* European Regional Development Fund in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11; and how much is planned to be spent on each such project. [258241]

Mr. Khan: The information is as follows.

Funds/Year	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
(a) New Ventures Fund	0	0	0
(b) New Deal for Communities (£ million)	242	180	65
(c) European Regional Development Fund (Euros million)	385	439	402

Notes:
(a) New Ventures Fund (NVF). The NVF no longer exists as a funding stream.
(b) New deal for communities (NDCs). The NDC programme is a 10-year programme to regenerate 39 of the most deprived neighbourhoods across England.
(c) European Regional Development Fund. The ERDF for 2007 to 2013 is being managed by the nine regional development agencies (RDAs). The Department does not manage projects funded by ERDF. However, the Department remains the overall managing authority for the fund in England. The aim in devolving key functions and management to the RDAs was to bring the fund's programmes into line with regional economic strategies. England's ERDF allocation for 2007 to 2013 totals 3.2 billion Euros.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects for which her Department is responsible are planned to be funded by the *(a)* Government Offices for the Regions and *(b)* regional development agencies in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11; and how much is planned to be spent on each such project. [258242]

Mr. Khan: The Government offices for the regions have specific responsibility for an administration running cost budget and a capital budget.

Programme budgets administered by the Government offices are the responsibility of the Secretaries of State for the relevant sponsor Departments. The Departments delegate authority to the regional directors to spend against their programmes, though all expenditure incurred is recorded in the accounts of the Department concerned.

The Thames Gateway programme, now administered by the Homes and Communities Agency, includes some projects for which funding is provided to the three Greater South East regional development agencies. Funding for Invest in Thames Gateway and Parklands projects amounts to £0.827 million in 2008-09, £3.177 million in 2009-10, and £6.775 million in 2010-11. In addition, the regional development agencies' Thames Gateway Economic Development Investment Plan sets out how the £200 million joint Strategic Economic Investment Fund will be invested over the same period.

The Department does not otherwise fund projects directly through regional development agencies. Regional development agencies are funded through the Single Programme, which is administered by their sponsor Department, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. The Department is one of six contributing Departments to the Single Programme and is contributing £1.548 billion in 2008-09, £1.585 billion in 2009-10 and £1.098 billion in 2010-11 to the Single Programme. Spending priorities for each regional development agency are set out in their corporate plans, which are available on their websites.

Regional Planning and Development: South East

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1843W, on regional development and planning: South East, in which month she expects analysis of responses to the South East plan consultation to be made available; and by what date the regional spatial strategy for the South East will be published. [257495]

Mr. Khan: Our intention to publish an analysis of responses and the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East remains as stated to the right hon. Member for Guildford, in the answer given on 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1843W, that is publication in the spring.

Repossession: Mortgages

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the *(a)* maximum proportion and *(b)* cash value is of mortgage interest payments that can be deferred under the mortgage rescue scheme announced on 3 December 2008; and whether capital repayments can be deferred under the scheme; [255219]

(2) what eligibility criteria will be applied to applicants to the Mortgage Rescue Scheme. [254856]

Margaret Beckett: The Government are determined to do everything possible to ensure stability and security for those affected by the downturn in the housing market.

For the most vulnerable home owners, who would be owed a statutory homelessness duty if repossessed, we opened the Mortgage Rescue Scheme in January 2009. This £200 million scheme will help up to 6,000 households remain in their homes. The scheme is targeted on families, the elderly and other vulnerable households.

On 3 December 2008, the Prime Minister announced additional support for home owners facing financial difficulties through a new Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme. The new scheme should enable households

that experience a significant and temporary loss of income as a result of the economic downturn to defer a proportion of the interest payments on their mortgage for up to two years, providing they meet the scheme eligibility criteria. The Government will guarantee the lender against a proportion of any loss incurred on the deferred interest payments in case the borrower defaults. The guarantee will not apply to deferred payments of capital.

I wrote to lenders detailing the proposed key elements of the scheme in December. This letter is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/homeownersmortgagesupport

and we will shortly publish confirmation of the final scheme description.

Legal authority to proceed with the scheme was obtained in the Banking Act, which received Royal Assent on 12 February 2009.

WALES

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales with reference to the answer of 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1581W, on apprentices, what progress his Department has made towards meeting its share of the Government's commitment to employ over 1,000 apprentices in central Government departments and agencies in 2008-09; and how many apprentices his Department now employs. [256280]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office is unable to provide apprenticeships due to the small size of the Department and the nature of its work.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by his Department. [256056]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department will place in the Library a copy of the display energy certificate and associated advisory reports in respect of the Wales Office's London building.

In Cardiff, my Department leases space in a larger office building, whose owner assesses the energy efficiency of the building as a whole.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which of the public appointments for which his Department is responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restriction, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records his Department keeps in respect of such appointments. [254247]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Following the devolution settlement in 1999, responsibility for the majority of public appointments that were made by the Secretary of State for Wales was transferred to the National Assembly for Wales.

The exception is appointments to the Boundary Commission Wales. More detailed information about individual appointments is set out in the Boundary Commission Wales' Annual Report. Vacancies may be advertised on the Cabinet Office Public Appointments website at:

www.publicappointments.gov.uk

The process for making a public appointment, including guidance on political activity and eligibility criteria, follows the Cabinet Office publication "Making and Managing Public Appointments". For appointments regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the appointments process also complies with the "Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies".

Copies are in the Libraries of the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol Disorder Zones

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer to the right hon. Member for Beaconsfield of 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 1069W, on alcohol disorder zones, what assessment she has made of the reasons for no notice of the proposal to designate an alcohol disorder zone having been made to her Department by that date. [253520]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has been clear that an alcohol disorder zone (ADZ) should only be used as a measure of last resort, after all other tools and powers have been tried. ADZs only came into force in June 2008 and we have committed to report to Parliament in June 2009 on how many have been used.

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have taken place for the offence of selling alcohol to children on more than one occasion since 2003. [249934]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 21 January 2009]*: For prosecution data for the offence of selling alcohol to children I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1025-34W.

The Ministry of Justice publishes statistics on reoffending, but figures are not available for individual offences.

For the offence of persistently selling alcohol to a person under 18 no data are currently available. Section 147A of the Licensing Act 2003 (as amended by the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006) came into effect in April 2007. Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in autumn 2009.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what data *(a)* her Department and *(b)* police forces collate on (i) knife crime, (ii) youth crime and (iii) crimes and incidents in which alcohol represents a characteristic or motivating factor. [254368]

Jacqui Smith: The police forces of England and Wales will collect data depending on their own operational

needs and priorities. The extent of what is collected is likely to be greater than what is requested by the Home Office, and will differ between police forces.

The Home Office collects crime data in two main ways: crimes recorded by the police; and the British Crime Survey (BCS), a victimisation survey covering adults aged 16 and over, living in private households in England and Wales. In January 2009 the BCS was extended to include under-16s. Other data may be collected on an ad hoc basis; this is included where relevant.

Knife Crime

The Home Office receives aggregated recorded crime data from the police forces for a wide range of offences. Since April 2007, the Home Office began to collect data on the numbers of offences where a knife or sharp instrument has been involved for selected offences: attempted murder, robbery and GBH. This was in addition to homicide, where offences including a knife were already covered by the homicide index collection, a more detailed individual record collection from police forces. The knife crime collection was extended in April 2008 to cover the additional offences of threats to kill, ABH, rape and sexual assault.

In addition to these returns, a separate data collection has been established as part of the Tackling Knives Action Programme (TKAP). TKAP is a time limited initiative which aims to tackle the possession of knives and knife related serious violence among young people in 10 police force areas in England and Wales. The programme started in June 2008 and is planned to finish in March 2009. A programme of monitoring has been established to assess progress and recorded crime information on knife and sharp instrument related homicide, attempted murder, threats to kill, GBH, ABH, robbery and possession offences are collected from the ten forces. Other information such as the age of victim and suspect and whether the incident is counted as domestic violence are also collected.

Findings from the TKAP will be published after its completion.

The BCS collects information on weapons, including knives, used in incidents of violent crime. Figures on the proportion of violent incidents involving knives are published regularly in the annual Crime in England and Wales publication.

Copies of these publications are available in the House of Commons Library (the most recent publication is Crime in England and Wales 2007/08).

The Offending, Crime and Justice Survey (OCJS), which ran between 2003 and 2006 and focused on young people aged 10 to 25 living in private households in England and Wales, asked questions on knife carrying. Figures for the proportion of young people aged 10 to 25 who reported carrying a knife in the past year (and further details, including their motivations for doing so) were published regularly in the annual reports on the survey. Annual publications are available on the RDS website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/offending_survey.html

Youth crime

The BCS has covered only adults aged 16 and over until January 2009 when the BCS was extended to cover 10 to 15 year olds.

The Offending, Crime and Justice Survey (OCJS), which ran between 2003 and 2006 and focused on young people aged 10 to 25 living in private households in England and Wales, asked questions about the experience of young people as both offenders and victims of crime. The results from the surveys have been published in a series of annual publications available on the RDS website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/offending_survey.html

Police recorded crime does not specifically collect data on youth crime, although age of suspect is recorded in the homicide collection.

Alcohol-related crime

The BCS asks respondents who have been victims of violent crime whether they believed the offender to be under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident. Figures on the proportion of violent incidents where the victim believed the offender to be under the influence of alcohol are regularly published in the annual Crime in England and Wales publication. Copies of these publications are available in the House of Commons Library (the most recent publication is Crime in England and Wales 2007-08).

Police recorded crime does not specifically collect data on alcohol related incidents, although whether the suspect has been drinking alcohol or not is included in the homicide collection. Furthermore, data on breath tests are collected including how many are positive or refused.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were charged with each type of alcohol-related offence in (a) the year before and *(b)* the year following the introduction of the Licensing Act 2003. [254495]

Jacqui Smith: Charging data are not held centrally.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions for being drunk and disorderly there have been in each of the last 15 years. [254499]

Jacqui Smith: The number of persons found guilty at all courts for being drunk and disorderly in England and Wales, from 1993 to 2007, the latest available, are given in table 1.

Additionally, penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) are available for issue for this offence. The number of PNDs issued to persons aged 16 and over for being drunk and disorderly from 2004, when the scheme was implemented in all 43 police forces in England and Wales, to 2007 are given in table 2.

Table 1: Number of persons found guilty at all courts for drunk and disorderly related offences in England and Wales, from 1993 to 2007[1,2,3]

	Number
1993	17,858
1994	19,217
1995	18,828
1996	23,337
1997	27,910
1998	29,974
1999	28,006
2000[4]	26,274

Table 1: Number of persons found guilty at all courts for drunk and disorderly related offences in England and Wales, from 1993 to 2007[1,2,3]

	Number
2001	25,632
2002	26,254
2003	27,044
2004	20,420
2005	15,399
2006	14,995
2007	16,767

[1] Data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Being found drunk in a highway or other Public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises.
Licensing Act 1872 sec. 12.
Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour.
Criminal Justice Act 1967 sec.91.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
Source:
Court proceedings data held by CJEA[4] Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to persons aged 16 and over for offences of being drunk and disorderly[1] in England and Wales from 2004 to 2007[2]

	Number
2004	29,106
2005	40,176
2006	46,268
2007	49,062

[1] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Being found drunk in a highway or other public place, whether a building or not, or on licensed premises—Licensing Act 1872, section 12;
Being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour—Criminal Justice Act 1967, section 91.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 713-4W, on alcoholic drinks: crime, how many of those found guilty of refusing to obey an instruction to stop drinking in a designated public place in each of the last five years received a fine of *(a)* up to £100, *(b)* £101 to £250 and *(c)* over £250. [254525]

Jacqui Smith: The number of people fined, and the level of fines received, for refusing to stop drinking and surrender alcohol in a designated public place can be found in the following table.

Number of persons fined for drinking alcohol in a designated public place, by amount, all courts 2007

	Up to £100	£101 to £250	Over £250	Total
2003	71	1	1	73
2004	76	2		78
2005	61	2		63
2006	58	1		59
2007	71	4	1	76

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice
(2003-2006) Ref: AHA378-08 (15 October 2008)
(2007) Ref: Sent (OMSAS) 025-09 (4 February 2009)

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in the Chelmsford division of the Essex police force area were charged with alcohol-related offences in the year *(a)* before and *(b)* following the introduction of the Licensing Act 2003; and with which offences such people were charged. [254836]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Charging data are not held centrally.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the use of under 18 year olds by police forces for test purchases of alcohol in pubs. [247772]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has not received any recent representations on the use of under 18s in respect of test purchases. However, officials have regular discussions with both ACPO and, during campaigns, with individual police forces on a number of issues encompassing their enforcement work, including the use of test purchases.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the use of those aged under 18 in making test purchases of alcohol in public houses on behalf of the police. [248332]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 19 February 2009]:* The Government encourage local areas to undertake test purchasing to ensure that alcohol is not sold to children, but the use of those aged under 18 in test purchase operations is a local operational matter, and as such is a matter for the chief constable. However, both ACPO and LACORS have produced guidance on this matter.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* establishments have been prosecuted for selling alcohol to minors in (i) Mid Dorset and North Poole constituency, (ii) each local authority area and (iii) England in the last 12 months. [250752]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1025-34W. Information held on court proceedings cannot

be broken down by constituency or local authority area. The table as referred to holds the data requested broken down by police force area and for England and Wales.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* establishments have been prosecuted for selling alcohol to under age people in (i) Stroud District Council area, (ii) Gloucestershire and (iii) south west England in each of the last five years. [250788]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1025-1034W. Information held on court proceedings cannot be broken down by council area. The table as referred to holds the data requested broken down by police force area which includes Gloucestershire police force. Data for the south-west region include Devon and Cornwall constabulary, Dorset police, Avon and Somerset constabulary, Wiltshire constabulary, and Gloucestershire constabulary.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* establishments have been prosecuted for selling alcohol to under-age people in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. [251337]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1025-34W. Information held on court proceedings cannot be broken down by individual areas so data on Hemel Hempstead is not available. The table as referred to holds the data requested broken down by police force area which includes Hertfordshire police force.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to discourage the selling of alcohol to underage people in public houses. [253115]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government take the issue of selling alcohol to under-age people very seriously indeed. The Home Secretary announced in her speech on 6 February 2008, that a number of new measures and possible steps would be taken to crack down on crime and antisocial behaviour which is fuelled by alcohol. This includes highlighting the message that it is not acceptable for young people to drink in public places.

The Home Office co-ordinated enforcement campaigns have provided support to police and trading standard officers in the use of the extensive powers available under the Licensing Act 2003 in relation to children. Indeed successive Alcohol Misuse and Enforcement Campaigns (AMECs) from 2004 and Tackling Underage Sales of Alcohol Campaigns (TUSAC) since 2006 have reduced the test purchase failure rate from approximately 50 per cent. to approximately 15 per cent. Additionally, we have recently launched a new £4.5 million enforcement campaign in 190 areas, with a particular focus on the 50 areas of most concern to us from January to March 2009. The Home Office also supports the Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS), as well as initiatives which seek to reduce the number of under-age sales such as "Challenge 21".

The Government have also introduced legislation to create an enabling power to introduce a new mandatory code of practice for alcohol retailers and to take forward the legislative announcements as set out in the written ministerial statement following the Licensing Act review and the Youth Alcohol Action Plan, namely: the creation of a new offence of persistent possession of alcohol in a public place by a person aged under 18, and amending the 'persistent selling' offence from three sales to an under 18 in three months, to two sales in three months.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* quantity and *(b)* value of alcohol was confiscated under the Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997 in each year since its implementation. [255635]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information collected centrally and held on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database does not identify the quantity or value of alcohol confiscated under the terms of the Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997.

However an alcohol confiscation campaign took place in February 2008 following a pilot in October 2007. 165 out of the 227 basic command units (BCUs) took part in the campaign and the result was that over 21,000 litres of alcohol (70 per cent. beer) was confiscated in over 5,000 separate seizures from individuals and groups of more than 23,000 young people. Activity in both campaigns focussed on school holidays and weekends when young people were most likely to be engaged in this activity.

Animal Experiments

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* larvae, *(b)* embryos and *(c)* foetuses were used in animal scientific procedures in each of the last three years. [255484]

Meg Hillier: The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 protects animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes. Protected animals include immature vertebrate animals, in the case of a mammal, bird or reptile from halfway through gestation or incubation and in any other case, including immature forms of Octopus vulgaris, when they become capable of independent feeding.

We have no reliable data from which to estimate the numbers of immature forms used during the period in question. For the purpose of the annual statistical report of animal use project licence holders are required to declare if immature forms have been used, but not to provide estimates of the numbers used. This is because, in the case of some immature forms, such as fish fry, it is impossible to count and record accurately the numbers used for work licensed under the Act.

I would refer the hon. Member to that document.

Assaults on Police

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sickness days were taken due to assault in each police force in 2007-08; how many days were lost per police officer on average due to assault in that year; and what the cost to each police force was. [256743]

Mr. Coaker: The data provided here on sickness days due to assault are a supplementary series collected on behalf and released with the approval of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). These data are normally used for inspection purposes only.

The requested data for 2007-08 are given in the table.

The requested information on days lost per officer and costs to each force are not collected centrally within the police personnel statistics series.

Number of police officer working days lost due to assaults[1]: 2007-08

	Number
Avon and Somerset	566
Bedfordshire	219
Cambridgeshire	120
Cheshire	75
Cleveland	77
Cumbria	[2]
Derbyshire	143
Devon and Cornwall	188
Dorset	[2]
Durham	138
Dyfed-Powys	154
Essex	252
Gloucestershire	47
Greater Manchester	832
Gwent	122
Hampshire	191
Hertfordshire	[2]
Humberside	[2]
Kent	431
Lancashire	506
Leicestershire	[2]
Lincolnshire	344
London, City of	2
Merseyside	407
Metropolitan Police	5,848
Norfolk	162
Northamptonshire	6
Northumbria	1,075
North Wales	133
North Yorkshire	[2]
Nottinghamshire	179
South Wales	[2]
South Yorkshire	69
Staffordshire	174
Suffolk	208
Surrey	69
Sussex	276
Thames Valley	[2]
Warwickshire	24
West Mercia	354
West Midlands	1,166
West Yorkshire	691
Wiltshire	[2]

[1] Provisional data taken from a supplementary series collected on behalf of HMIC and used for inspection purposes only. Data have not undergone usual quality assurance practices (including validation with individual police forces) and are therefore supplied for information purposes only.
[2] Data not available. Force was not able to supply data at the time of collection.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were (*a*) shot at, (*b*) injured in shootings and (*c*) killed in shootings in each police force area in 2007-08. [256744]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is given in the following table.

Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were fired and the principle victim was a police officer on duty: England and Wales, 2007-08

Police force area	Total	Number of officers: Total resulting in injury	Number of officers: Total resulting in fatal injury
North East Region			
Cleveland			
Durham			
Northumbria			
North West Region			
Cheshire			
Cumbria			
Greater Manchester	2	1	
Lancashire	7	7	
Merseyside	4	1	
Yorkshire and the Humber Region			
Humberside			
North Yorkshire			
South Yorkshire			
West Yorkshire	1	1	
East Midlands Region			
Derbyshire			
Leicestershire			
Lincolnshire			
Northamptonshire			
Nottinghamshire	2	1	
West Midlands Region			
Staffordshire			
Warwickshire	1	1	
West Mercia	2	1	1
West Midlands	4	3	
East of England Region			
Bedfordshire			
Cambridgeshire			
Essex			
Hertfordshire			
Norfolk			
Suffolk	1		
London Region	6	1	
South East Region			
Hampshire			
Kent			
Surrey			
Sussex			
Thames Valley	2	2	
South West Region			
Avon and Somerset	1		
Devon and Cornwall			
Dorset			
Gloucestershire	1		

Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were fired and the principle victim was a police officer on duty: England and Wales, 2007-08

Police force area	Total	Number of offences: Total resulting in injury[1]	Total resulting in fatal injury
Wiltshire			
Wales			
Dyfed-Powys			
Gwent			
North Wales			
South Wales			
England and Wales	34	19	1

[1] Includes slight, serious (which necessitated detention in hospital or involved fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds) and fatal injuries.

Assaults on Police: Young People

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many assaults on police officers by people under the age of 16 have been recorded in each police force area in each of the last 10 years. [254595]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not collected centrally. Offences of assault without injury on a constable are available in the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office. However, no data are available on the alleged offender and we are not, therefore, able to provide any age breakdowns.

Asylum: Democratic Republic of Congo

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) nationals have been forcibly removed from the UK to the DRC in each of the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [257244]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information is not available; however the following table shows the number of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) nationals who were removed or departed voluntarily from the United Kingdom to the DRC in each of the last 12 months for which published information is available (October 2007-September 2008).

Figures for the fourth quarter of 2008 will be published on 24 February 2009.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Enforced removals and voluntary departures after enforcement action had been initiated[1]: Nationals of Democratic Republic of Congo to the Democratic Republic of Congo, October 2007[2] to September 2008[3]

	Number of removals: Asylum cases[4,5]	Non-asylum cases
2007		
October	5	
November	10	
December	5	5
2008		
January	5	*
February	10	*
March	5	5
April	5	5
May	*	*
June	*	*
July	*	5
August	*	*
September		*
Total October 2007-September 2008	45	25

[1] Figures include persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons who it has been established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities, persons leaving under Facilitated Return Schemes and removals performed by Immigration Officers using port powers of removal and a small number of cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.

[2] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (. = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[3] Persons who had sought asylum at some stage, including dependants.

[4] Due to a reclassification of removal categories, figures include asylum removals which have been performed by Enforcement Officers using port powers of removal and a small number of cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.

[5] Provisional figures.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Democratic Republic of Congo nationals have been refused asylum but have not left the UK whilst exercising a right of appeal to remain. [257245]

Mr. Woolas: Information on how many Democratic Republic of Congo nationals have been refused asylum is published annually and quarterly. Annual figures are available in Table 3.3 of Asylum Statistics United Kingdom.

Information on how many people have not left the UK while exercising a right of appeal is not available. This is due to the fact that an appellant may leave the UK voluntarily without informing the UK Border Agency. While an appellant is exercising their right of appeal they are not a failed asylum seeker and therefore are not removable until their appeal rights are exhausted.

Information on persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities in 2005-08 will be published in Tables 7 a-c of the "Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom—Q4 2008" bulletin on 24 February 2009. It is not possible to say what stage in the asylum process the returnees have reached at the time they have left the UK.

Copies of these publications are/will be available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Democratic Republic of Congo nationals are being held in detention pending possible deportation; and how many were being so held in each of the last 12 months. [257247]

Mr. Woolas: As at 11 February there were 33 Democratic Republic of Congo nationals being held in immigration detention pending their removal from the UK.

Numbers for those held in each of the last 12 months is not recorded centrally and could be provided only by checking individual records which would be at disproportionate cost.

Asylum: Finance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* administrative cost of appraising entitlement to section 4 support, *(b)* administrative cost of running an appeals system for those refused support under section 4, *(c)* the cost of printing, distributing and operating the use of vouchers for asylum seekers and *(d)* total cost of administering the voucher scheme for asylum seekers was in the last year for which figures are available. [255866]

Jacqui Smith: The way that data on the costs of providing section 4 support are recorded does not enable the separate collation of the administrative costs of appraising entitlement to section 4 support, as distinct from other costs such as consultancy, travel, office services and training.

Responsibility for running the Asylum Support Tribunal, which hears appeals by those refused asylum support or for whom asylum support is discontinued, rests with the Ministry of Justice, not the Home Office. Appeals may relate to support under sections 4 or 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

The costs of printing section 4 vouchers and administering and distributing those vouchers is included within the unit costs paid to accommodation providers under the UK Border Agency's target contracts. It is not an additional cost. Consequently it is not possible to provide a figure for the overall costs of administering section 4 vouchers.

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements she has made with local authorities in response to their representations about a shortfall in their funding for dealing with asylum seekers in the years before the 2008-07 financial year. [257214]

Mr. Woolas: All claims from authorities for support for adults and families and UASCs have now been agreed and paid in with the exception of two London authorities, where the agency has recently made a final settlement offer following discussions with the authorities.

UKBA has paid all standard grant payments for UASC for the financial years up to and including 2007-08. UKBA has also agreed and paid all UASC special circumstances claims up to and including 2007-08.

DCSF and UKBA reached agreement with the Local Government Association and London Councils on the settlement of claims for leaving care expenditure up to and including 2007-08. Payments have been made to individual local authorities covered by the agreement.

Asylum: Housing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average weekly cost of accommodating an asylum seeker on *(a)* section 4 and *(b)* section 95 support was in the last 12 months. [255868]

Jacqui Smith: During 2007-08 the accommodation element of section 4 support was an average of £97 per person per week and the accommodation element of section 95 support was £96 per person per week.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what additional average unit cost per asylum seeker is paid to accommodation providers to administer the provision of vouchers for those eligible for section 4 support. [255871]

Jacqui Smith: The cost for the administration and provision of vouchers is included within the unit cost paid to accommodation providers under the target contracts; it is not an additional cost.

Borders: Illegal Immigrants

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what means her Department uses to monitor which points of entry to the UK are used most frequently by illegal immigrants. [254494]

Jacqui Smith: The UK Border Agency continually uses risk assessment processes to provide a national picture of the risks posed at points of entry to the UK, the risk assessment process uses up to date national and international intelligence. It also takes into account the numbers of immigrants prevented from gaining entry into the UK illegally through clandestine methods, as well as those arriving without adequate documentation.

These assessments inform the decision on the level of front line resources deployed to points of entry to the UK. It is longstanding policy not to divulge details of operational deployment, as this could provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent controls.

British Nationality

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 280W, on British nationality, under what circumstances a requirement to attend a citizenship ceremony would have national security implications sufficient to give grounds to exempt an applicant from attendance. [254349]

Jacqui Smith: Citizenship ceremonies are public events often attended by many people. Exemption may be considered appropriate where, for example, it is deemed necessary to protect the identity of the person becoming British and ensure his or her safety.

British Nationality: Overseas Students

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether time spent in the UK by a foreign national on a student visa counts towards the qualifying period for UK citizenship. [256883]

Mr. Woolas: The qualifying period of residence for naturalisation as a British citizen is five years (or three if married to a British citizen). Currently time spent in the UK on a student visa will count towards this qualifying period.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much Cambridgeshire Constabulary spent on translation and interpretation services provided by Language Line Services Limited in each month since May 2004; and if she will make a statement. [250828]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* Figures are not held centrally by the Home Office. However, Cambridgeshire constabulary have advised that the annual spend on translation and interpretation services provided by Language Line Services Ltd was: £54,929.55 in 2004-05; £64,209.62 in 2005-06; £73,871.88 2006-07; and £42,698.40 in 2007-08.

Cannabis: Crime

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* were arrested and *(b)* received on-the-spot fines for possession of cannabis in 2008. [256675]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, police force area and age group, covering categories such as violence against the person, robbery and drug offences. From these centrally reported data we are not able to identify specific offences from within the main offence groups.

The offence of possession of cannabis was added to the penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme on 28 January 2009. No PNDs were therefore issued in 2008; data for 2009 should be published by the Ministry of Justice in November 2010.

Cannabis: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evidence her Department holds on the relationship between the use of cannabis and the level of criminal activity to fund such use within *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland in the last five years. [253792]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Department does not hold evidence on the relationship between use of cannabis and the level of criminal activity to fund such use within Cumbria and Copeland.

Much of the research evidence on the links between acquisitive crime and drug use points to Class A or 'problem' drug use as having the strongest links and as such there is little evidence on the links between cannabis use and crime.

Specific data on cannabis possession are only available from 2004-05 onwards. This is because prior to this, possession offences did not distinguish between cannabis and non-cannabis offences.

The number of recorded offences for possession of cannabis for Copeland and Cumbria, for the period 2003-04 to 2007-08, are given in the following table.

Recorded offences of possession of controlled drugs (cannabis) for the Copeland Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and Cumbria police force area, 2003-04 to 2007-08

Area	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Copeland CDRP		86	71	78	79
Cumbria PFA		729	659	603	675

Note:
Possession of controlled drugs offences were split with effect from April 2004 into (i) possession of cannabis and (ii) possession of drugs other than cannabis.
Source:
HO Crux-Matrix database

Children in Care: Missing Persons

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have gone missing from local authority care in Southampton and the surrounding area in the last 12 months. [255850]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the number of looked-after-children that have gone missing from Southampton local authority in the year ending 31 March 2008 can be found in table LAB5, taken from the Statistical First Release (SFR 23/2008) entitled 'Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008'. This table shows the number of looked-after-children who went missing from local authority care during the years ending 31 March 2006 to 2008.

The SFR is located at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml

and table LAB5 can be found within the Excel link labelled third set of additional tables.

Community Relations: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1277W, on community relations: finance, to whom the £480,000 fee was paid for the copyright of the Kids Taskforce DVD, Watch Over Me. [257176]

Mr. Coaker: £480,000 was given to the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to pay for the copyright of the Kids Taskforce Watch Over Me DVDs for three years supplemented by 60 training days for teachers and partners. ACPO, DCSF and the Home Office are working with the Kids Taskforce on the national roll out of the DVD.

Counterfeit Manufacturing

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to reduce levels of *(a)* extortion and *(b)* trade in counterfeit goods in England; and if she will make a statement. [255329]

Mr. Alan Campbell: An effective operational response from the law enforcement authorities is the principal means of reducing levels of extortion attempts. Recorded crime figures for blackmail—under which extortion offences are recorded—in 2007-08 were 1,197, their lowest recorded level for six years.

The national strategy for tackling intellectual property theft is being led by the Intellectual Property Office for which my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills is responsible.

Credit Cards: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether credit card fraud reported to banks is included in the *(a)* British Crime Survey and *(b)* reported crime figures. [252118]

Jacqui Smith: The annual Home Office statistical bulletin, Crime in England and Wales, reports on the scale of credit card fraud from a variety of sources including questions in the British Crime Survey, categories of police recorded crime offences and counts from APACS, the UK Payments Association.

Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes have been recorded in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* local authority area in each year since 1997. [254606]

Jacqui Smith: Statistics are not collected specifically on a parliamentary constituency basis. Statistics for total recorded crime at local authority level are available only from 2000-01 onwards and are given in the tables placed in the House Library.

Crime Prevention

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much each Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership cost to run in each of the last five years. [254479]

Jacqui Smith: The cost to run each Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership varies around the country according to local arrangements. The normal practice is for partners—most usually the local police and local authority but also other local agencies—to contribute staff time and other resources. This is not measured centrally.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the 'How secure is your home?'; online score card. [255619]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A copy of the 'How secure is your home?' online score card has been placed in the Library.

Crime Prevention: Offensive Weapons

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to support local anti-knife crime campaigns. [255390]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* The Home Office appointed an agency in October 2008 to support local organisations in the delivery of anti-knife crime campaigns. As part of this work, we have developed a website:

www.itdoesnthavetohappen.co.uk/stakeholders

which acts as a hub of information and advice for running such campaigns as well as a platform to share good practice from around the country. We have also developed two toolkits, one for local stakeholders who want to run their own campaigns to tackle knife crime and a campaigning toolkit for young people themselves, to help them spread the message to their peers.

Crime: Statistics

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which criminal offences are included in the official crime figures but excluded from the British Crime Survey. [254509]

Jacqui Smith: The official crime figures are compiled from both police recorded crime and the British Crime Survey (BCS). The two are a complementary series and together these provide a more comprehensive picture of crime than could be obtained from either series alone.

Prior to January 2009 the BCS was restricted to adults living in the general household population in England and Wales. Since then the survey has been extended to children 10 years and over.

The BCS does not include offences committed against children under 10 years or those where the victim is not in the resident household population, such as private and public sector organisations, tourists, residents of institutions and the homeless. The survey also excludes drug offences and homicide because it is based on interviews with individual victims.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes she plans to make to the national crime recording standard. [255046]

Jacqui Smith: There are no current plans to change the national crime recording standard.

Crime: Young People

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of reported crime was committed by people under the age of 16 years in the last year for which figures are available. [254815]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not collected centrally. While the Home Office collects statistics on the number of offences recorded by the police, no information is collected on the age of the alleged offenders.

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes were recorded by the British Crime Survey in each of the last 10 years where the offender was *(a)* under school age, *(b)* of school age, *(c)* between 16 and 24, *(d)* between 25 and 40 and *(e)* over 40 years old, broken down by offences committed (i) in the home, (ii) at work, (iii) in the street, (iv) in a public house or club, (v) on public transport and (vi) at another location. [255110]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Analyses of the circumstances of violent crime as described by victims interviewed by the British Crime Survey (BCS) are published annually by the Home Office. The most recent analysis for the

2006-07 BCS was published as part of Supplementary Volume 3 to Crime in England and Wales 2006-07, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library.

Tables from 1996 onwards are also available on-line as follows:

1996 to 2002-03: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/violent_crime_0203.xls

2003-04: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/violent_crime_0304.xls

2004-05: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/violent_crime_0405.xls

2005-06: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/violent_crime_0506.xls

2006-07: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/violent_crime_0607.xls

These include separate breakdowns of the age of offenders and the location of incidents. However, providing estimates for the combined breakdowns requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes were recorded in each of the last 10 years where the victim was *(a)* under school age, *(b)* of school age, *(c)* between 16 and 24, *(d)* between 25 and 40 and *(e)* over 40 years old. [255111]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The requested information is not collected centrally. Police recorded crime statistics deal with aggregated data and do not give details of the victim unless defined by statute, e.g. rape of a female child under 16.

A list of all the offence classifications within the police recorded crime series are available in Table 2.04 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Crime in England and Wales 2007/08", a copy of which is placed in the House of Commons Library.

Crimes of Violence: Football

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 has been applied to remove football supporters from *(a)* Premier League, *(b)* Championship, *(c)* League One, *(d)* League Two and *(e)* Football Conference football grounds since the Act came into force. [254808]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Home Office does not collate statistics on the service of notices on football supporters under section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many orders under section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 have been served on football supporters; on how many such people those orders have been served; and if she will make a statement. [254974]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* Home Office does not collate statistics on the service of notices to football supporters under section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006. Discussions are underway with the Association of Chief Police Officers, the UK Football Policing Unit and local police forces about the appropriate use of section 27 notices in policing football.

Criminal Records: Teachers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many criminal record checks were carried out in relation to supply teachers in the last 12 months; what the annual cost of carrying out those checks was; and if she will make a statement. [256734]

Meg Hillier: From 1 January to 31 December 2008, the latest year for which data are available, the number of disclosure applications processed by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) for individuals who have stated on their application forms the position they have applied for is a supply teacher is 44,083. The overall cost of these disclosures, assuming they were at the enhanced level, is £1,585,302 and this cost is recovered by fees.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies. [256039]

Mr. Woolas: Copies of the Display Energy Certificates and Advisory Reports that have been obtained for Home Office buildings will be placed in the Library.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of the IT systems in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies are fully accredited to the Government's security standards. [245388]

Mr. Woolas: All business systems have been assessed for accreditation or are currently undergoing this process.

The Home Office's priority is to conform to the new standards as laid out in the data handling report by the Cabinet Secretary published on 25 June 2008. The new standards build on recognised good practice and international standards for information security and are tailored to the particular circumstances of UK central government.

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by her Department. [256207]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the number of EU foreign nationals employed within the Home Office is not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. There are currently no non-EU foreign nationals employed within Home Office HQ.

The Criminal Records Bureau does not currently employ any EU or non-EU foreign nationals.

Departmental Offices

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in her Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [252366]

Mr. Woolas: Nothing has been spent other than on routine minor maintenance.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the written ministerial statement of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 67WS, on the departmental expenditure limit 2008-09, what the reasons were for the reprofiling of £48 million expenditure for the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism programme from 2008-09 to 2009-10. [250388]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* The reprofiling of the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism £48 million from 2008-09 ensures that the funds available matches its spending forecast for 2009-10.

Departmental Research

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures there are for independent peer review of research undertaken by her Department before its publication. [255321]

Jacqui Smith: All social research that is published by the Home Office is subject to an independent peer review process. Once the research is complete, our usual practice is to send the research report to be peer reviewed by two external experts. We choose peer reviewers for their knowledge of the subject and their expertise in the methodology used for the research. In a small number of cases, the Department instead gives permission for the research to be published by external contractors who completed the work. These cases are externally peer reviewed wherever possible.

Copies of our peer review proformas are available on the Home Office website at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/aboutrds3.html

Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB) publications are subject to a peer review process appropriate to the nature of the publication before being made publicly available on our website, or where protectively marked before being delivered to our customers.

http://scienceandresearch.homeoffice.gov.uk/hosdb/publications/

The review process is tailored to the publication type and can include review by internal peers, review by qualified colleagues in other Government Departments, review by academic partners or where HOSDB do publish purely scientific results in peer reviewed international journals. HOSDB scientists and engineers also present results at academic conferences where this is appropriate in order to ensure that scrutiny of our science is as robust as possible.

Deportation: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 284W, on deportation: Peterborough, for what reasons information on the number of residents in Peterborough constituency is not available. [253803]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 4 February 2009]:* Information on the number of appeals lodged is published quarterly and annually. However, this information does not show who is currently appealing, only the total number of appeals lodged in the particular period. The figures are also not broken down by geographical region. Copies of Asylum Statistics Publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

The Case Information Database records both appeals and applicant address details. However, it is completely reliant on the quality and timeliness of the information received and input onto the database. Since we cannot ensure that this information meets the rigorous standards applied to published statistics, it is for internal use only by UK Border Agency. Ensuring the information is of sufficient quality to be issued publicly would entail a manual cross checking of a number of individual case files against these figures, which could only be completed at disproportionate cost.

Detention Centres: Death

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people died while being held in an immigration removal centre in each of the last five years, broken down by cause of death. [256438]

Mr. Woolas: In the last five years there have been a total of seven deaths of detainees held in the UK Border Agency removal centres; there have been no deaths in 2009 to date.

	Number of deaths
2004	4
2005	2
2006	1
2007	0
2008	0

Note:
Six deaths were as a result of suicide and one, in 2004, from natural causes.

Detention Centres: Detainees

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* men, *(b)* women and *(c)* children are held in each immigration removal centre. [256440]

Mr. Woolas: As at 12 February 2009, there were 1,984 men, 295 women and 36 children detained in the UK Border Agency removal centres. The following table provides a breakdown of these figures by centre.

The figures given are based on management information, this information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Removal centre	*Males*	*Females*	*Children*
Campsfield House	212	0	0
Colnbrook	299	0	0
Dover	305	0	0
Dungavel House	159	9	1
Harmondsworth	250	0	0
Haslar	152	0	0
Lindholme	121	0	0
Oakington	365	0	0
Tinsley House	110	5	1
Yarl's Wood	11	281	34

Detention Centres: Families

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many families have members currently held in different immigration removal centres. [256436]

Mr. Woolas: We do not hold the data requested centrally and it could be provided only by checking and cross-referencing each case file individually, which would be at disproportionate cost.

However, it is the UK Border Agency's policy to keep family members together wherever possible.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many families have one or more of their members currently held in an immigration removal centre. [256437]

Mr. Woolas: As at 10 February 2008 there were 44 families detained in the UK Border Agency detention estate.

Detention Centres: Visits

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visitors each immigration removal centre has received in each of the previous 12 months. [256439]

Mr. Woolas: All those detained in a UK Border Agency Immigration Removal Centres may receive visits as they wish from family, friends and other associates. They may also receive visits from legal advisers and representatives, from ministers of religion, and from members of the Independent Monitoring Board (1MB) appointed to each centre. Records of the numbers of visitors to each removal centre are not held, either locally at the individual centres or centrally. Home Office policy is not to hold databases that are unnecessary.

Domestic Violence

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded instances of *(a)* rape and *(b)* domestic violence there were in each police force area in 2007-08; and what the clean-up rate for each crime was in each force in that year. [256681]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information on the number of recorded offences of rape and the clear-up rate for these crimes in 2007-08 is given in the following table.

From the information collected centrally on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify recorded cases of domestic violence. Such offences are not specifically defined by law and details of the individual circumstances of offences are not collected.

Rape offences recorded by the police and detection rates by police force area—2007-08

Police force area	*Number of rape offences*	*Detection rate (Percentage)*
Avon and Somerset	383	25
Bedfordshire	114	18
British Transport Police	17	18
Cambridgeshire	214	19
Cheshire	149	31
Cleveland	142	30
Cumbria	81	25
Derbyshire	235	28
Devon and Cornwall	402	17
Dorset	210	18
Durham	128	43
Dyfed-Powys	71	20
Essex	296	19
Gloucestershire	141	30
Greater Manchester	784	38
Gwent	177	20
Hampshire	595	21
Hertfordshire	172	22
Humberside	259	22
Kent	404	26
Lancashire	258	30
Leicestershire	343	12
Lincolnshire	162	17
London, City of	3	0
Merseyside	250	22
Metropolitan police	1,919	33
Norfolk	141	21
Northamptonshire	152	21
Northumbria	255	29
North Wales	153	17
North Yorkshire	131	26
Nottinghamshire	230	25
South Wales	264	42
South Yorkshire	235	34
Staffordshire	243	21
Suffolk	170	19
Surrey	148	24
Sussex	309	21
Thames Valley	376	19
Warwickshire	107	22
West Mercia	241	22
West Midlands	827	25
West Yorkshire	626	24
Wiltshire	137	23
England and Wales	12,654	26

Driving Under Influence

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged *(a)* between 17 to 25, *(b)* between 25 to 40 and *(c)* 40 and over were (i) stopped on suspicion of, (ii) arrested for and (iii) charged with drink-driving in (A) Ribble Valley, (B) Lancashire and (C) England and Wales in each of the last five years. [253225]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* Data are not collected centrally on the number of people stopped on suspicion of an offence or those charged with an offence.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office is based on aggregate data and covers persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, by age group, gender, ethnicity, police force area and main offence group, for example, violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary and drugs offences.

Offences of driving while unfit through drink are summary offences and do not feature in the arrests statistics collected by the Home Office.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged *(a)* between 17 and 25, *(b)* between 25 and 40 and *(c)* over 40 years old were (i) stopped on suspicion of, (ii) arrested for and (iii) charged with drink-driving in (A) Southend, (B) Essex and (C) England and Wales in each of the last five years. [254995]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data are not collected centrally on the number of people stopped on suspicion of an offence or those charged with an offence.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office is based on aggregate data and covers persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, by age group, gender, ethnicity, police force area and main offence group, for example, violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary and drugs offences.

Offences of driving while unfit through drink are summary offences and do not feature in the arrests statistics collected by the Home Office.

Driving Under Influence: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged *(a)* between 17 and 24, *(b)* between 25 and 40 and *(c)* over 40 years old were (i) stopped on suspicion of, (ii) arrested for and (iii) charged with drink-driving offences in (A) Hemel Hempstead and (B) Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. [255585]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data are not collected centrally on the number of people stopped on suspicion of an offence or those charged with an offence.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office is based on aggregate data and covers persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, by age group, gender, ethnicity, police force area and main offence group, for example violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary and drugs offences.

Offences of driving while unfit through drink are summary offences and do not feature in the arrests statistics collected by the Home Office.

Drugs: Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1538-9W, on crime: statistics, how many incidents were recorded by each police force where drugs represented a characteristic or motivating factor in each of the last five years. [254524]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested has been provided by the National Policing Improvement Agency. The data are only available for 2007-08 and are given in the table. Please note that not all forces were in a position to supply these data for 2007-08.

It should be noted that these figures relate to the number of (non-notifiable crime) incidents where drugs represented a characteristic or motivating factor i.e. these figures should exclude all incidents which resulted in crimes being notified to the Home Office as part of the recorded crime statistics.

Number of (non-notifiable crime) incidents where drugs represent a characteristic or motivating factor—2007-08

Police force area	*Number*
Avon and Somerset	n/a
Bedfordshire	1,534
Cambridgeshire	1,730
Cheshire	1,452
City of London	n/a
Cleveland	1,484
Cumbria	1,370
Derbyshire	1,997
Devon and Cornwall	1,331
Dorset	2,237
Durham	2,180
Dyfed Powys	962
Essex	2,852
Gloucestershire	378
Greater Manchester	10,633
Gwent	2,135
Hampshire	715
Hertfordshire	2,489
Humberside	2,992
Kent	2,457
Lancashire	4,553
Leicestershire	2,679
Lincolnshire	1,033
Merseyside	4,159
Metropolitan Police	n/a
Norfolk	2,882
Northamptonshire	861
Northumbria	1,665
North Wales	n/a
North Yorkshire	1,755
Nottinghamshire	7,544
South Wales	3,029
South Yorkshire	2,128
Staffordshire	4,274
Suffolk	1,367
Surrey	1,819

Number of (non-notifiable crime) incidents where drugs represent a characteristic or motivating factor—2007-08

Police force area	*Number*
Sussex	n/a
Thames Valley	n/a
Warwickshire	778
West Mercia	748
West Midlands	10,918
West Yorkshire	1,842
Wiltshire	1,977
Total	96,939

n/a = Not available.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of *(a)* drug dealing, *(b)* drug possession and *(c)* unlawful production of drugs were recorded by police forces in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the classification of the drug involved. [254542]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office recorded crime statistics currently collect data on four specific drug offences. These are trafficking in controlled drugs, possession of controlled drugs (cannabis), possession of controlled drugs (other) and other drug offences.

Possession of cannabis offences have been recorded separately since 2004-05 and are published in Table 2.04 of 'Crime in England and Wales 2007/08', a copy of which can be accessed at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0708chap2.xls

With the exception of cannabis possession, the type of drug or drug classification is not collected in the recorded crime statistics.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of those brought into a police station tested positive for Class A drugs in 2007-08; and what the level of voluntary treatment take-up was. [256692]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Drug testing of offenders for specified Class A drugs (heroin and cocaine/crack) in police custody takes place in 107 BCUs. Offenders arrested or charged with a "trigger offence"—largely acquisitive crime related offences—are required to provide a sample to be tested.

The average rate of positive tests for specified Class A drugs for offenders arrested or charged with a trigger offence in 2007-08 was 38.7 per cent.

The figure for number of offenders entering treatment through DIP includes individuals from both DIP intensive areas (i.e. the 107 BCUs operating drug testing and related interventions) and the non-intensive areas of the programme. Offenders from the DIP non-intensive BCUs are not drug tested.

The data on the proportion of those who test positive and voluntarily agree to treatment are not available in the format requested. The Drug Interventions Programme does not routinely hold data on those entering treatment only as a result of a positive drug test.

In 2007-08 the number of offenders entering treatment voluntarily through the Drug Interventions Programme was 43,903.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time taken by the UK visa clearance authorities in *(a)* India, *(b)* Pakistan, *(c)* Sri Lanka and *(d)* Zimbabwe to process each stage of visa applications was in the last 12 months. [254111]

Mr. Woolas: Public service agreement (PSA) target times for processing visa applications during FY 2004-05 to FY 2007-08 were as follows:

PSA 1—90 per cent. of straightforward non-settlement applications processed in 24 hours

PSA 2—90 per cent. of non-settlement applications requiring further inquires to be processed within 15 working days

PSA 3—90 per cent. of applicants for settlement visas to be assessed or interviewed within in 50 working days.

Our performance against these targets in the countries specified in FY 2007-08 was as follows:

Percentage

FY 2007-08	*PSA1*	*PSA 2*	*PSA3*
India	92	95	97
Pakistan	87	92	87
Sri Lanka	72	71	56
Zimbabwe	87	81	86

Note:
The data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.
Source:
Central Reference System, 11 February 2009

New Customer Service Standards for visa processing times were introduced in January 2009 and are published on the Border Agency's Visa Services website, together with actual monthly processing times for each visa-issuing post.

These are end-to-end processing times which include processing at Visa Application Centres (run by our commercial partners) as well as processing at Visa Sections.

Extradition: USA

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been extradited from the United States to the United Kingdom since 2003. [250081]

Meg Hillier: 29 persons have been extradited from the United States to the United Kingdom since 2003. This figure does not include persons surrendered to Scotland and Northern Ireland pursuant to extradition requests made by those jurisdictions.

Fines

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what administrative financial penalties may be levied by her Department and its agencies. [253603]

Mr. Woolas: The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 has provided a series of new sanctions for employers who employ illegal migrant workers. This includes a system of civil penalties, under which an employer can be fined up to £10,000 per person he/she is found to be employing illegally.

Additionally, Bulgarian and Romanian nationals who work illegally commit a criminal offence and may be served with a fixed penalty fine of £1,000 under criminal law.

Part II of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 enables the Secretary of State to impose a £2,000 fixed charge on any air or sea carrier for each non-European Economic Area passenger they bring to the UK who fails to produce, on request, a valid travel document satisfactorily establishing their identity and nationality and, if required, a valid visa.

The Department can also impose a civil penalty on those responsible for carrying clandestine entrants. The maximum penalty is £2,000 per clandestine and the aggregated maximum per clandestine (applied where more than one person is responsible) is £4,000.

The UK Borders Act 2007 enables the Secretary of State to make regulations requiring foreign nationals who are subject to immigration control to apply for an Identity Card for Foreign Nationals. Failure to comply with such a requirement may result in the imposition of a sanction, which may include a civil financial penalty up to a maximum of £1,000.

The police forces in England and Wales have the power to issue fixed penalty notices as a sanction against a specified list of offences, mainly related to public order (Penalty Notices for Disorder) and motoring.

For the Department's agencies, no penalties are levied.

Genetics: Databases

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people resident in Northern Ireland have details registered on the National DNA Database. [254270]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of subject profiles on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) submitted by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) was 65,082 as at 3 February 2009.

The NDNAD does not hold any information on the place of residence of a person whose DNA is sampled. This figure therefore includes residents of areas other than Northern Ireland who were sampled by the PSNI, and excludes residents of Northern Ireland who were sampled by other police forces.

The number of profiles held on the NDNAD is not the same as the number of individuals. As it is possible for a profile to be loaded onto the NDNAD on more than one occasion, some profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates. This can occur if, for example, a person provided different names, or different versions of their name, when arrested on different occasions. At present, the average replication rate on the whole NDNAD is estimated to be 13.3 per cent. However, this figure may vary between police forces.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 710W, on genetics: database, what steps she plans to take to comply with the S and Harper judgment in relation to retention of DNA information from people not convicted of a crime. [255016]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I refer to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice) on 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 809W.

Human Trafficking: Females

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to reduce levels of trafficking of women for sexual exploitation. [255431]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We continue to make good progress towards the 85 action points contained in our Action Plan to combat trafficking and we shall publish the annual update to this plan later in the year.

On 17 December 2008, the UK ratified Council of Europe convention on trafficking in human beings. This represents a major milestone in the fight against human trafficking.

We have introduced proposed legislative changes under the Policing and Crime Bill to make it an offence to purchase sex from a woman controlled for gain or who has been trafficked, as part of our strategy to reduce demand for trafficked women.

In addition to this, the Serious Organised Crime Agency has programmes of activity to combat organised immigration crime including human trafficking focusing on source and transit countries and trafficking into and within the UK.

Identity Cards

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what categories of person required to apply for identity cards are required to obtain certification of any criminal convictions. [258103]

Meg Hillier: The Identity Cards Act 2006 establishes the concept of a designated document. When an individual applies for a designated document they will also be required to apply for an identity card.

Secondary legislation, due to come before Parliament shortly, proposes the designation of criminal conviction certificates that have been applied for by airside workers who would be expected to produce the criminal conviction certificate before they were issued with an airside pass.

The draft secondary legislation is included in the Identity Cards Act Secondary Legislation consultation document which is available at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/downloads/NIS_Legislation.pdf

I would refer the hon. Member to that document.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to encourage the voluntary uptake of identity cards by British nationals in pilot areas. [258106]

Meg Hillier: It was announced in November that we wanted to find a way to give members of the public who already see the benefits of ID cards a chance to get one this year.

The Identity and Passport Service have been working hard to make this happen and will launch a website on DirectGov in the next few months. The site will give the

public a wealth of information about how to best prove and protect their identity, as well as keeping people updated about how they can apply for an identity card.

Further work to publicise identity cards is being planned.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of non-enrolment biometric checks against *(a)* an identity card and *(b)* the National Identity Register which will be made during the lifetime of the temporary register. [258107]

Meg Hillier: When we begin to issue identity cards from the second half of this year we will issue real identity cards backed up by the National Identity Register. This will not be a temporary register.

The early rollout stages of the national identity scheme will involve a limited number of individuals and so we would expect that initially very few biometric checks will be made.

Illegal Immigrants: Deportation

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the 3,300 illegal immigrants identified by the UK Border Agency between April and November 2008 have been removed from the UK. [256430]

Mr. Woolas: Published information on removals is provided in the quarterly asylum statistics. These are available in the Library of the House, and can also be accessed at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/immiq308.pdf

Immigrants: Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded crimes have been committed by people with indefinite leave to remain in each of the last three years. [254820]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not available from the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office. The series collects statistics on the number of offences recorded but no information is collected on the status of the alleged offender.

Immigration: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 283W, on deportation: Peterborough, what fixed datasets are used by the case information database to identify *(a)* individual names, *(b)* individual postal addresses and *(c)* other data; and if she will make a statement. [253646]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* The case information database uses datasets covering people's biometric and biographical data to uniquely establish individual identity and a table of addresses using the post office address finder software, table of address links to specific individuals and a further table which describe why the link is in place. These tables help to check that address data are accurate and up to date as possible and reduce the likelihood of errors throughout the individual journey in the immigration process including deportation information.

The case information database stores multiple addresses against an applicant for a variety of different uses including correspondence, prison, place of abode, etc. These are then stored either in elements including house name, street name, county etc. or in one block if the address can not be verified against the post office finder software.

Information on any other data needs to be specific to aid response.

Licensing Act 2003

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003 on shift patterns of police officers in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* England and Wales. [254993]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The shift patterns of police officers is an operational matter, and as such is for the chief constable to determine. However, the Government published a review of the Licensing Act 2003 in March 2008 which revealed a mixed picture in terms of its impact. The change in opening hours has not led to the widespread problems some people feared. Overall, crime and alcohol consumption are down, but there has been a small increase in alcohol-related violence in the early hours of the morning and some communities have seen a rise in disorder. Our main conclusion is that people are using the freedoms, but people are not sufficiently using the considerable powers granted by the Act to tackle problems, and that there is a need to rebalance action towards enforcement and crack down on irresponsible behaviour.

Additionally, we have introduced legislation for a new, mandatory code of practice. This will contain some compulsory national conditions, banning the most irresponsible practices and promotions which encourage people to drink excessively, or promote a binge-drinking culture. This will not affect the majority of businesses, small or large, that behave responsibly - but will target those that do not.

Further, the Government are funding a £4.5 million enforcement campaign, in addition to existing resources from the police, local authorities, and others, focused on 40-50 priority areas and led by ACPO Commander Simon O'Brien. There is additional funding for the 20 priority PCT areas, and a £10 million investment in national awareness campaigns.

Members: Correspondence

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer Question 243530, on fees for identity cards and biometric passports, tabled on 9 December 2008. [250487]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1672W.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 29 October 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms S. Umak. [250859]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 21 January 2009.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects a reply to be sent to the letter of 8 January 2009 from the hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood, to the UK Border Agency regarding Sainey Manneh, Home Office reference number M1300980/3, acknowledgement reference B463/9. [257521]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency wrote to my right hon. Friend on 27 January 2009.

Mentally Disturbed Offenders

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* young offenders, *(b)* young people and *(c)* adults detained by the police were diverted into treatment for a mental disorder in each police force area in each year since 2000. [250938]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information is not held centrally.

National Identity Register

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether the biographical component of the National Identity Register will be held on the Department for Work and Pensions customer information systems; and what other legacy systems will be linked to it; [258111]

(2) what measures the Identity and Passport Service plans to put in place to prevent officials from the Department for Work and Pensions from accessing its information held on the National Identity Register. [258113]

Meg Hillier: In order to maintain a necessarily high level of security, the National Identity Register will not be directly linked to any other Government databases and no third party organisation will have direct access to the information held on the register.

Our suppliers are currently building the system that will store the biographic information that will be enrolled when we begin issuing identity cards from the second half of this year.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to other Departments of *(a)* making and *(b)* servicing individual verifications of their data held on the National Identity Register. [258114]

Meg Hillier: Government Departments already require individuals to provide proof of identity in order to access many services. Identity cards will be more convenient and secure than the array of documents that are currently used to prove identity, thus making the process more efficient from the very beginning.

Linked to the National Identity Register, identity cards will provide a range of levels of identity verification the majority of which will be a basic visual check of the card and not all transactions will require a check against the Register.

It will be the responsibility of any Government Department to decide what level of identity verification they require and if they wish to invest in equipment, such as card readers, or identity verification services provided by the Identity and Passport Service.

National Identity Register: Data Protection

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether requests from other Departments for information held on the National Identity Register will be restricted to requests for confirmation or denial of data held. [258109]

Meg Hillier: The information that is provided to other Government Departments from the National Identity Register will vary depending on the purpose for which the Department makes the request. The majority of requests will be to confirm the validity of data held by the Department. In limited cases however, further information may be provided, such as in the prevention and detection of crime.

All requests will be subject to the strict regulations laid out in the Identity Cards Act and forthcoming secondary legislation. Furthermore, all disclosures will comply with the Data Protection and Human Rights Acts.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what forms of access control her Department proposes to use to keep data on the National Identity Register gathered from the information systems of other Departments separate. [258112]

Meg Hillier: The information that will be held on the National Identity Register will be collected during the application process. It will not be made up of an amalgam of existing Government data.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Identity and Passport Service plans to take to shield information for which it is responsible following delivery to systems held by other Departments. [258116]

Meg Hillier: Before an organisation may be provided with information from the National Identity Register it will undergo an accreditation process which will include ensuring there is a legitimate business need for the information and that the organisation will be responsible for ensuring that information it is provided with is handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

In addition, under the Identity Cards Act, it will be a criminal offence to make any unauthorised disclosure of information from the National Identity Register. Accreditation may be withdrawn if an organisation fails to comply with any requirements to look after the information and the National Identity Scheme Commissioner will provide independent oversight of the provision of information.

Offences Against Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children under the age of 18 were the victims of sexual crimes in each of the last three years. [253854]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available centrally.

The British crime survey (BCS) collects information on sexual offences experienced by adults aged 16 years and over, resident in England and Wales. However, due to the small number of sexual offences identified by the BCS it is not possible to provide robust estimates for children of 16 and 17 years of age.

Police recorded crime figures held by the Home Office are based on aggregate returns from police forces of the number of notifiable offences reported to and recorded by the police. These returns do not contain information on the characteristics of victims or their families.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many SCD5 child abuse investigation trained officers are stationed in *(a)* each London borough and *(b)* each police authority area outside London; and if she will make a statement. [254814]

Mr. Coaker: The requested figures are not available centrally.

Offensive Weapons

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the use of catapults as offensive weapons; and if she will make a statement. [255843]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 10 February 2009]*: The Home Office has received both public and ministerial correspondence on the use of catapults as offensive weapons. The law is clear that if someone is carrying a catapult with intent to cause injury he may be liable to prosecution under section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 which makes it an offence to carry an offensive weapon in public without lawful authority or reasonable excuse.

Offensive Weapons: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* gun crimes and *(b)* arrests relating to gun crime there were in England in 2007-08. [256753]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used in 9,656 crimes in England during 2007-08. Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument or used as a threat.

Data on arrests relating to gun crime cannot be provided by the Home Office since (a) the centrally held firearm offences database does not record detection or suspect data, and (b) offences involving firearms cannot be identified on the centrally held arrests database.

Offensive Weapons: Police Cautions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were cautioned for carrying a knife in the last year for which figures are available. [254497]

Jacqui Smith: The number of offenders cautioned for illegal knife possession in 2007 (the latest year available) in England and Wales was 7,404.

ACPO guidance issued on 22 July 2008 makes it clear that anyone over the age of 16 caught in possession of a knife can now expect to be prosecuted on the first offence. Those under 16 can expect a formal final warning coupled with a knife education scheme to help them understand the potentially devastating consequences of carrying knives.

Revised guidance issued by the Sentencing Guidelines Council on 1 August states that the starting point for sentencing a level one (i.e. least serious) first time adult offender caught in possession for a knife who pleads not guilty should be 12 weeks in custody. More information can be found at:

http://www.sentencing-guidelines.gov.uk

Illegal knife possession includes the following offences:

Having an article with blade or point in public place and having an article with blade or point on school premises.

From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the total.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Official Residences

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 719W, on official residences, for what reason a home condition report was not purchased. [256498]

Mr. Woolas: The selling agents did not advise procurement of a home condition report as they consider that the most likely potential purchaser will wish to carry out substantial works to the property and a home condition report would not be likely to materially assist such a purchaser.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 13 January 2009 *Official Report*, column 719W, on official residences: whether the property at 62 South Eaton Place was placed on the market before the home information pack was completed and finalised. [256775]

Mr. Woolas: No. Our agents have confirmed that the home information pack was finalised on 18 September which was the date that the property was made live by them for the purpose of placing it on the market.

Operation Cast Lead

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contribution (*a*) Ministers and (*b*) officials in her Department made to the briefing note on Operation Cast Lead produced jointly by her Department's Research and Information Unit and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; and if she will make a statement. [256538]

Mr. Coaker: Home Office officials and officials from other Government Departments contributed to the communications briefing note produced by the Research, Information and Communications Unit (RICU) on Operation Cast Lead. Contributions were made to press lines and to a list of ministerial and official media and community engagement. Ministers made no direct contributions to the note although their engagement activities were recorded.

Passports: Languages

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what language facilities other than English have been required to assist staff in dealing with non-English speaking passport applicants at the passport office in Belfast during 2008. [248423]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) Belfast does not keep records of all instances when language facilities other than English are required in dealing with non-English speaking passport applicants. All applications are made in English and when foreign documents support these and require translation, customers are asked to provide a translation from an independent and verifiable translator. Given the range of applications submitted from persons whose birth, marriage, divorce, or change of name may take place abroad, it is impossible to provide a definitive list of the number or type of translation services that may be required.

On the rare occasion when a caller making an application or inquiry at the public counter does not speak English, they may communicate through a friend or family member. Given the infrequency of the requirement for translation or interpreter services at Belfast, it would not be cost effective for IPS to make separate permanent provision for this.

The only exception arises in the case of interviews to authenticate identity at the regional office public counter at Hampton House High street Belfast or at the IPS Interview Office at Norwood House, Great Victoria street, Belfast. In such cases for security reasons IPS will provide an interpreter if required.

In 2008 no interpreter services were required at the Hampton House public counter. Eight cases arose at the Interview Office in Norwood House, comprising six cases interpreting Chinese Mandarin, one case interpreting Cantonese and one case interpreting Bengali.

Police

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average number of police response units on call at any one time. [254817]

Jacqui Smith: This information is not held centrally.

Police Authorities

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings (*a*) she and (*b*) her officials have had with (*a*) the Association of Chief Police Officers, (*b*) the Association of Police Authorities, (*c*) the Local Government Association and (*d*) Connect Public Affairs or consultants engaged by them or clients represented by them at which proposals for directly elected police authority representation to be contained in the Policing and Crime Bill were discussed. [247863]

Mr. Coaker: Home Office Ministers and officials have frequent meetings with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities, and from time to time with the Local Government Association. These proposals were discussed at several of these meetings.

There have been no meetings with Connect Public Affairs itself, but the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Association of Police Authorities and a number of individual police authorities appear to be clients of this organisation.

Police Community Support Officers: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers serving in Hertfordshire constabulary have unspent criminal convictions. [256491]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold such information. This is a matter for the chief constable of Hertfordshire constabulary.

Police Patrolling

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average number of hours per day a police officer spent on patrol in 2007-08. [256745]

Mr. Coaker: It is not possible to calculate the number of hours per day spent on patrol, because different forces will have different shift patterns and hence different numbers of hours per day.

However, 13.8 per cent. of police officer time in England and Wales was spent on patrol in 2007-08.

Time spent on patrol is defined as the time when an officer is patrolling but engaged on no other duties. A fuller picture of the activities undertaken by a police officer will include not only time on patrol but also other core duties such as responding to 999 calls or community involvement activities. In 2007-08, 64.9 per cent. of police officer time in England and Wales was spent on such front-line duties.

All the figures quoted above exclude Staffordshire, for which data are not available.

Police Stations

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to require police authorities to publish the number of police stations in their area and their opening times. [256125]

Mr. Coaker: I do not intend to require police authorities to publish such information; this is a matter for individual police authorities.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations there are in England and Wales. [257073]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not held centrally. The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for the police authority and chief constable for each force, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Convictions

Mr. Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female police officers of each rank in each police force were (i) arrested, (ii) prosecuted and (iii) convicted for drink-driving in each of the last three years for which information is available. [256721]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office and the data held by the Ministry of Justice on court proceedings do not include information on the individual circumstances of persons arrested, prosecuted or convicted. As a result the occupation of individuals arrested or brought before the courts cannot be separately identified.

Police: Demonstrations

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 167W, on police: demonstrations, how many *(a)* assaults by protesters were made and *(b)* police vehicles were damaged during the course of demonstrations in support of (i) Palestinians and (ii) Israel; and if she will make a statement. [256897]

Mr. Coaker: The assaults by protesters and damage to police vehicles took place at and around demonstrations against the invasion of Gaza.

Police: Driving Offences

Mr. Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times police cars exceeding relevant speed limits have been detected by speed cameras in each police force area in each of the last five years; and how many and what proportion of such detections resulted in *(a)* a prosecution, *(b)* a caution, *(c)* no further action and *(d)* words of advice from a senior officer. [256536]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The law on speeding offences applies to police officers as it does to the general public. The police can however claim exemption from speed limits in the circumstances set out in section 87, Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.[1] This provides that speed limits do not apply to vehicles being used for an emergency service purpose if observing the limit on that specific occasion would hinder such use. In the event of dispute, it would be for the courts to decide if the exemption was properly claimed or a speeding offence committed.

Within the constraints of the legislation, the use of the speed limit exemption is an operational matter for the police. The police will take into account the need on each specific occasion to reach an emergency scene as quickly as possible and to preserve road safety. Police have been convicted or offered fixed penalties for speeding when on duty, but there is no evidence that they are routinely acting inappropriately.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have been *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of driving offences which occurred while the officer (i) was and (ii) was not on duty which led to incidents where civilians have died in each year since 1997. [257804]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Data on prosecutions and convictions held by the Ministry of Justice do not include information on the individual circumstances of persons prosecuted or convicted. As a result the occupation of defendants cannot be separately identified.

Police: Finance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the pay costs of *(a)* Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, *(b)* the National Police Improvement Agency, *(c)* the Police Standards Unit and *(d)* the Independent Police Complaints Commission were in 2007-08; and how many staff worked in each organisation in that year. [256747]

Mr. Coaker: The available information is shown in the following tables:

(a) Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC)

	Total staff	Total pay (£ million)
2007-08	145	8.8

Note
Total staff numbers include HO and seconded staff.

(b) National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA)

	Total staff	Total pay (£ million)
2007-08	1,857	99.5

Notes
1. Staffing numbers are the average during the period 2007-08.
2. Staffing numbers and costs include permanent NPIA staff, police, civilian and other secondees, contractors and agency staff.

(c) Police Standards Unit (PSU)

	Total staff	Total pay (£ million)
2007-08	[1]	[1]

[1] In July 2007 the Police Standards Unit merged with the Partnership Performance Support Unit to form the Police and Partnership Standards Unit (PPSU). The rationale for the merger is explained in the PCSD Director's Report 2006-07. The complement for the PPSU in 2007-08 was 33 and the total pay costs were approximately £2.3 million.

d: Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)

	Total staff	Total pay (£ million)
2007-08	398	19.1

Notes:
1. The figures are taken from the 2007-08 annual accounts to be laid before Parliament.
2. The figures for pay cost include pension and social security costs.
3. Staff costs and figures include agency staff, seconded staff and commissioners' staff.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the funding which would have been made available to each police force in England in each year from 2004-05 to 2009-10 had the damping mechanism not been applied. [256905]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is set out in the following table.

The damping mechanism exists to protect all authorities against financial instability and ensures all authorities receive an increase in grant at least equal to the "floor" level on a like-for-like basis year-on-year.

Raw allocation (£ million)

Police authority	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Avon and Somerset	160.8	172.2	172.9	179.8	186.0	191.7
Bedfordshire	62.1	65.7	67.9	70.6	72.3	74.4
Cambridgeshire	74.9	80.1	75.9	79.2	81.2	83.7
Cheshire	107.1	110.8	105.5	109.1	108.5	111.3
Cleveland	84.7	91.9	88.6	91.2	94.7	96.8
Cumbria	57.6	61.0	50.4	52.2	53.4	54.7
Derbyshire	100.9	103.7	107.5	111.5	114.7	117.7
Devon and Cornwall	164.1	171.2	168.6	175.6	179.9	185.7
Dorset	59.2	61.8	58.8	60.9	60.6	62.4
Durham	83.2	86.9	79.4	82.0	83.6	85.3
Essex	145.8	153.3	163.1	169.4	176.2	181.7
GLA Police	1,878.4	1,976.3	1,784.8	1,850.6	1885.5	1943.0
Gloucestershire	56.9	59.8	53.8	55.9	55.4	56.9
Greater Manchester	399.9	418.3	431.4	446.2	462.7	474.0
Hampshire	186.2	192.7	191.5	198.6	203.2	209.1
Hertfordshire	99.1	104.1	114.7	119.0	120.9	124.9
Humberside	113.5	118.2	113.8	117.7	125.9	129.3
Kent	167.9	177.9	175.0	182.1	188.3	194.2
Lancashire	184.5	192.1	185.4	192.1	201.2	206.7
Leicestershire	102.0	109.8	110.4	114.5	118.1	121.1
Lincolnshire	60.1	64.0	59.3	62.0	65.1	67.0
Merseyside	246.4	255.6	248.1	255.7	264.2	269.7
Norfolk	81.6	86.0	76.4	79.8	83.3	85.9
North Yorkshire	69.7	72.6	63.8	66.2	68.6	70.8
Northamptonshire	66.3	69.2	68.4	71.1	73.9	76.1
Northumbria	[illegible]	235.4	202.8	209.2	211.7	215.7
Nottinghamshire	[illegible]	133.9	133.0	137.6	145.3	149.0
South Yorkshire	176.1	184.1	186.7	193.0	199.8	204.5
Staffordshire	105.1	111.0	110.9	114.5	119.6	122.3
Suffolk	63.2	67.6	62.8	65.4	67.1	69.1
Surrey	72.5	77.2	92.3	95.7	94.7	98.0
Sussex	147.8	152.1	148.9	154.9	156.8	161.9
Thames Valley	208.0	216.5	225.8	234.0	235.1	241.7
Warwickshire	49.5	52.0	51.1	53.1	53.0	54.6
West Mercia	106.4	109.3	103.4	107.1	108.3	111.3
West Midlands	426.3	442.3	481.9	498.3	518.0	529.9
West Yorkshire	305.7	318.3	321.1	332.6	349.2	358.5
Wiltshire	59.1	61.7	57.9	60.2	60.7	62.4

Notes:
1. All figures are rounded to the nearest £100,000. Grant as calculated using the Police Funding Formula (before Amending Reports).
2. From 2006-07 funding for pensions and security funding became specific grants, and no longer part of general grant.
3. Figures for the City of London are excluded because these are allocated to the Common Council of the City of London as a whole in respect of all its functions. The city is grouped with education authorities for floors and scaling purposes.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers (*a*) in each police force area and (*b*) at each rank have been employed in jobs other than the police force in each of the last three years for which information is available. [256537]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not held centrally.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers there are in each basic command unit in England and Wales. [256665]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* Latest available figures relate to police officers and police community support officers in post in each basic command unit on 31 March 2008. These figures were published in supplementary tables to the National Statistics bulletin 'Police Service Strength England and Wales 31 March 2008'. Copies of these supplementary tables can be accessed at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0808add_tab.xls

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police recruits left each police force within two years of joining in 2007-08; and what percentage of all leavers that figure represents. [256748]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) on 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 865-67W.

Police: Pay

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* total and *(b)* average overtime bill for police officers in each police force area was in 2007-08. [256751]

Mr. Coaker: Estimates for the total cost of overtime for police officers in each police force area are given in the following table. Information on the number of police officers claiming overtime is not available centrally to calculate an average overtime bill.

Total overtime for police officers by police authority, 2007-08 (Estimates)

Police authority	*Overtime[1] (£000)*
Avon and Somerset	4,788
Bedfordshire	2,430
Cambridgeshire	3,276
Cheshire	2,810
City of London	1,831
Cleveland	3,122
Cumbria	705
Derbyshire	3,177
Devon and Cornwall	5,590
Dorset	2,530
Durham	2,520
Dyfed-Powys	1,930
Essex	5,410
Gloucestershire	2,418
Greater Manchester	9,961
Gwent	2,899
Hampshire	9,958
Hertfordshire	.
Humberside	4,548
Kent	10,092
Lancashire	5,961
Leicestershire	3,179
Lincolnshire	2,556
Merseyside	6,949
Metropolitan	118,590
Norfolk	2,950
North Wales	1,875
North Yorkshire	3,224
Northamptonshire	1,150
Northumbria	6,980
Nottinghamshire	3,876
South Wales	4,990
South Yorkshire	6,897
Staffordshire	3,778
Suffolk	1,863
Surrey	4,698
Sussex	5,462
Thames Valley	11,177
Warwickshire	2,077
West Mercia	3,186
West Midlands	12,690
West Yorkshire	10,091
Wiltshire	1,746

[1] Included in police officer salaries. *Source:* Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) 2007-08. Estimates (2007-08 Actuals not yet available).

Police: Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the budget of each police force was used to fund pension payments in each of the last 10 years. [254503]

Jacqui Smith: The following table gives the proportion of the budget requirement of each police force used to fund pension payments for the first two completed years under the current system of police pensions financing, 2006-07 and 2007-08. The information given for pensions expenditure, both as a figure and as a percentage of the total budget requirement, consists in each case of the employer contributions made in that year. The current system of police pensions financing was introduced in April 2006, whereby each police authority pays employer and officer contributions into a separate account out of which pensions are paid. Where the income into the police authority pensions account from contributions (plus other payments such as inward transfer values) is insufficient to meet the cost of pensions payment, it is topped up by Home Office grant.

	2006-07			*2007-08*		
Police force	*Budget[1] requirement*	*Pensions expenditure (audited)*		*Budget requirement*	*Pensions expenditure (unaudited)*	
	£	*£*	*[2]Percentage*	*£*	*£*	*[2]Percentage*
Avon and Somerset	236,729,347	26,609,044	11.2	248,854,304	27,126,840	10.9
Bedfordshire	87,335,239	9,209,851	10.5	91,229,000	9,343,132	10.2

Police force	2006-07 Budget requirement £	2006-07 Pensions expenditure (audited) £	2006-07 [1]Percentage	2007-08 Budget requirement £	2007-08 Pensions expenditure (unaudited) £	2007-08 [1]Percentage
Cambridgeshire	110,474,455	11,253,797	10.2	116,008,248	11,345,978	9.8
Cheshire	150,305,000	17,097,000	11.4	157,408,000	17,516,000	11.1
Cleveland	114,975,143	13,156,000	11.4	119,736,908	13,397,000	11.2
City of London	61,206,000	7,555,521	12.3	62,859,000	7,689,183	12.2
Cumbria	90,328,000	9,866,236	10.9	94,029,437	10,095,624	10.7
Derbyshire	145,328,989	15,828,665	10.9	151,564,335	16,321,000	10.8
Devon and Cornwall	246,271,836	27,233,304	11.1	256,803,556	27,958,857	10.9
Dorset	103,055,700	11,725,000	11.4	107,800,000	11,994,000	11.1
Durham	102,583,311	13,414,600	13.1	112,325,160	13,463,100	12.0
Dyfed-Powys	79,892,792	9,574,720	12.0	83,635,989	9,801,996	11.7
Essex	231,985,273	24,944,081	10.8	242,220,179	25,820,000	10.7
Gloucestershire	91,489,400	10,204,573	11.2	95,658,895	10,518,392	11.0
Greater Manchester	503,504,176	61,560,000	12.2	524,128,336	63,300,000	12.1
Gwent	106,054,899	11,508,000	10.9	110,674,143	11,825,000	10.7
Hampshire	269,722,000	28,504,000	10.6	281,925,000	29,655,000	10.5
Hertfordshire	164,225,494	16,114,049	9.8	171,441,072	16,606,894	9.7
Humberside	158,052,928	17,727,481	11.2	164,900,977	18,417,532	11.2
Kent	247,311,000	27,951,117	11.3	257,912,389	28,494,901	11.0
Lancashire	239,533,000	27,749,876	11.6	252,645,000	28,560,673	11.3
Leicestershire	148,270,715	17,331,000	11.7	154,705,856	17,627,000	11.4
Lincolnshire	86,492,378	9,438,985	10.9	90,405,764	9,566,292	10.6
Merseyside	296,426,757	34,293,000	11.6	307,320,130	35,447,000	11.5
Metropolitan	2,425,700,000	254,779,000	10.5	2,532,700,000	262,972,000	10.4
Norfolk	124,672,108	12,502,876	10.0	131,334,638	12,766,800	9.7
Northamptonshire	105,398,000	10,285,737	9.8	110,306,000	10,269,638	9.3
Northumbria	260,475,000	31,863,617	12.2	270,145,176	32,325,376	12.0
North Wales	118,675,632	12,600,000	10.6	124,801,733	12,798,000	10.3
North Yorkshire	122,894,000	12,914,908	10.5	127,634,283	13,083,486	10.3
Nottinghamshire	170,490,070	19,629,000	11.5	177,621,598	19,731,000	11.1
South Wales	222,649,897	25,907,998	11.6	232,098915	26,293,895	11.3
South Yorkshire	230,581,818	25,878,574	11.2	239,624,966	26,283,993	11.0
Staffordshire	164,024,687	18,053,000	11.0	170,861,799	18,543,000	10.9
Suffolk	97,352,382	10,259,000	10.5	101,851,694	10,626,000	10.4
Surrey	172,396,784	14,973,000	8.7	180,592,560	14,683,000	8.1
Sussex	227,247,669	24,036,000	10.6	237,148,000	24,285,000	10.2
Thames Valley	329,137,246	32,224,009	9.8	344,367,127	32,493,512	9.4
Warwickshire	76,560,000	8,198,000	10.7	80,078,926	8,566,000	10.7
West Mercia	176,766,000	18,669,970	10.6	184,296,580	19,374,440	10.5
West Midlands	501,612,139	61,669,907	12.3	521,750,000	63,441,000	12.2
West Yorkshire	380,196,015	43,343,502	11.4	396,047,439	44,519,836	11.2
Wiltshire	91,633,000	9,722,178	10.6	96,022,839	9,915,593	10.3

[1] Pensions expenditure as a percentage of the total budget requirement.

Figures for the years before 2006-07 relate to the previous pay-as-you-go system of financing, under which police pensions were paid out of forces' operating accounts. Information about the level of pensions expenditure net of officer contributions is included in the annual reports published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). This information is gathered independently of the Home Office.

Police: Recruitment

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* applicants and *(b)* recruits there were to each police force in 2007-08. [256696]

Mr. Coaker: The information is as follows.

(a) The requested data are given in Table 1.

(b) The requested data are given in Table 2.

Table 1: Number[1] of formal application forms[2] received by police forces, 2007-08

	Number
Avon and Somerset	n/a
Bedfordshire	456
Cambridgeshire	21
Cheshire	165
Cleveland	n/a
Cumbria	431
Derbyshire	1,310
Devon and Cornwall	463
Dorset	n/a
Durham	n/a

Table 1: Number[1] of formal application forms[2] received by police forces, 2007-08

	Number
Dyfed-Powys	n/a
Essex	1,262
Gloucestershire	n/a
Greater Manchester	4,972
Gwent	1,031
Hampshire	1,968
Hertfordshire	659
Humberside	441
Kent	2,521
Lancashire	4,370
Leicestershire	435
Lincolnshire	1,020
London, City of	850
Merseyside	550
Metropolitan Police	5,468
Norfolk	n/a
Northamptonshire	749
Northumbria	2,590
North Wales	346
North Yorkshire	n/a
Nottinghamshire	279
South Wales	n/a
South Yorkshire	893
Staffordshire	n/a
Suffolk	n/a
Surrey	n/a
Sussex	936
Thames Valley	n/a
Warwickshire	n/a
West Mercia	1,005
West Midlands	3,451
West Yorkshire	2,149
Wiltshire	n/a

n/a = Data not available. Force was not able to supply data at the time of collection.

[1] Provisional management information data collected for planning purposes only. Data have not undergone usual quality assurance practices (including validation with individual police forces) and are therefore supplied for information purposes only.

[2] Does not include informal expressions of interest. Some forces no longer send out and receive paper application packs and instead receive electronic applications via the www.policecouldyou.co.uk website. Where forces receive application packs from other means it is not always possible to separately identify the number of paper application packs received, and in such cases forces have been instructed to return a zero response.

Table 2: Police officer recruits[1] (FTE)[2] to police forces, 2007-08

	Number
Avon and Somerset	153
Bedfordshire	79
Cambridgeshire	66
Cheshire	30
Cleveland	43
Cumbria	41
Derbyshire	129
Devon and Cornwall	115
Dorset	40
Durham	21
Dyfed-Powys	48
Essex*	238
Gloucestershire	76
Greater Manchester	426
Gwent	61
Hampshire	204
Hertfordshire	189
Humberside	95
Kent	149
Lancashire	182
Leicestershire	98
Lincolnshire	36
London, City of	20
Merseyside	200
Metropolitan Police	966
Norfolk	48
Northamptonshire	82
Northumbria	163
North Wales	45
North Yorkshire	0
Nottinghamshire	47
South Wales	54
South Yorkshire	92
Staffordshire	40
Suffolk	63
Surrey	121
Sussex	180
Thames Valley	245
Warwickshire	0
West Mercia	79
West Midlands	497
West Yorkshire	352
Wiltshire	47

[1] Recruits included those officers joining as Police Standard Direct Recruits and those who were previously Special Constables. This excludes police officers on transfers from other forces and those rejoining.

[2] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Police: Standards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* reports and *(b)* data sets each police force is required to submit to her Department each (i) month and (ii) year. [254816]

Jacqui Smith: The following table contains details of the 2009/10 Annual Data Requirement (ADR) from police forces in England and Wales. The ADR details the statutory requirements for data from police forces that are made under the Home Secretary's powers under the Police Act 1996.

The Policing Green Paper announced that Sir David Normington, Permanent Secretary to the Home Office, would lead a review of the data collection burden placed on police forces in England and Wales by the Home Office. The aim of the review is to reduce the burden by up to 50 per cent. The report of the review, 'Reducing the Data Burden on Police Forces in England and Wales', was published on 16 February 2009 and includes proposals for:

- cutting out altogether or significantly reducing 36 data streams;
- a two-year moratorium on requests for new data collection; and
- a new 'Gateway' process to limit requests for data which fall outside the statutory Annual Data Requirement.

The outcome of the review will have an immediate impact on the Annual Data Requirement made of police forces for 2009-10.

(b) Data requirements each police force is required to submit monthly, quarterly, bi-annually and annually for the 2009-10 financial year

	Frequency of returns				Additional information
Notifiable offences					
Homicide				Annual	Returns submitted on completion
Recorded Crime	Monthly				
Arrests		Quarterly			
Firearms Offences	Monthly	Quarterly		Annual	
Use of PACE powers		Quarterly		Annual	
Racist Offences		Quarterly		Annual	
Use of knives and other sharp instruments		Quarterly			
Vehicles stolen during robberies and domestic burglaries		Quarterly			
Disposals					
Magistrates courts proceedings and cautions					Returns submitted on completion
Motoring Offences				Annual	
Penalty notices for disorder—issued and outcomes	Monthly				
Police activities (tests, issue of certificates and other activities)					
Breath tests				Annual	
Issue of certificates—firearms and explosives				Annual	
Deaths in police custody					Collected by Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). Returns submitted on completion.
Setting up of cordons under the Terrorism Act				Annual	
Road traffic accidents: casualties					Returns submitted on completion
Number of incidents recorded through National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR)	Monthly				
Drug seizures					Returns submitted on completion
Performance measures and Her Majesty's Inspectorate Constabulary (HMIC)		Quarterly		Annual	
User satisfaction		Quarterly			
Forensic data		Quarterly			
Warrants (failure to appear)	Monthly				
Recording of all stops		Quarterly			
Prolific and other priority offenders	Monthly				
Police personnel					
Police personnel			Bi-annual	Annual	
Commendation, complaints and discipline				Annual	Collected by Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)

Police: Stun Guns

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of training provided to police officers for using the new taser stun guns in the *(a)* last and *(b)* next 12 months. [257656]

Mr. Coaker: Taser training, as with all other areas of police training, will need to be met from within force budgets. As such, the Home Office has not made an estimate of the cost of training officers to use taser.

Police: Vacancies

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officer vacancies at all ranks there were in *(a)* the Metropolitan Police Force and *(b)* all other forces in 2007-08. [256695]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not collected centrally.

Police: Wales

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many civilian staff of *(a)* North Wales Police, *(b)* Gwent Police, *(c)* South Wales Police and (d) Dyfed-Powys Police have unspent criminal convictions; [255884]

(2) how many serving policy community support officers with *(a)* North Wales Police, *(b)* Gwent Police, *(c)* South Wales Police and *(d)* Dyfed-Powys Police have unspent criminal convictions; [255885]

(3) how many serving officers of *(a)* North Wales Police, *(b)* Gwent Police, *(c)* South Wales Police and *(d)* Dyfed-Powys Police have unspent criminal convictions. [255887]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally.

Ports

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how often yellow boxes at small ports are cleared; and how often their contents are analysed. [255383]

Jacqui Smith: Yellow boxes (or yacht boxes) used for depositing C1331 forms are emptied by UK Border Force staff working in flexible teams. They are emptied as and when staff are deployed to those locations where boxes are present.

When the forms have been collected from the yellow boxes, they are sent to a central point for processing and analysing.

The National Yachtline advises yachtsmen to send the C1331s to a single point in Dover where the data are checked and recorded. The information is then forwarded to direct taxes to follow up as appropriate.

HMRC are in the process of updating public Notice 8 Sailing Your Pleasure craft to and from the UK to reflect this current practice.

Powers of Entry: Parliamentary Estate

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Lord West's review of powers of entry will have powers of entry into the precincts of Parliament within its scope. [250573]

Mr. Coaker: The Review of Powers of Entry focuses on collating existing statutory powers available to investigating agencies and scoping the potential for a future statutory framework for the exercise of entry powers by non-police agencies. The review will consider all types of premises to which powers of entry apply.

Proceeds of Crime

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on managing and liquidating assets recovered by the Serious Organised Crime Agency under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in the first nine months of 2008-09. [255273]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Figures relating to costs incurred for the financial year 2008-09 are subject to internal validation within the Serious Organised Crime Agency and will be available after the end of the financial year.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department takes to monitor the amount of criminal assets recovered under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 by *(a)* law enforcement agencies and *(b)* prosecuting authorities; and how often each such agency is required to report on the recovery of criminal assets. [255274]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office monitors the overall performance of all agencies involved in the recovery of criminal assets on a monthly basis. There is no requirement on law enforcement agencies to report to the Home Office on their performance in this area. The Department has no authority to monitor the performance of the prosecution agencies.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much money recovered under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 was retained by her Department in the *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* first nine months of the 2008-09 financial year; to which projects such money was allocated in each year; how much money was allocated to each such project; and how much of the money allocated had not been spent at the latest date for which figures are available. [255676]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information available is as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	58.13
2007-08	64.8
2008-09	[1]31.1

[1] First six months.

These sums contributed to core Home Office expenditure priorities, including policing and other asset recovery measures. Similar sums were allocated in those periods to the police and other agencies involved in the recovery of criminal assets, under the Asset Recovery Incentive Scheme. Police forces have invested most of their monies from the incentive scheme in further developing their asset recovery and financial investigation capacity, with the funding of financial investigator posts, anti-money laundering teams, and asset recovery operations. In addition some funds were used on local projects to tackle gun and knife crime. The Metropolitan Police Service also made a grant to the Safer London Foundation. Other forces supported a range of community initiatives, including youth projects, road shows, prevention of doorstep crime, over 60s club, and equipment for a faith based community centre. Other agencies have also reinvested their shares in asset recovery activity.

As at 31 August 2007, £18 million of the total sums allocated to local agencies for performance in 2006-07 had not been spent. As at 31 August 2008, £22 million of the sums allocated for performance in 2007-08 had not been spent. This is mainly due to the fact that allocations for performance in the fourth quarter of a financial year are not made to agencies until the first quarter of the following financial year. No data are available on unspent monies in 2008-09.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much money was recovered under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 by each law enforcement agency in the first nine months of the 2008-09 financial year; how much of the money

recovered was repaid to each such agency; and what steps she takes to monitor the purposes for which such money is allocated by law enforcement agencies. [255684]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information available relates to the first six months of the 2008-09 financial year and is set out in the following table. 50 per cent. of all recovered sums are returned to front-line agencies under the Asset Recovery Incentive Scheme. All agencies are required to submit to the Home Office a certified annual return on the use made of their allocations under the scheme.

£

Force/Agency (A)	*Total value of net receipts from confiscation and cash forfeiture orders reported to Home Office April to September 2009*	*Total allocations under the Asset Recovery Incentive Scheme for April to September 2009*
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	417,856.62	95,853.62
Bedfordshire Police	225,481.62	75,666.64
British Transport Police	61,412.93	23,155.09
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	631,323.03	122,245.50
Cheshire Constabulary	450,455.20	104,116.91
City of London Police	189,011.95	52,843.75
Cleveland Police	547,291.01	172,433.84
Cumbria Constabulary	530,707.73	103,175.08
Derbyshire Constabulary	491,695.66	127,611.69
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	573,237.47	148,153.02
Dorset Police	1,034,984.24	213,433.10
Durham Constabulary	389,934.58	107,529.83
Dyfed-Powys Police	234,658.88	55,298.74
Essex Police	283,183.95	79,025.27
Gloucestershire Constabulary	794,837.59	174,300.80
Greater Manchester Police	2,357,571.35	699,717.21
Gwent Police	621,539.93	134,337.64
Hampshire Constabulary	750,716.72	192,433.63
Hertfordshire Constabulary	2,101,205.06	447,371.28
Humberside Police	480,969.03	104,922.83
Kent Police	1,279,027.42	304,631.47
Lancashire Constabulary	983,278.54	254,267.68
Leicestershire Constabulary	730,846.95	180,575.27
Lincolnshire Police	121,122.66	30,456.77
Merseyside Police	2,949,819.05	1,233,075.63
Metropolitan Police Service	8,686,670.42	2,919,239.09
Norfolk Constabulary	260,505.84	53,135.59
North Wales Police	236,639.90	56,802.06
North Yorkshire Police	267,838.48	68,922.84
Northamptonshire Police	433,619.09	95,507.32
Northumbria Police	1,249,325.44	330,216.82
Nottinghamshire Police	438,125.26	83,709.43
Police Service of Northern Ireland	350,149.86	171,770.14
South Wales Police	675,730.41	142,450.53
South Yorkshire Police	765,915.67	224,260.96
Staffordshire Police	1,311,210.46	358,510.60
Suffolk Constabulary	467,732.99	101,946.46
Surrey Police	208,088.59	61,928.90
Sussex Police	1,155,398.24	226,798.41
Thames Valley Police	889,648.18	226,823.25
Warwickshire Police	184,465.26	77,953.93
West Mercia Constabulary	199,120.43	75,379.45
West Midlands Police	1,903,050.87	763,766.75
West Yorkshire Police	1,135,317.98	260,869.95
Wiltshire Constabulary	117,805.97	43,812.71
Crown Prosecution Service	0.00	5,628,644.32
HM Courts Service	0.00	4,950,473.78
HM Revenue and Customs	12,432,475.85	4,212,926.55
Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office	0.00	1,226,468.82
Serious Organised Crime Agency	5,264,065.82	1,803,960.88
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (formerly DTI)	5,148.00	1,930.50

£

Force/Agency (A)	Total value of net receipts from confiscation and cash forfeiture orders reported to Home Office April to September 2009	Total allocations under the Asset Recovery Incentive Scheme for April to September 2009
Department for Work and Pensions	1,338,725.72	505,448.79
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	472,517.23	174,654.82
Serious Fraud Office	575.00	34,063.58
Environment Agency	611,137.68	205,587.55
Ministry of Defence	181,869.15	34,100.47
Office of Fair Trading	353,748.75	132,655.78
UK Border Agency	29,912.54	5,608.60
Northern Ireland Court Service	0.00	11,804.84
Public Prosecution Service (Northern Ireland)	0.00	53,121.81
Department for Social Security (Northern Ireland)	129,161.39	29,061.31
Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency	24,978.39	4,687.55
Royal Mail	46,601.22	7,087.73
Bedfordshire County Council	255,018.28	85,597.04
Birmingham City Council	172,742.99	85,391.17
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council	965.00	361.88
Carmarthenshire County Council	0.00	750.00
City and County of Cardiff	1,003.40	376.28
City of Liverpool Council	183,109.37	68,666.01
City of Stoke-on-Trent	123,659.41	23,186.14
Conwy County Borough Council	2,714.74	509.01
Coventry City Council	44,657.27	16,746.48
Denbighshire County Council	1,246.01	570.38
Derbyshire County Council	425.04	141.68
Gloucestershire County Council	0.00	18,684.38
Hertsmere Borough Council	10,627.44	3,985.29
Lincolnshire County Council	0.00	314.74
London Borough of Redbridge	35,100.00	6,581.25
London Borough of Hillingdon	2,000.00	750.00
Middlesbrough City Council	0.00	35,984.48
Nottinghamshire County Council	0.00	1,593.75
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	100,000.00	37,500.00
Rhondda Cynon Taff	0.00	1,279.57
Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames	54,605.77	20,477.16
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	0.00	97.88
South Gloucestershire Council	900.00	300.00
Staffordshire County Council	0.00	7,820.98

Notes:
1. Recovery values are shown against investigating agencies. Prosecuting and enforcing agencies are shown with NIL values to avoid double counting.
2. Enforcement of confiscation orders is primarily a matter for Her Majesty's Courts Service.

Proceeds of Crime: Northern Ireland

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on the recent distribution of recovered criminal assets; and if she will make a statement. [255270]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There has been no need for discussions between Home Office and Northern Ireland Office Ministers on this matter. Under the Asset Recovery Incentive Scheme, 50 per cent. of all monies recovered are distributed among the front-line agencies involved, including agencies in Northern Ireland. The allocation of shares to individual agencies in Northern Ireland has been agreed with Northern Ireland Ministers.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much money recovered under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 was allocated for expenditure in Northern Ireland in the *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* first nine months of the 2008-09 financial year. [255683]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The allocations to Northern Ireland agencies under the Asset Recovery Incentive Scheme were as follows:

	Amount (£)
2006-07	303,198.31
2007-08	1,820,228.17
2008-09[1]	265,758.10

[1] April to September 2008.

Public Order

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she issues to police forces on the grounds on which they may seek cancellation of public events where a threat to public safety is thought to exist; whether such guidance includes provisions on the furnishing to events organisers of the evidence underlying the assessment of any threat to public safety; and if she will make a statement. [256224]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not issue guidance to police forces on this matter. However, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) inform us that under the Licensing Act 2003, the police may make objections to the granting of a premise's licence on the grounds of four licensing objectives. These include public safety and the prevention of crime and disorder. The police may also make objections to the granting of a temporary event notice solely on the grounds of the prevention of crime and disorder.

DCMS has issued guidance to licensing authorities under section 182 of the Act on relevant representations, and also guidance to police officers on the use of closure powers in the Act to deal with disorder or noise nuisance problems on premises. There are no provisions in the guidance for furnishing event organisers with the evidence underlying the assessment of any threat to public safety.

Rape

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number and percentage of reported rapes that were categorised by the police as no crime in each of the last five years. [255434]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is given in the following table.

The methods by which police can 'no crime' a recorded offence are governed by the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime, Section C. The relevant criteria are as follows:

(a) The crime was committed outside the jurisdiction of the police force in which it was recorded. (Crimes committed within the jurisdiction of another police force area should be referred to the respective force—see also section G of the Home Office Counting Rules.)

(b) Where following the report of an incident which has subsequently been recorded as a crime, additional verifiable information is available which determines that no notifiable crime has been committed.

(c) If the crime, as alleged, constitutes part of a crime already recorded.

(d) If the reported incident was recorded as a crime in error.

No crimes for rape offences

	Number of recorded offences	*Number of no crimes*	*No crimes as a percentage of recorded offences*
2003-04	13,272	2,086	16
2004-05	14,013	2,037	15
2005-06	14,443	2,318	16
2006-07	13,774	2,174	16
2007-08	12,654	2,011	16

Rashid Rauf

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any official in her Department had any contact with Mr. Rashid Rauf in *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* Afghanistan during 2006. [245653]

Mr. Coaker: No official in the Department had any such contact.

Security: Olympic Games 2012

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated research into the use of high-powered microphones on closed circuit television cameras for security purposes at the 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [254794]

Mr. Coaker: No research has been commissioned or evaluated by the Home Department into the use of high-powered microphones on closed circuit television cameras for security purposes at the 2012 Olympics.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hornchurch of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 298W, on Olympic Games 2012: security, if she will break down the budget of £600 million by areas of spending. [256954]

Jacqui Smith: Work is continuing to finalise the strategy and plans for the security of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. Decisions on funding will take account of the operational needs of the police and other agencies, affordability within the £600 million funding envelope and the need to secure value for money.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Cost Effectiveness

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to publish information on the assets recovery function of the Serious Organised Crime Agency to enable value for money assessments to be made. [245951]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information on the asset recovery function of the Serious Organised Crime Agency will be published as part of its 2008-09 annual report.

Serious Organised Crime Agency

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer given of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1239W, on the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), when she expects SOCA to publish its report for the financial year 2008-09; and what assessment she has made of the performance of SOCA during the first six months of 2008-09. [254976]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Serious Organised Crime Agency expects to publish its Annual Report in May 2009.

Home Office ministers have regular meetings with the chair and the director general of the Serious Organised Crime Agency and SOCA provides the Department with a performance report quarterly.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Standards

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to monitor the systems used by the Serious Organised Crime Agency to *(a)* manage its cases and *(b)* produce (i) management and (ii) financial information on recovered assets; and if she will make a statement. [254943]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Home Office Ministers and senior officials have regular meetings with the Serious Organised Crime Agency to discuss performance against the strategic priorities and targets in their Annual Plan, including the recovery of criminal assets. The specific management information and other systems used by SOCA in relation to asset recovery are the responsibility of the director general.

Sexual Assault Referral Centres

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department has allocated to sexual assault referral centres for 2009-10. [255362]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The 2009-10 funding round for new and existing Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) was split into two tranches to enable partnerships to plan expenditure and ensure they were able to spend the full amount of funding awarded within the financial year. £1.6 million was made available in total.

Bids were initially invited in November 2008. £574,000 was awarded to 20 SARCs in that initial round. A further bidding round to spend the remainder of the funding will open in April 2009.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sexual assault referral centres will open in *(a)* the next 12 months and *(b)* the next five years. [255617]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There are currently 27 sexual assault referral centres (SARCs) open and a further 10 in development. Of those in development, the Government estimate that five will open within 12 months and an additional three will offer a partial service. By the end of 2010 those offering a partial service will open fully, as will the other two SARCs in development.

The Home Secretary has made a commitment to have at least one SARC in every police force area by 2011. A bidding round for funding for new and existing SARCs will be announced in April.

Sexual Offences

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to ensure that police forces have adequate resources to protect people in local communities from sex offenders. [255821]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Resources are essentially an operational issue for individual police forces. However, the Government grant on services for the police will have increased by over 60 per cent (or by over £3.7 billion) between 1997-98 and 2010-11.

Sexual Offences: Crime Prevention

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to reduce levels of sexual violence and abuse; and if she will make a statement. [255618]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government set out their plans to tackle this issue in the cross-Government Action Plan on Sexual Violence and Abuse published in 2007. This set out three aims: increasing access to health and support services for victims, improving the criminal justice response, and maximising prevention. Action has been taken to support each of these aims and an update will be available later in the year.

Speed Limits: Measuring Instruments

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what studies her Department has conducted to assess the potential for human error when using the VASCAR system of speed detection. [255896]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The VASCAR speed measurement device is approved by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) as a device that is suitable for police use to support an officer's opinion that a vehicle was speeding. ACPO have issued guidance which requires officers to be trained and to pass a test of their performance. I am satisfied that when a trained and successfully tested operator uses a VASCAR device in line with the ACPO guidance, the device will be accurate and provide useful corroborative evidence.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what studies her Department has conducted to assess the impact of police radio waves on the VASCAR system of speed estimation. [255898]

Mr. Alan Campbell: When the police Airwave radio system was introduced, there were comprehensive tests as to the likelihood that it might interfere with other technological devices, such as VASCAR. Advice was issued on operational practice.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent guidance her Department has given police forces on use of the VASCAR system of speed estimation in the light of their withdrawal from use in Scotland; and if she will make a statement. [255901]

Mr. Alan Campbell: VASCAR is a device approved by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) as a means of corroborating an officer's opinion that a vehicle was speeding. Guidance on its use is a matter for ACPO. I understand that use was suspended briefly in Scotland while existing guidance was clarified, but that it has now been reinstated. It is now clearly understood

that VASCAR can always be used without the risk of Airwave radio interference if the radio is switched off or its transmit inhibit function has been activated, or if an active radio is outside a police vehicle and VASCAR inside, there is a distance of at least two metres between them.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forces in England and Wales use the VASCAR system of speed estimation. [255902]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This information is not available centrally. The decision as to which devices to use in speed limit enforcement is a matter for individual chief officers of police.

Standing Advisory Committees

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what standing advisory committees her Department has; and what the membership is of each. [255318]

Jacqui Smith: Details of Home Office Public Bodies, including its advisory committees, are published annually on the Home Office website. The latest publication can be found using the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/public-bodies-list-08?view=Binary.

The membership of each committee can be found on their individual websites.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of her Department's science advisory committee have *(a)* received and *(b)* applied for grants for research from her Department. [255319]

Jacqui Smith: No members of the Home Office Science Advisory Committee are currently funded as a project leader for research either from a grant or a research contract from the Home Office.

The Home Office does not keep lists of named, unsuccessful, grant or research contract applicants. The Home Office keeps the individual bids for a period of time, but an answer cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has paid in grants to research projects in which each member of the Department's science advisory committee has taken part in the last 12 months. [255320]

Jacqui Smith: No current members of the Home Office Science Advisory Committee have directly received funding either as a grant or a research contract, as a project leader, in the last 12 months. While we record the project leader and other key researchers on contracts or grants, we do not record the names of all scientists that may take part in the research. It is possible that some Home Office Science Advisory Committee members have taken part in projects in a lesser capacity than project leader or key researcher.

Stop and Account

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what date the stop and account form will have been withdrawn from use. [254818]

Jacqui Smith: The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Codes of Practice) (Revisions to Code A) (No. 2) Order 2008 (SI 2008/3146) came into effect on 1 January 2009. From that date, an officer conducting a stop and account has not been required to complete a record of the encounter other than to record ethnicity.

Stun Guns: Children

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times a Taser gun has been used *(a)* on a child and *(b)* within 10 metres of a child in each police authority area in England in each of the last two years. [256267]

Jacqui Smith: The number of times a Taser has been used on a person under 18 years of age in England and Wales in 2007 and 2008 is shown in the table. Information is not collected on the number of times Taser is deployed within 10 metres of a child.

The total number of subjects exposed to the use of Taser over both these periods totals 2,222 individuals. However only for 2,174 of these were ages reported, the remaining 48 had no reported age for the subjects.

Totals

	2007		*2008 (January to August)*	
Force	*<18 years*	*18+ years*	*<18 years*	*18+ years*
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	3	26	1	62
Bedfordshire Police	—	14	—	20
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	—	15	2	54
Cheshire Constabulary	—	10	—	13
City of London Police	—	3	—	—
Cleveland Police	4	35	4	23
Cumbria Constabulary	—	14	2	23
Derbyshire Constabulary	1	11	1	18
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	1	15	—	54
Dorset Police	1	16	—	11
Durham Constabulary	1	12	—	47
Dyfed Powys Police	—	4	1	3
Essex Police	—	7	1	23

Totals

Force	2007 <18 years	2007 18+ years	2008 (January to August) <18 years	2008 (January to August) 18+ years
Gloucestershire Constabulary	1	13	–	21
Greater Manchester Police	1	11	–	10
Gwent Police	1	9	–	22
Hampshire Constabulary	–	2	–	3
Hertfordshire Constabulary	–	21	1	34
Humberside Police	1	27	1	45
Kent Police	–	7	–	14
Lancashire Constabulary	1	40	1	29
Leicestershire Constabulary	–	6	1	51
Lincolnshire Police	–	8	1	4
Merseyside Police	1	16	–	16
Metropolitan Police Service	3	83	26	186
Norfolk Constabulary	–	7	–	25
North Wales Police	4	27	3	41
North Yorkshire Police	–	15	2	39
Northamptonshire Police	1	5	–	5
Northumbria Police	3	69	17	215
Nottinghamshire Police	–	2	–	7
South Wales Police	2	5	–	24
South Yorkshire Police	–	2	1	6
Staffordshire Police	1	41	1	29
Suffolk Constabulary	1	7	–	12
Surrey Police	–	3	1	13
Sussex Police	1	16	–	16
Thames Valley Police	1	5	1	5
Warwickshire Police	–	–	–	2
West Mercia Constabulary	1	24	4	29
West Midlands Police	1	20	–	10
West Yorkshire Police	–	40	1	65
Wiltshire Constabulary	–	2	1	28
X not stated	–	1	–	–
Total	36	714	75	1,349

Subject <18 years

Usage

Force	2007 Drawn	2007 Aimed	2007 Red dot	2007 Aired	2007 Drive stun	2007 Fired	2008 (January to August) Drawn	2008 (January to August) Aimed	2008 (January to August) Red dot	2008 (January to August) Aired	2008 (January to August) Drive stun	2008 (January to August) Fired
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	1	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
Bedfordshire Police	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–
Cheshire Constabulary	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
City of London Police	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Cleveland Police	–	–	3	–	–	1	–	–	3	–	–	1
Cumbria Constabulary	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–
Derbyshire Constabulary	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Dorset Police	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Durham Constabulary	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Dyfed Powys Police	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
Essex Police	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
Gloucestershire Constabulary	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Greater Manchester Police	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Gwent Police	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hampshire Constabulary	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

	Subject <18 years											
	Usage											
	2007						2008 (January to August)					
Force	Drawn	Aimed	Red dot	Arced	Drive stun	Fired	Drawn	Aimed	Red dot	Arced	Drive stun	Fired
Hertfordshire Constabulary												1
Humberside Police			1						1			
Kent Police												
Lancashire Constabulary						1			1			
Leicestershire Constabulary											1	
Lincolnshire Police									1			
Merseyside Police						1						
Metropolitan Police Service						3	4	1	10	1	2	5
Norfolk Constabulary												
North Wales Police	1		1				1				1	1
North Yorkshire Police							1		1			
Northamptonshire Police						1						
Northumbria Police			1				1	1	9	1		3
Nottinghamshire Police												
South Wales Police			2									
South Yorkshire Police									1			
Staffordshire Police			1						1			
Suffolk Constabulary						1						
Surrey Police											1	
Sussex Police						1						
Thames Valley Police			1						1			
Warwickshire Police												
West Mercia Constabulary					1				1			3
West Midlands Police						1						
West Yorkshire Police									1			
Wiltshire Constabulary									1			
X not stated												
Total	1	1	18	2	1	11	10	2	33	3	6	17

Notes:
1. All figures are based on police force returns detailing Taser deployments up to and including 31 August 2008.
2. 'Use' as defined by ACPO TASER Operational Guidance December 2008 policy section 5.2.
3. The term 'use of the Taser' will include any of the following actions carried out in an operational setting:
Drawing of a Taser in circumstances where any person perceives the action as a use of force.
Sparking of the Taser commonly known as "arcing".
Aiming of the Taser or placing the laser sight red dot onto a subject.
Firing of a Taser so that the barbs are discharged at a subject.
Application and Discharge of a Taser in "drive stun mode" to a subject.

Surveillance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to Lord Stoddart of Swindon of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column 56WA, on surveillance, what the terms of reference are of the review of public authorities' use of powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000; who is conducting the review; and what evidence is being taken to inform the review. [256499]

Mr. Coaker: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced on 16 December that the Government would consult on a number of changes proposed to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA), including which public authorities can use RIPA powers and for what purposes. The consultation is planned for early this year and the outcome of the consultation will also be made public.

Surveillance: Local Authorities

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 728W, on surveillance: local authorities, in respect of which public authorities the Investigatory Powers Tribunal made a determination in favour of the complainants; and whether copies of those determinations are held by her Department. [256774]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office is not provided with and does not hold copies of Investigatory Powers Tribunal determinations or details of the public authorities

concerned. The Investigatory Powers Tribunal is independent of Government. Under Rule 6(6) of the Investigatory Powers Tribunal Rules (Statutory Instrument 2000 No. 2665) the Tribunal may not, without the consent of the complainant, disclose to any person information or documents provided to it. The Tribunal's website: www.ipt-uk.com gives examples of anonymised rulings following some of its hearings.

Tackling Knives Action Programme

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on the Tackling Knives Action Programme in each of the last six months; and how much is budgeted to be spent on the programme in each of the next 12 months. [252117]

Jacqui Smith: Between August 2008 and March 2009, a total of £2.37 million was disbursed to support the work of the Tackling Knives Action programme. See following table for monthly breakdown.

The budget for 2009-10 has not yet been finalised.

TKAP Funding August 2008 to January 2009

Breakdown by month	*Funding (£)*
August	750,000.00
September	1,068,667.50
October	345,000.00
November	51,432.50
December	0
January	155,622.50
Total	2,370,742.50

Terrorism

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how she plans to ensure that Independent Advisory Groups are able to deal with the aftermath of local counter-terror operations; and if she will make a statement. [245693]

Mr. Coaker: The Association of Chief Police Officers has issued guidance to forces to assist them in managing concerns and tensions within local communities during and following a counter terrorist operation. The guidance suggests that the police include members of Independent Advisory Groups (IAG), as well as police authority members and locally elected members, in the group that is formed to deal with the operation.

At a strategic level, a National Independent Advisory Group has recently been formed to represent the local IAGs at a national level. This group will act as a central resource to forces in order to provide specific community expertise and advice in the event of a counter terrorist operation.

Separately, a two day table top exercise (Op Nicole) has been developed by the Association of Chief Police Officers Terrorism and Allied Matters (ACPO (TAM)), National Community Tension Team. It is designed to break down barriers between police and Muslim communities by promoting an understanding of how counter-terrorism operations work. At the same time, it provides police officers with an insight into Muslim community concerns and the impact that counter-terrorism operations can have upon those communities. It also addresses some of the myths that surround CT work.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government have taken to improve counter-terror policing in the West Midlands. [249478]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* We have worked with ACPO and West Midlands Police since 2004-05 to establish a counter-terrorism capacity and capability outside London. The Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) in Birmingham developed from this pilot work to become, in early 2007, one of three strategically located units of national assets placed under the local control of a lead force. The CTUs enhance, complement and support the work of police forces by providing coordination and specialist support to deliver our counter-terrorism strategy. West Midlands CTU has a broad operational capability that incorporates intelligence, investigation and surveillance functions. Personnel working within the unit have been responsible for a number of arrests and prosecutions as well as more discrete day-to-day prevention and disruption activity to counter the threat posed by terrorism.

Terrorism Act 2000: Prosecutions

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been for offences under sections (i) 11, (ii) 12 and (iii) 13 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in each year since 2001. [256096]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not currently available.

The Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Office are currently working with the National Coordinator for Terrorist Investigations to improve the quality of data relating to those arrested, charged, convicted and imprisoned under terrorist legislation and under other legislation but considered terrorist related. As soon as this is complete a Statistical Bulletin covering this information will be published by the Home Office.

Vetting: Apprentices

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many Criminal Record Bureau checks have been processed in respect of employers taking on young apprentices in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement; [256089]

(2) if she will estimate the cost to the public purse of processing the Criminal Record Bureau checks required as a result of the planned expansion of youth apprenticeships; and if she will make a statement. [256910]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau does not hold this information. The Disclosure Service is only available for those positions and types of work included in the Exceptions Order (1975) to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. The standard and enhanced disclosure process includes checks against the Police National Computer (PNC) and, if applicable, a search against Section 142 of the Education Act 2002, the Protection of Children Act 1999 and Protection of Vulnerable Adults (PoCA and PoVA) lists. Enhanced disclosures also contain a further check conducted by police forces for any relevant non-conviction information.

All individuals who have received a successful offer of employment for a role which brings them into contact with children or vulnerable adults are subject to these checks.

Young People: Arrests

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of people aged 18 years or under who lived in the most deprived decile of lower layer super output areas in 2008, as determined by the income deprivation affecting children index, were arrested in 2008. [256432]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, police force area and age group, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. Information on the individual circumstances of persons arrested is not reported to the Home Office as a part of the arrests collection.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Admissions

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were admitted to accident and emergency departments as a result of attacks by dogs in each of the last five years, broken down by hospital trust. [256358]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. The following tables show the count of finished admission episodes (FAEs) where the external cause code is W54 (bitten or struck by dog) for the strategic health authority (SHA) of treatment, for adults and children admitted to hospital through accident and emergency, over the last five years. A direct comparison is not possible before and after 2006 when the SHAs were restructured, which is why there are two separate tables.

	2008-09		2004-05		2003-04		2002-03	
SHA of treatment	*Under 18*	*18 and over*	*Under 18*	*18 and over*	*Under 18*	*18 and over*	*Under 18*	*18 and over*
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	31	99	39	78	46	92	23	66
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	31	65	30	59	44	67	36	54
Essex SHA	30	75	37	61	26	59	28	54
North West London SHA	11	52	19	29	*	37	19	29
North Central London SHA	13	35	7	21	8	17	11	23
North East London SHA	26	25	24	30	13	33	12	9
South East London SHA	22	34	19	40	9	36	*	43
South West London SHA	22	41	18	31	21	31	16	44
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	61	107	43	81	45	98	41	60
County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	70	99	62	97	66	97	65	85
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA	29	58	42	59	40	49	30	60
West Yorkshire SHA	95	180	78	130	76	91	88	95
Cumbria and Lancashire SHA	51	65	42	64	39	60	51	42
Greater Manchester SHA	88	142	52	87	49	82	64	75
Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	132	195	123	155	107	122	101	121
Thames Valley SHA	39	104	43	101	41	97	44	79
Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	29	48	25	34	23	31	37	29
Kent and Medway SHA	10	56	15	38	20	39	60	85
Surrey and Sussex SHA	73	113	73	100	61	88	41	48
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	54	123	57	101	46	100	44	66
South West Peninsula SHA	22	75	34	59	30	59	22	60
Dorset and Somerset SHA	14	29	14	28	18	20	20	23
South Yorkshire SHA	42	62	36	73	33	69	39	76
Trent SHA	47	108	75	83	62	61	80	81
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA	35	40	27	34	32	36	13	*
Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	42	56	35	64	27	61	19	52
Birmingham and the Black Country SHA	65	140	57	112	45	79	42	83
West Midlands South SHA	28	55	24	45	25	35	20	44

	2006-07	
SHA of treatment	*Under 18*	*18 and over*
North East SHA	130	209
North West SHA	241	426
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	168	353
East Midlands SHA	95	169

SHA of treatment	2006-07 Under 18	18 and over
West Midlands SHA	146	261
East of England SHA	106	229
London SHA	127	242
South East Coast SHA	94	190
South Central SHA	75	165
South West SHA	95	266

Notes:
1. FAE:
A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Data quality:
HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts, and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
3. Ungrossed data:
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (ie the data are ungrossed).
4. Low numbers:
Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk).
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

Action on Smoking and Health

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has paid to Action on Smoking and Health in each of the last five years. [257356]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's grants to Action on Smoking and Health are set out in the following table.

Financial year	Grants (£)
2003-04	164,000
2004-05	168,000
2005-06	180,000
2006-07	185,400
2007-08	191,000

Alcoholism: Health Services

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what specialist training is available for general practitioners to ensure that primary care services respond to the health needs of patients presenting with severe alcohol dependency. [255316]

Dawn Primarolo: It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure that their existing health care staff are well trained and provided with the opportunity to receive continuing professional development.

However, the Government are committed to actively supporting the training of undergraduate doctors, some of whom will go on to become general practitioners, in helping to reduce the harms that are attributable to alcohol misuse.

This will include ensuring that around 60,000 new doctors leaving medical training in England, over a 10 year period, will be able to deliver competent practice in both drug and alcohol misuse, including a clear focus on the recognition and the management of risky and harmful alcohol consumption.

We allocated £650,000 in 2008 for the developmental work medical schools will need to carry out, to embed such an integrated substance misuse curriculum into their own core teaching and training programmes. This funding will enable the first major tranche of medical schools to make the changes needed; with full roll-out across all schools over the following three years.

Allergies: Medical Treatments

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the effective ban on desensitisation as a treatment for allergy; and if he will make a statement. [242399]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has received five written inquiries and three telephone inquiries, one of which related directly to one of the written inquiries, concerning sublingual immunotherapy (SLIT) products used for desensitisation to allergies.

These products are unlicensed medicinal products and importation from elsewhere in the European Economic Area requires prior notification to the MHRA by a licensed importer. Notifications are assessed for regulatory compliance and for known issues with safety and quality and the MHRA may object to importation. In 2005 the Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM, now the Commission on Human Medicines, (CHM) advised the MHRA that they should not object to the importation of unlicensed pollen based SLIT products, provided they were for use in non-asthmatic adults under the supervision of NHS specialists with access to resuscitation equipment. On this basis, the MHRA will object to importation of all non-pollen based SLIT products.

The MHRA has recently become aware that certain unlicensed SLIT products have been imported into the United Kingdom without prior notification to the Agency. The importer has been instructed to cease importation and distribution.

The MHRA is encouraging importers to make appropriate notifications. Some have been received and assessed in line with the CSM advice, with non-objections to import issued for pollen based SLIT products. Non-pollen based SLIT products continue to attract objections to import.

Arun Community Hospital

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the rebuilding of the Arun Community Hospital in Littlehampton. [256914]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs) to plan, develop and improve health services for their local population. This is therefore a matter for West Sussex PCT, which is working to develop its business case in relation to the planned new facility in Littlehampton with the support of the South East Coast strategic health authority.

Autism: Essex

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each primary care trust in Essex has spent on services for *(a)* adults and *(b)* children with autism in the last three years. [256844]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not held centrally. However, it is the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure that the services they commission meet the needs of the communities that they serve. This includes the commissioning of services for those people with autism.

Biobank Initiative

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have volunteered to participate in the Biobank initiative to date; and if he will make a statement. [257455]

Dawn Primarolo: As at 6pm on 17 February 2009, UK Biobank had recruited 258,542 people. It aims to recruit 500,000 people aged 40-69 who agree to be part of this important national resource for health research. It is on target to achieve this by mid-2010.

Blood: Contamination

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* correspondence and *(b)* meetings his Department has with the inquiry team of the independent public inquiry into contaminated blood products (i) prior to and (ii) subsequent to the beginning of the inquiry; on which dates such meetings occurred; and if he will make a statement. [256698]

Dawn Primarolo: A search of departmental records shows approximately 50 items of correspondence between the Department and the Independent Inquiry into Contaminated Blood and Blood Products.

Only one piece of correspondence dates from before the start of the inquiry (27 March 2007). This was a letter from Lord Archer to the Secretary of State dated 16 February 2007.

Officials from the Department attended four meetings with the Inquiry. These took place on 25 April 2007, 19 September 2007, 18 February 2008 and 12 June 2008. No meetings were held prior to the start of the inquiry.

The following table shows the main correspondence between the Department and the Inquiry team. The remaining items consisted of e-mails discussing administrative arrangements relating to meetings and the delivery of documents.

Date	*Type*	*From*	*To*	*About*
16 February 2007	Letter	Inquiry	Department of Health, Secretary of State	Inquiry being set up
30 March 2007	Letter	Department of Health, Minister of State	Inquiry	Reply to letter of 16 February 2007
10 February 2007	E-mail	Department of Health	Inquiry	E-mail providing information on the chronology of screening of blood donors
22 May 2007	Letter	Department of Health, Minister of State	Inquiry	Release of report "Review of documentation relating to the safety of blood products 1970 -1985 (non-A, non-B hepatitis)"
14 June 2007	Documents	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter plus copies of 20 volumes of official documents
10 July 2007	Documents	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter plus copies of 20 volumes of official documents
1 August 2007	Documents	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter plus copies of 20 volumes of official documents
22 August 2007	Letter	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter providing information on prion removal technologies
31 August 2007	Documents	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter plus copies of 20 volumes of official documents
22 August 2008	Letter	Inquiry	Department of Health	Reply to letter of 22 August 2007
5 September 2007	Documents	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter plus copies of 20 volumes of official documents
18 September 2007	E-mail	Department of Health	Inquiry	Clarifying an issue with private office correspondence
26 October 2007	Documents and Letter	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter plus copies of 20 volumes of official documents. Letter with copies of two further documents
2 January 2008	Documents	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter with copies of six official documents
28 March 2008	Documents	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter with copies of three official documents

Date	Type	From	To	About
1 April 2008	Documents	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter with copies of three official documents
2 May 2008	Documents	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter with copy of one official document
16 June 2008	E-mail	Department of Health	Inquiry	E-mail providing information on the timetable for heat-treatment
8 October 2008	Letter and Documents	Department of Health	Inquiry	Letter with copies of 10 official documents
16 October 2008	Letter	Inquiry	Department of Health	Reply to letter of 8 October 2008

Blood: Donation

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of donated blood was used in each year since 1999. [256709]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available for the entire time period, as data for full 12 month periods have only been submitted and collated since 2005-06.

The Blood Stocks Management Scheme (BSMS) was established by NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) in 2001 with the aim of understanding and improving blood inventory management across the blood supply chain. Hospitals in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland currently submit data on blood usage to the scheme. However, it is important to note that participation is voluntary, and although the majority of hospitals now submit data to the scheme this has gradually increased since its inception.

The following table shows the number of hospitals in England and North Wales providing data to the BSMS; the percentage of units transfused; and the percentage of units not transfused in each year since 2005-06:

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Whole blood donations collected (thousand)	2,039	1,971	1,972
Red cells validated (thousand)[1]	1,939	1,876	1,858
Red cells expired	6	6	3
Red cells issuable	1,933	1,870	1,835
Percentage red cells issuable	94.8	94.9	95.2
Red cells issued (thousand)	1,941	1,873	1,825
Number of hospitals participating[2]	119	119	112
Percentage transfused[3]	97.1	99.8	100.4
Percentage not transfused	2.2	2.2	2.6

[1] A validated unit of red cells is one that has been processed, tested, and labelled/validated as fit for issue to hospitals.
[2] Participating hospitals have only been submitting data on units transfused for a full 12 months since 2005-06.
[3] Figures stated for the percentage of units transfused and not transfused are based on data submitted by hospitals compared against NHSBT figures for number of units issued. There is a small degree of duplication in submitted data due to the transfer of blood between hospitals, meaning some figures exceed 100.
Source:
NHS Blood and Transplant

Cancer: Fuel Poverty

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information on how to avoid fuel poverty is routinely provided to cancer patients *(a)* during and *(b)* following their treatment; and if he will make a statement. [247751]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Information on tackling fuel poverty is made available to all on a wide basis. This includes through the health sector who will have contact with patients including those being treated for cancer who may benefit from a range of measures, support and advice available.

The Department of Health produce a booklet annually as part of the cross-government Keep Warm Keep Well Campaign. The booklet is distributed free of charge to groups, organisations, GP surgeries, individuals and patients.

The booklet is complimented by the Keep Warm Keep Well pages on the Direct Gov website:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/keepwarmkeepwell

Chronically Sick

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for the statement that the prevalence of long-term conditions across the country correlates with a range of factors that includes age and deprivation as referred to on page 24 of his Department's White Paper, Pharmacy in England, Cm 7341, with what other factors long-term conditions have been correlated; and if he will make a statement. [255444]

Phil Hope: Evidence that the relative prevalence of long-term conditions across England is linked to age and deprivation is available from the Healthcare Commission's local health services survey along with a number of other surveys. There is no single factor that explains prevalence, rather there are a number of factors correlated to variations in prevalence across England: age and deprivation are most significant and linked to this is socio-economic status and lifestyle choices.

Community Hospitals

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the funding made available under the community hospitals programme *(a)* had and *(b)* had not been allocated at the latest date for which figures are available; what timetable he has set for considering further applications for funding under the programme; and if he will make a statement. [255457]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have approved funding for 28 capital schemes, which brings our commitment to £243.5 million from the community hospitals and services fund that has a total value of up to £750 million. We have recently conducted a trawl for local plans for further schemes and are currently considering the results. As a consequence, we have not set a timetable.

Continuing Care

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were in receipt of NHS continuing care in each primary care trust in England per *(a)* 10,000 weighted heads and *(b)* 10,000 unweighted heads since 31 March 2007. [255335]

Phil Hope: The requested information for each primary care trust, by 10,000 unweighted population, has been placed in the Library. We are unable to supply information, weighted with respect to population aged over 18, as the population figures are collected in five year groupings.

National Dementia Strategy

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on what dates *(a)* he, *(b)* his Ministers and *(c)* his officials met HM Treasury Ministers and officials to discuss his Department's national dementia strategy; [256785]

(2) what consideration he gave to announcing to Parliament the funding settlement for the national dementia strategy; [256789]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's funding proposal for the national dementia strategy. [256797]

Phil Hope: The Department and Her Majesty's Treasury had regular keep in touch meetings to discuss upcoming policies and discussions about the national dementia strategy which took place on an ongoing basis in the months prior to the launch of the Strategy.

Parliament was informed of the publication of the national dementia strategy on 3 February by means of a written parliamentary statement. Hon. Members were also informed that copies of the Strategy had been placed in the Vote Office, and in the Library. The Strategy itself did not refer to funding. However, the impact assessment, published on the Department's website alongside the strategy, set out in detail the potential costs associated with different implementation options.

The Department has announced funding of £150 million to support implementation of the national dementia strategy in 2009-10 and 2010-11. An outline of indicative costs for implementing the strategy are set out in the Impact Assessment for the strategy, available of the Department's website, although decisions on funding for future years will be made in the light of learning from the demonstrator sites and evidence gathering of the first two years. This information is contained with "Living well with dementia: A National Dementia Strategy" which has already been placed in the Library.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable he has set for establishing memory clinics; how many he plans to establish; in which towns; how much each will cost; how many staff each will need; when the rollout will start; and when it will be complete. [256790]

Phil Hope: Decisions about the nature, number and funding of memory services will be made locally by primary care trusts, depending on local circumstances.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how he plans to monitor the development of models of housing to meet the needs of people with dementia and their carers. [256793]

Phil Hope: Decisions about monitoring implementation of the national dementia strategy, including the housing elements, will be taken during 2009-10 by the Older People and Dementia Programme Board.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money has been set aside for the public information campaign on the national dementia strategy; and when this will be rolled out. [256798]

Phil Hope: The Department has allocated initial funding of £4.5 million to raise public awareness of dementia during 2009-10 and 2010-11. In addition to this, we will look to primary care trusts to raise awareness locally.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what changes he plans to make to the next operating framework for dementia. [256799]

Phil Hope: The Department will make decisions about the next operating framework later in 2009.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been allocated to the review of existing relevant information sets as part of his Department's work on dementia; and when he expects this work to be completed. [256800]

Phil Hope: The Department has allocated £1.5 million to the review of information sets. This work will be completed during 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Dementia: Care Homes

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he plans to publish guidance for care home staff on best practice in dementia care; [256784]

(2) what timetable he has set for care homes to identify a senior staff member within the home to take the lead for quality improvement in its care of people with dementia; and what funding he has allocated for the purpose. [256794]

Phil Hope: The Department will develop guidance on best practice for care home staff during 2009-10.

We will look to care homes identifying a senior member of staff to lead on dementia care as soon as possible, taking account of the priority attached to implementation of the national dementia strategy. Guidance will be issued to care homes during the course of 2009-10 on best practice in dementia care.

Dementia: Elderly

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who sits on his Department's programme board for older people and dementia. [256791]

Phil Hope: Representatives from Age Concern, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, Help the Aged, the Local Government Association, the

Alzheimer's Society, the Commission for Social Care Inspection, Better Government for Older People, the Department of Work and Pensions, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Care Quality Commission have been invited to serve on the Board alongside departmental officials responsible for the implementation of the national dementia strategy.

Dementia: Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects hospitals to identify a senior clinician to take the lead for quality improvement in dementia; and what funding he is making available for that post; [256801]

(2) when he expects hospitals to develop an explicit care pathway for the management and care of people with dementia. [256802]

Phil Hope: We will look to hospitals to identify a senior clinician to commence work on quality improvement in dementia and also to develop a care pathway for people with dementia as soon as possible, taking account of the priority attached to implementation of the national dementia strategy.

The Department has made available £150 million to fund implementation of the national dementia strategy. Decisions on funding individual objectives of the strategy will be taken locally.

Dementia: Medicine

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues on the use of anti-psychotic medication for people with dementia. [256795]

Phil Hope: The Department is currently conducting a review of the use of anti-psychotic medication and will report on its findings in spring 2009.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department were disciplined for *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment of colleagues in each of the last three years. [254086]

Mr. Bradshaw: None of the Department's staff has been disciplined for either bullying or harassment in any of the last three years.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Programme for IT contracts is covered by the 50 per cent. growth limit set in public procurement legislation; and what price each contract would have to reach to exceed that limit. [256555]

Mr. Bradshaw: One of the exemptions allowing the growth of contracts under the public contracts regulations 2006 is a cap on the extended value of a contract to 50 per cent., of the value payable under the original contract. This cap is relevant where a contracting authority requires additional services which cannot for technical or economic reasons be provided separately from another source without major inconvenience, or where services are strictly necessary to the later stages of the performance of the contract.

Use of this exemption is assessed for each national programme contract as necessary, and monitoring is undertaken to ensure the relevant amounts are not exceeded.

The value of the core national programme contracts is given at figure 6 on page 25 of the National Audit Office report 'The National Programme for IT in the NHS: Progress since 2006', which can be found at:

www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/07-08/0708484i.pdf

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on press and public relations work related to the Connecting for Health programme in each year since its announcement. [252331]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information requested is shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Expenditure (£)*
2003-04	302,407
2004-05	121,737
2005-06	1,618
2006-07	455,782
2007-08	1,280,796
2008[1]	73,252

[1] 1 April to 31 December 2008.

Note:
Figures relate to externally contracted services (exclusive of VAT) and exclude staff costs.

There was a peak in media activity, including stakeholder engagement exercises, in 2007-08 when external resources were procured to supplement in-house resources and to support local national health service organisations in press activity covering local deployments, particularly picture archiving and communications (digital imaging) systems, and to also help meet the Public Accounts Committee recommendation from June 2006 on increasing stakeholder engagement. These activities, in addition to supporting the public information programme in summary care record early adopter areas, accounted for an increase in costs.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Department has spent on legal fees relating to the NHS IT programme in the last 12 months. [256711]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the calendar year 1 January-31 December 2008 £3.969 million, excluding VAT, was paid to lawyers for services received by NHS Connecting for Health in relation to its role in delivering the NHS IT programme, and maintaining the critical business systems previously provided to the national health service by the former NHS Information Authority.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether special advisers in his Department count time taken in answering calls from

hon. Members as part of their contracted hours of work; [256552]

(2) what briefings special advisers in his Department have prepared using IT systems provided by his Department in the last six months; and to whom the briefings were distributed. [256558]

Mr. Bradshaw: Special advisers carry out all elements of their role in accordance with the code of conduct for special advisers.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health from which budget his Department's £100 million Privacy and Dignity Fund will be provided; and upon what criteria such funding will be allocated. [255301]

Ann Keen: The £100 million Privacy and Dignity Fund is being made available from the Department's unallocated central contingency for 2009-10. It is expected that the funding will be allocated based on plans received from strategic health authorities.

Departmental Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1370W, on redundancy, what estimate he has made of the annual payroll savings resulting from staff exit schemes in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09 excluding the cost of severance packages; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for 2009-10. [254462]

Mr. Bradshaw: The actual cost of the salaries of staff leaving the Department through exit schemes is set out in the following table:

	Total actual salaries cost (£)
2005-06	1,658,281
2006-07	2,186,516
2007-08	2,880,630
2008-09	[1]674,372

[1] To date.

No estimate has been made for 2009-10.

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department were on sick leave for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days in each of the last five years. [256326]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of staff on sick leave for the periods requested are presented in the following table.

Calendar year	*31 to 50 days sick leave*	*51 to 100 days sick leave*	*Over 100 days sick leave*
2008	54	35	41
2007	25	57	48
2006	43	42	56
2005	46	51	60
2004	51	57	112

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department were recorded as having been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December in each of the last five years. [256628]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of employees in the Department recorded as having been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December in each of the last five years is presented in the following table:

	Number of employees on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December
2008	
2007	2
2006	
2005	1
2004	1

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many language translators are employed in *(a)* each of his Department's executive agencies and *(b)* its non-ministerial department; and what the cost of translating services provided by such people was in the latest period for which information is available. [257158]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department: and its agencies do not employ language translators. The Department and its agencies purchase translation services from the Central Office of Information and approved suppliers. These services are purchased locally by directorates where required.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of patient drug treatment programmes which had the capacity to treat *(a)* nationwide, *(b)* in each region and *(c)* in each of the five smallest geographical areas for which figures are available in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [251248]

Dawn Primarolo: We do not centrally collect information on the capacity of drug misuse treatment services.

However, as part of their remit to improve the availability and effectiveness of drug treatment, the national treatment agency for substance misuse through the annual drug treatment planning process ensures that all 149 local drug partnerships are commissioning and providing a comprehensive range of drug treatment services that meets the needs of their drug misusing populations.

General Practitioners

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what accountability provisions there are for GPs in the new contract; what requirements there are for GPs to provide explanations for instances where *(a)* misdiagnosis and *(b)* other forms of mistreatment have occurred; and who is responsible for ensuring that such requirements are met. [254217]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to ensure that those providing NHS primary medical services meet the terms of their contract. There are requirements for those contracts set out in the National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) Regulations 2004, the National Health Service (Personal Medical Services Agreements) Regulations 2004 and the National Health Service Act 2006: Alternative Provider Medical Services Directions 2008. Where a contractor fails to comply with the terms of their contract, the PCT may issue a remedial notice giving the contractor a specified time within which the concerns should be remedied. Where the contractor takes no steps to remedy the matter, the PCT may terminate the contract. In certain circumstances, the PCT may impose sanctions on the contractor.

There are no contractual requirements for general practitioners (GPs) or GP practices to provide explanation for instances where misdiagnosis and other forms of mistreatment have occurred.

Under the terms of their contract, GPs are obliged to operate a complaints procedure which allows patients to raise concerns about any matter connected to the provision of services under the contract. Under this procedure, all complaints must be properly investigated and the complainant given a written summary of the investigation and its conclusions. There are also requirements set out in the regulations and directions referred to regarding the qualification of persons who perform services, conditions for employment and engagement of those persons, training, level of skill, appraisal and assessment.

Professional guidance published by the General Medical Council (GMC) includes an obligation for doctors to share with patients, in a way they can understand, the information they want or need to know about their condition, its likely progression, and the treatment options available to them, including associated risks and uncertainties and to respond to patients' questions and keep them informed about the progress of their care.

The Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), which rewards GP practices for achieving quality indicators, includes an indicator (Education 4) to reward practices for undertaking a minimum of 12 significant event reviews in the last three years. A significant event occurs when a patient may have been subjected to harm, had the circumstances/outcome been different (near miss). Each review case must consist of a short commentary setting out the relevant history, the circumstances of the episode and an analysis of the conclusions to be drawn. The practice is required to report to the PCT on its analysis and the PCT is expected to discuss the reviews as part of its QOF assessment visit.

The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) has developed a form to help health care staff report patient safety incidents. These are any unintended or unexpected incidents which could have or did lead to harm for one or more patients receiving NHS-funded health care. NPSA recommend that it should be used as soon as possible after the incident has happened.

Subject to the outcome of consultation, it is planned that the Care Quality Commission will register all GP practices to a consistent set of essential quality and safety criteria. Registration of primary care practices would help both to drive up the quality of practice-level clinical governance and to enable PCTs to concentrate on overseeing a small number of poor-quality practices.

General Practitioners: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 144-45W, on general practitioners: finance, in which practices the minimum practice income guarantee comprises more than 25 per cent. of total NHS income. [254160]

Mr. Bradshaw: The list of all those practices with General Medical Services minimum practice income guarantee comprising more than 25 per cent. of their total income is as follows.

Practices with correction factor greater than 25 per cent. of estimated NHS income[1]

					Market forces factor	
Practice identifier	*Primary care organisation code*	*PCO name*	*Pr (patients over 65)*	*Weighted population*	*New registrations index*	*Staff marked forces factor index*
5E1A81066	5O	North Tees PCT	0.15	3,684	0.98	0.98
5A3L81639	5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	0.14	1,025	0.97	1.01
5A4F82639	5A4	Havering PCT	0.11	2,524	1.00	1.01
5A8G83068	5A8	Greenwich PCT	0.03	1,582	1.01	1.04
5ANB81671	5AN	North East Lincolnshire PCT	0.08	368	0.98	0.96
5C3F84033	5C3	City and Hackney Primary Care Team	0.07	9,777	1.01	1.11
5C3F84119	5C3	City and Hackney Primary Care Team	0.05	7,831	1.02	1.11
5C3F84694	5C3	City and Hackney Primary Care Team	0.04	2,925	0.98	1.11
5C4F84031	5C4	Tower Hamlets Primary Care Team	0.12	10,492	1.00	1.12
5C4F84107	5C4	Tower Hamlets Primary Care Team	0.09	2,604	0.99	1.12
5C5E84671	5C5	Newham Primary Care Team	0.05	1,708	1.01	1.06
5C5F84673	5C5	Newham Primary Care Team	0.03	2,766	1.00	1.06
5F1L83117	5F1	Plymouth Primary Care Trust	0.17	980	1.00	0.96
5GCE81633	5GC	Luton	0.06	1,826	1.02	1.02
5HXE85687	5HX	Ealing PCT	0.05	1,254	1.04	1.06
5J5P85024	5J5	Oldham Primary Care Trust	0.05	3,406	0.99	0.96
5J5P85622	5J5	Oldham Primary Care Trust	0.04	2,448	0.99	0.96
5K5E84696	5K5	Brent PCT	0.03	1,756	1.02	1.07
5K7F83044	5K7	Camden Primary Care Trust	0.10	4,669	1.04	1.13

Practices with correction factor greater than 25 per cent. of estimated NHS income

					Market forces factor	
Practice identifier	*Primary care organisation code*	*PCO name*	*Pr (patients over 65)*	*Weighted population*	*New registrations index*	*Staff marked forces factor index*
5K9H83030	5K9	Croydon Primary Care Trust	0.09	3,147	1.00	1.05
5KLA89012	5KL	Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust	0.09	4,563	0.98	0.96
5L1J82663	5L1	Southampton City Primary Care Trust	0.02	2,801	1.07	1.01
5LCE87677	5LC	Westminster PCT	0.02	5,647	1.11	1.13
5LCE87691	5LC	Westminster PCT	0.00	131	1.09	1.13
5LCE87694	5LC	Westminster PCT	0.05	258	1.03	1.13
5LEG85705	5LE	Southwark PCT	0.08	4,176	1.06	1.11
5LEY00454	5LE	Southwark PCT	0.05	2,285	1.03	1.11
5LFG85711	5LF	Lewisham PCT	0.11	1,479	0.99	1.06
5LGH85685	5LG	Wandsworth PCT	0.04	1,349	0.99	1.09
5LQG81694	5LQ	Brighton and Hove City Teaching PCT	0.03	2,239	1.07	1.01
5M1M85782	5M1	South Birmingham PCT	0.09	1,294	1.04	1.01
5M3Y00228	5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	0.03	2,327	1.00	0.96
5MKM82607	5MK	Telford and Wrekin Primary Care Trust	0.07	2,504	1.01	0.96
5LJB85634	5N2	Kirklees PCT	0.07	2,273	1.00	0.97
5EXC81112	5N7	Derby City PCT	0.14	2,204	0.97	0.96
5EVC84112	5N8	Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	0.20	2,866	0.99	0.97
5D5A82038	5NE	Cumbria PCT	0.16	3,965	0.99	0.96
5DDA82622	5NE	Cumbria PCT	0.01	270	1.09	0.96
5G7P81620	5NH	East Lancs PCT	0.18	1,165	0.99	0.95
5E2B82617	5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	0.29	615	0.97	0.97
5KKB82062	5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	0.20	2,555	0.98	0.97
5E6B81032	5NX	Hull PCT	0.12	3,088	1.00	0.96
5GJE82627	5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	0.09	2,351	1.00	1.02
5GVE82655	5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	0.08	1,344	1.01	1.05
5L2G82030	5P9	West Kent PCT	0.17	5,544	0.99	1.00
5L2G82234	5P9	West Kent PCT	0.13	4,056	0.99	1.00
5JCC82111	5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	0.00	8,029	1.09	0.98
5EJC82114	5PC	Leicester City PCT	0.17	1,908	1.01	0.98
5EYC82659	5PC	Leicester City PCT	0.04	2,785	1.01	0.98
5HTM87613	5PE	Dudley Primary Care Trust	0.07	847	0.99	0.97
5HTM87628	5PE	Dudley Primary Care Trust	0.06	1,634	0.99	0.97
5HVM87634	5PE	Dudley Primary Care Trust	0.04	1,019	1.02	0.96
5HWM83670	5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	0.02	3,297	1.12	0.95
5DQM83732	5PK	South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust	0.11	992	1.00	0.97
5AGD81629	5PN	Peterborough PCT	0.09	3,256	1.01	0.99
5JHD81005	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	0.07	7,750	1.05	1.05
5JHD81017	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	0.10	4,631	1.03	1.05
5JHD81037	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	0.06	6,111	1.04	1.05
5JJD81033	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	0.13	4,105	0.99	1.03
5GMF81141	5PW	North East Essex PCT	0.05	7,641	1.08	0.98
5GMF81746	5PW	North East Essex PCT	0.06	1,544	1.01	0.98
5GMY00484	5PW	North East Essex PCT	0.10	3,494	1.04	0.98
5GRF81709	5PY	South West Essex PCT	0.07	612	1.02	1.02
5DTK84613	5QE	Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust	0.04	6,525	1.01	1.03
5DTK84621	5QE	Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust	0.05	3,149	1.00	1.03
5FPJ81623	5QM	Dorset Primary Care Trust	0.32	1,166	0.99	0.95
5FML82017	5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	0.17	2,133	1.02	0.93
		National average	0.15	6,380	1.00	1.00

Standardised limited long-standing illness mortality rate

Practice identifier	*Primary care organisation code*	*PCO name*	*Number of GPs*	*Nursing and residential home patients index*	*Practice population Q2 2006-07*	*Standardised limited long-standing illness*	*Standardised mortality rate under 65*
5E1A81066	50	North Tees PCT	3	1.00	3,968	88.49	65.47
5A3L81639	5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	1	1.00	1,274	83.71	68.45
5A4F82639	5A4	Havering PCT	1	1.00	2,814	93.45	97.64
5A8G83068	5A8	Greenwich PCT	1	1.00	1,805	120.78	130.44
5ANB81671	5AN	North East Lincolnshire PCT	1	1.00	424	115.30	137.48

Practice identifier	Primary care organisation code	PCO name	Number of GPs	Nursing and residential home patients index	Practice population Q2 2006-07	Standardised limited long-standing illness	Standardised mortality rate under 65
						Standardised limited long-standing illness mortality rate	
5C3F84033	5C3	City and Hackney Primary Care Team	7	1.00	10,165	126.76	121.52
5C3F84119	5C3	City and Hackney Primary Care Team	6	1.00	8,158	123.22	121.82
5C3F84694	5C3	City and Hackney Primary Care Team	1	1.00	3,328	127.57	122.79
5C4F84031	5C4	Tower Hamlets Primary Care Team	7	1.00	9,720	133.09	126.46
5C4F84107	5C4	Tower Hamlets Primary Care Team	2	1.00	2,563	134.99	145.41
5C5F84671	5C5	Newham Primary Care Team	1	1.00	1,948	126.25	123.52
5C5F84673	5C5	Newham Primary Care Team	1	1.00	3,638	126.09	133.67
5F1L83117	5F1	Plymouth Primary Care Trust	1	1.00	992	113.99	99.77
5GCE81633	5GC	Luton	1	1.00	2,191	96.87	102.21
5HXE85687	5HX	Ealing PCT	1	1.00	1,606	83.78	88.85
5J5P85024	5J5	Oldham Primary Care Trust	1	1.00	3,548	141.84	178.74
5J5P85622	5J5	Oldham Primary Care Trust	1	1.00	2,544	145.34	186.32
5K5E84696	5K5	Brent PCT	1	1.00	1,978	116.40	135.77
5K7F83044	5K7	Camden Primary Care Trust	2	1.00	4,233	118.23	157.45
5K9H83030	5K9	Croydon Primary Care Trust	2	1.00	3,900	81.36	82.27
5KLA89012	5KL	Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust	1	1.00	4,901	122.84	97.31
5L1J82663	5L1	Southampton City Primary Care Trust	1	1.00	3,726	100.34	107.64
5LCE87677	5LC	Westminster PCT	4	1.00	8,856	73.85	78.62
5LCE87691	5LC	Westminster PCT	1	1.00	208	89.59	116.65
5LCE87694	5LC	Westminster PCT	1	1.00	294	83.63	101.91
5LEG85705	5LE	Southwark PCT	1	1.01	4,317	101.06	112.14
5LEY00454	5LE	Southwark PCT	1	1.00	2,525	109.44	129.53
5LFG85711	5LF	Lewisham PCT	1	1.00	1,524	105.43	138.85
5LGH85685	5LG	Wandsworth PCT	1	1.00	1,864	95.35	106.14
5LQG81694	5LQ	Brighton and Hove City Teaching PCT	1	1.00	2,626	103.48	149.61
5M1M85782	5M1	South Birmingham PCT	1	1.01	1,472	100.68	99.40
5M3Y00228	5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	1	1.00	2,741	121.99	133.46
5MKM82607	5MK	Telford and Wrekin Primary Care Trust	2	1.00	2,917	114.37	102.23
5LJB85634	5N2	Kirklees PCT	1	1.00	2,578	109.37	126.36
5EXC81112	5N7	Derby City PCT	2	1.00	2,393	99.28	94.44
5EVC84112	5N8	Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	3	1.00	3,147	85.31	69.12
5D5A82038	5NE	Cumbria PCT	4	1.00	3,831	82.87	91.59
5DDA82622	5NE	Cumbria PCT	2	1.00	518	79.78	48.23
5G7P81620	5NH	East Lancs PCT	1	1.00	1,076	82.52	98.27
5E2B82617	5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	1	1.00	538	71.86	63.06
5KKB82062	5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	2	1.00	2,318	95.61	88.92
5E6B81032	5NX	Hull PCT	2	1.00	2,851	128.60	175.00
5GJE82627	5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	2	1.00	2,921	74.07	76.85
5GVE82655	5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	1	1.00	1,393	101.92	109.61
5L2G82030	5P9	West Kent PCT	3	1.00	5,816	88.61	93.46
5L2G82234	5P9	West Kent PCT	3	1.00	4,252	84.45	95.38
5JCC82111	5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	3	1.00	13,563	93.51	91.79

Practice identifier	Primary care organisation code	PCO name	Number of GPs	Nursing and residential home patients index	Practice population Q2 2006-07	Standardised limited long-standing illness	Standardised mortality rate under 65
						Standardised limited long-standing illness mortality rate	
5EJC82114	5PC	Leicester City PCT	1	1.01	1,843	108.04	116.77
5EYC82659	5PC	Leicester City PCT	2	1.00	3,225	126.95	128.46
5HTM87613	5PE	Dudley Primary Care Trust	1	1.00	1,024	110.63	111.44
5HTM87628	5PE	Dudley Primary Care Trust	1	1.00	1,958	114.97	118.50
5HVM87634	5PE	Dudley Primary Care Trust	1	1.00	1,220	124.59	114.34
5HWM83670	5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	2	1.00	4,562	105.11	74.95
5DQM83732	5PK	South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust	1	1.00	1,144	95.19	96.57
5AGD81629	5PN	Peterborough PCT	1	1.00	3,576	99.94	102.45
5JHD81005	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	5	1.00	10,919	67.63	53.71
5JHD81017	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	2	1.00	5,310	86.53	86.89
5JHD81037	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	6	1.00	8,276	76.81	73.43
5JJD81033	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	4	1.00	4,413	68.87	68.63
5GMF81141	5PW	North East Essex PCT	5	1.00	10,042	96.44	73.92
5GMF81746	5PW	North East Essex PCT	1	1.00	1,945	96.65	93.22
5GMY00484	5PW	North East Essex PCT	1	1.00	3,760	118.37	99.87
5GRF81709	5PY	South West Essex PCT	1	1.00	722	94.03	91.73
5DTK84613	5QE	Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust	5	1.00	9,217	65.10	64.02
5DTK84621	5QE	Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust	2	1.00	4,335	66.35	70.82
5FPJ81623	5QM	Dorset Primary Care Trust	1	1.00	1,040	81.74	58.43
5FML82017	5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	2	1.00	2,465	65.12	60.02
		National average	3.46	1.00	6,380	102.51	106.25

[1] Characteristic data taken from Quality Outcomes Framework with 2006-07 data

Note:

These practices listed whose minimum practice income guarantees comprises more than 25 per cent. of total NHS income have been calculated on a combination of: Global Sum, Correction Factor and Quality Outcomes Framework income and includes an estimate of their Enhanced Services income. It does not include income from other audited datastreams eg information management and technology, premises, seniority and locum payments.

General Practitioners: Pharmacy

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many responses his Department received to the Pharmacy White Paper consultation on dispensing GPs. [254278]

Phil Hope: The Pharmacy White Paper consultation, "Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths - delivering the future. Options for legislative change", was launched on 27 August 2008 and closed on 20 November 2008.

The consultation included four options in relation to dispensing doctors.

Option 1: No change to existing criteria.

Option 2: Retain controlled localities and allow primary care trusts to determine dispensing rights based on local pharmaceutical needs assessments.

Option 3: Retain controlled localities and replace existing 'patient-to-pharmacy' distance criterion with 'practice-to-pharmacy' distance criterion, allowing dispensing practices to dispense to all patients on their list.

Option 4: As option 3 but also include a criterion that there is a second pharmacy in close proximity.

The Department received 62,733 responses relating to the options for dispensing by doctors. Of these, 62,675 were in favour of option 1; 21 were in favour of option 2; nine were in favour of option 3; 14 were in favour of option 3 and 4; and 14 were in favour of option 4. In addition, we received 18 miscellaneous letters and 13 petitions.

As a result of the responses to the consultation, and the views expressed at listening events, I announced on 16 December 2008 that there would be no change to the arrangements by which general practitioners may dispense to their patients.

Genetics: Data Protection

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the evidence of his Department's chief scientific adviser to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee on 21 January 2009, what assessment has been made of the merits of withholding DNA information held on a care record from *(a)* the police and *(b)* the security services. [256705]

Mr. Bradshaw: All confidential personal patient information held by national health service organisations is subject to access rights set out in statute, most particularly the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Access to Health Records Act 1990.

Disclosure of any information to the police or other agencies is only considered in cases of serious crime or where there are significant risks to other people. The NHS will remain liable to comply with statutory obligations to disclose, but these are always for specific purposes agreed by Parliament, for example to protect public health. Disclosure in these cases is subject to long standing guidelines on the circumstances where the public interest outweighs obligations of confidentiality or to comply with a court order.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the evidence of his Department's chief scientific adviser to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee on 21 January 2009, what assessment has been made of arrangements for the use of DNA information held on care records in *(a)* anonymised and *(b)* pseudonymised research. [256706]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government are developing plans for a health research support service that will provide an appropriate environment for greater use of anonymised and linked anonymised (or pseudonymised) data sets for research. They will also strengthen the arrangements to avoid any breach of confidentiality in types of research requiring the use of information that could identify individuals.

A programme of work in NHS Connecting for Health (the research capability programme) has been under way since 2007 to facilitate medical research using data derived from patient information, strictly within the bounds of confidentiality. The aim is to realise the research potential of electronic patient records, as described in the Government's health research strategy "Best Research for Best Health". Details of the programme are available on line at:

www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/research

and a copy has already been placed in the Library.

Research using patient information and DNA information is subject to several types of ethical and regulatory review. The health research support service must comply with the Data Protection Act 1998. The Human Tissue Authority regulates the use of human tissue for research, including analysis of DNA, under the Human Tissue Act 2004. The National Information Governance Board monitors uses of patient information under the NHS Act 2006.

The Department's evidence to the Select Committee drew attention to important opportunities for research that will open up if the ethical and regulatory framework can provide for appropriate research access to data sets derived from both patient information and genetic information. No decisions will be taken without proper debate about consent and confidentiality. The plans for a health research support service are being developed with close attention to protecting the confidentiality of sensitive personal information. Improving access to anonymised data sets suitable for research is an important part of these plans.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS patient records contain DNA information. [256713]

Mr. Bradshaw: Clinicians are required by their professional bodies to keep clear, accurate, legible and contemporaneous patient records in recognition that review and audit of care is vital to patient safety and to maintaining and improving the quality of care. Decisions about the necessity and relevance of recording particular information, including data relating to the patient's DNA, is a matter for individual clinicians. The information requested is therefore not available.

Health Services: Advertising

Mr. Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what rules his Department has established to govern the advertising of allied health professional services following his announcement that patients may self-refer to those services; and if he will make a statement; [256766]

(2) whether his Department plans to issue guidance to primary care trusts on advertising allied health professional services to patients choosing to self-refer. [256772]

Ann Keen: No rules or guidance on advertising are planned or have been made centrally. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders, including practice based commissioners, local government and the public to determine where self-referral is clinically appropriate and value to the system and local community, and to promote this route of access accordingly.

Health Services: Alcohol

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many regional alcohol managers and associated staff there are in each Government Office Region. [256416]

Dawn Primarolo: Every regional public health group has a lead officer within the group, at least part time for alcohol.

Last August the Department gave each of the regions funding to improve their alcohol response by the development of an alcohol office or the appointment of a regional alcohol manager.

The regions who have appointed staff to their new regional offices are as follows:

North East;

North West;

Yorkshire and the Humber;

West Midlands;

East of England (staff come into post in March).

The remaining regions current arrangements are as follows:

East Midlands are employing two part time consultants.

South East has a regional public health group lead official on alcohol who retains this role.

South West and London have not yet appointed someone into the permanent role.

In total, there are currently 10 people in post, either full or part-time.

Health Services: Procurement

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the provisions of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 apply to staff contracted under the national retail model for equipment services to provide *(a)* complex and *(b)* simple aids for daily living. [257485]

Mr. Bradshaw: The decision to implement the national retail model for equipment services is a matter for local authorities and their health partners.

Part of the decision-making process will involve a staff impact assessment to determine the impact of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) regulations on staff contracted under the national retail model.

Local authorities and their health partners will also need to take their own legal advice in relation to TUPE and other employment legislation that relates to their employees or to the terms of outsourced contracts.

Health Services: Republic of Ireland

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions officials in his Department have had with the Irish Government on payments in respect of medical treatment delivered to UK pensioners in the Republic of Ireland; what estimate he has made of the annual sums overpaid to the Irish Government in respect of such treatment to date; and what assessment he has made of the reasons for such overpayments; [257516]

(2) what steps he has taken to recover overpayments to the Irish Government in respect of medical treatment delivered to UK pensioners in the Republic of Ireland; and what steps he plans to take to prevent future overpayments. [257517]

Dawn Primarolo: Departmental officials have been involved in discussions with Irish counterparts around the size of payments the United Kingdom makes to Ireland under a bilateral health agreement, in line with European Union regulations. As a result of new evidence around how much the UK and Ireland should pay each other under this agreement, it has been agreed that the payments the UK makes, will reduce in future years. Due to the nature of the claims process and the fact that bilateral discussions are ongoing, it is not possible to establish whether any previous payments the UK has made to Ireland represent overpayments.

Health Services: Waiting Lists

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many breaches of the 18-week maximum waiting time from GP referral to treatment there have been in each primary care trust since its introduction. [257370]

Mr. Bradshaw: The 18-week maximum referral to treatment standard comes into effect from 1 January 2009. Every primary care trust and trust must strive to achieve this standard across all services and specialties, and monitor waits so that patients do not wait more than 18 weeks for reasons other than choice or clinical exception.

Referral to treatment data for January will be published on the pre-announced date of 26 March 2009.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will list the exemptions to the 18-week maximum waiting time from GP referral to treatment; [257371]

(2) whether the 18-week target maximum waiting time between GP referral and treatment applies in respect of second appointments. [257406]

Mr. Bradshaw: The 18 week commitment covers consultant-led elective services. From 1 January 2009, the minimum expectation of consultant-led elective services will be that no one should wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred to the start of their hospital treatment, unless it is clinically appropriate to do so or they choose to wait longer. It includes all appointments including those for diagnostic tests between referral and first definitive treatment.

On completion of an 18 week referral to treatment period; a new 18 week clock starts when a clinical decision is made to start a substantively new or different treatment that does not already form part of that patient's agreed care plan.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the average number of days waiting time taken for an *(a)* in-patient and *(b)* out-patient appointment. [257407]

Mr. Bradshaw: Latest published figures for the end of December 2008 show the median waiting time for an in-patient admission stands at 32.4 days, compared to 92.4 days in March 1997. The median waiting time for a first out-patient appointment stands at 22 days, compared to 36.5 days in April 2004 when out-patient data were first published.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how waiting times of more than 18 weeks from referral to treatment are recorded under the NHS's performance sharing regime. [258136]

Mr. Bradshaw: Guidance on the recording of performance sharing for 18 weeks is set out in a letter to strategic health authority chief executives sent on 21 August 2008. The letter (Gateway reference 10417) has been placed in the Library.

Health Services: Wales

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to finalise a long-term agreement to replace the interim protocol for cross-border treatment in England and Wales. [257337]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government expect to agree a protocol with the Welsh Assembly Government as part of the finalisation of NHS business plans for 2009-10.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 57 of the Government Response to the Welsh Affairs Committee's interim Report on the provision of cross-border health services for Wales, what research his Department has

(*a*) undertaken and (*b*) plans to undertake into potential disadvantage to cross-border patients in (i) England and (ii) Wales as a result of differences in the two healthcare systems. [257367]

Mr. Bradshaw: The core principles of the national health service apply across the United Kingdom and an inevitable and healthy consequence of devolution has been some divergence in health policy. Such divergence is entirely appropriate and provides an opportunity for each part of the NHS to innovate and experiment with different models for the provision and organisation of health care services within a common framework of NHS principles, and to learn from each other. NHS services in both England and Wales have seen significant improvement in recent years.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 62 of the Government Response to the Welsh Affairs Committee's interim Report on the provision of cross-border health services for Wales, what plans he has to consult (*a*) the public, (*b*) patients and (*c*) hon. Members on proposals for a long-term agreement on the treatment of cross-border patients. [257368]

Mr. Bradshaw: If a new cross-border protocol will impact on the range or availability of health services to users, then consultation will take place as appropriate.

Hospitals: Admissions

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1759-60W, on hospitals: admissions, what the five most common reasons for emergency admission to hospital for (*a*) children and (*b*) adults were in each year since 1997. [257408]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following tables show the five primary diagnosis descriptions having the highest number of emergency hospital admissions recorded for each year 1997-98 until 2006-07, for adults (17+) and children (0-16).

Count of emergency admission episodes for the top five most common primary diagnoses for adults (17+) and children (0-16): Data for years 1997-98 to 2006-07

2006-07

		Primary diagnosis description
Adults (17+)	1	Pain in throat and chest
	2	Abdominal and pelvic pain
	3	Other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
	4	Pneumonia organism unspecified
	5	Other disorders of urinary system
Children (0-16)	1	Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple and unspecified sites
	2	Viral infection of unspecified site
	3	Abdominal and pelvic pain
	4	Asthma
	5	Abnormalities of breathing

2005-06

		Primary diagnosis description
Adults (17+)	1	Pain in throat and chest
	2	Abdominal and pelvic pain
	3	Other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
	4	Pneumonia organism unspecified
	5	Other disorders of urinary system
Children (0-16)	1	Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple and unspecified site
	2	Viral infection of unspecified site
	3	Abdominal and pelvic pain
	4	Acute bronchiolitis
	5	Viral and other specified intestinal infections

2004-05

		Primary diagnosis description
Adults (17+)	1	Pain in throat and chest
	2	Abdominal and pelvic pain
	3	Unknown and unspecified causes of morbidity
	4	Other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
	5	Angina pectoris
Children (0-16)	1	Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple and unspecified sites
	2	Abdominal and pelvic pain
	3	Viral infection of unspecified site
	4	Asthma
	5	Viral and other specified intestinal infections

2003-04

		Primary diagnosis description
Adults (17+)	1	Pain in throat and chest
	2	Abdominal and pelvic pain
	3	Unknown and unspecified causes of morbidity
	4	Other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
	5	Angina pectoris
Children (0-16)	1	Acute upper respiratory infections multiple and unspecified sites
	2	Viral infection of unspecified site
	3	Abdominal and pelvic pain
	4	Fracture of forearm
	5	Asthma

2002-03

		Primary diagnosis description
Adults (17+)	1	Pain in throat and chest
	2	Abdominal and pelvic pain

2002-03

		Primary diagnosis description
	3	Angina pectoris
	4	Other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
	5	Unknown and unspecified causes of morbidity
Children (0-16)	1	Acute upper respiratory infections multiple and unspecified sites
	2	Viral infection of unspecified site
	3	Abdominal and pelvic pain
	4	Fracture of forearm
	5	Viral and other specified intestinal infections

2001-02

		Primary diagnosis description
Adults (17+)	1	Pain in throat and chest
	2	Abdominal and pelvic pain
	3	Unknown and unspecified causes of morbidity
	4	Angina pectoris
	5	Other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
Children (0-16)	1	Acute upper respiratory infections multiple and unspecified sites
	2	Viral infection of unspecified site
	3	Abdominal and pelvic pain
	4	Asthma
	5	Fracture of forearm

2000-01

		Primary diagnosis description
Adults (17+)	1	Pain in throat and chest
	2	Abdominal and pelvic pain
	3	Unknown and unspecified causes of morbidity
	4	Angina pectoris
	5	Other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
Children (0-16)	1	Acute upper respiratory infections multiple and unspecified sites
	2	Viral infection of unspecified site
	3	Abdominal and pelvic pain
	4	Asthma
	5	Acute bronchiolitis

1999-2000

		Primary diagnosis description
Adults (17+)	1	Pain in throat and chest
	2	Abdominal and pelvic pain
	3	Angina pectoris
	4	Other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

1999-2000

		Primary diagnosis description
	5	Unknown and unspecified causes of morbidity
Children (0-16)	1	Acute upper respiratory infections multiple and unspecified sites
	2	Abdominal and pelvic pain
	3	Viral infection of unspecified site
	4	Asthma
	5	Fracture of forearm

1998-99

		Primary diagnosis description
Adults (17+)	1	Abdominal and pelvic pain
	2	Pain in throat and chest
	3	Angina pectoris
	4	Other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
	5	Unknown and unspecified causes of morbidity
Children (0-16)	1	Acute upper respiratory infections multiple and unspecified sites
	2	Asthma
	3	Viral infection of unspecified site
	4	Abdominal and pelvic pain
	5	Fracture of forearm

1997-98

		Primary diagnosis description
Adults (17+)	1	Abdominal and pelvic pain
	2	Pain in throat and chest
	3	Angina pectoris
	4	Unknown and unspecified causes of morbidity
	5	Other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
Children (0-16)	1	Acute upper respiratory infections multiple and unspecified sites
	2	Asthma
	3	Abdominal and pelvic pain
	4	Viral infection of unspecified site
	5	Fracture of forearm

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Hospitals: Malnutrition

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the incidence of malnutrition among *(a)* all hospital patients and *(b)* hospital patients aged 65 years and over. [256262]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table indicates the counts of admissions into hospital where there was a primary or secondary diagnosis of malnutrition for

2006-07 for all patients and those aged over and under 65. This is the only form that the data are available.

Total admissions 2006-07

	Number
England	2,581
64 and under	1,380
65 and under	1,200
Unknown	1

Source:
Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Independent Reconfiguration Panel

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS hospital re-organisations have been referred to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel since it was established; and how many of those were changed as a result. [255819]

Ann Keen: Since the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) was established in 2003, the IRP has competed 14 full reviews at the request of the Secretary of State for Health.

In general terms, three of the 14 reviews undertaken by the IRP have supported local national health service proposals, four have not supported them and seven supported them in principle, but placed conditions on their implementation.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many requests from overview and scrutiny committees for *(a)* proposed and *(b)* in progress NHS re-organisations to be referred to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel have been rejected since overview and scrutiny committees were established. [255820]

Ann Keen: Regulation 4 of the Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002 allows overview and scrutiny committees the power to refer contested local national health service reconfigurations to the Secretary of State for Health.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health considers all referrals from overview and scrutiny committees.

Injuries: Firearms

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were *(a)* treated in accident and emergency departments and *(b)* admitted to hospital for (i) gunshot and (ii) knife wounds in each of the last five years. [249784]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on numbers treated in accident and emergency is not available as the information requested is not collected centrally. Information is available on patients who have been admitted to hospital for gunshot wounds and knife wounds—finished admission episodes.

The data for X99—assault by sharp object—has been included as it is the closest data code for intentional knife wounds. In order to enable comparison data for W26—contact with a knife, sword or dagger, has also been provided.

Reference should be made to all attached notes when reading this response.

Count of finished admission episodes with a gunshot wound or knife related injury by strategic health authority for period 2002-03 to 2006-07—national health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS

	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03
Gunshot wounds*	1,315	1,233	1,163	1,370	1,287
Contact with knife sword or dagger**	5,284	5,321	4,939	4,921	4,805
Assault by sharp object**	5,720	5,496	5,072	4,774	4,275

Notes:
1. Finished admission episodes—A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Cause Code—Gunshot* wounds and Knife** related injuries. The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects.
3. Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) has used the following ICD-10 external cause codes when referring to gunshot wounds and knife related injuries.

*Gunshot wounds**:
W32—Handgun discharge
W33—Rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge
W34—Discharge from other and unspecified firearms
X72—Intentional self-harm by handgun discharge
X73—Intentional self-harm by rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge
X74—Intentional self-harm by other and unspecified firearm discharge
X93—Assault by handgun discharge
X94—Assault by rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge
X95—Assault by other and unspecified firearm discharge
Y22—Handgun discharge, undetermined intent
Y23—Rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge, undetermined intent
Y24—Other and unspecified firearm discharge, undetermined intent
Y35.0—Legal intervention involving firearm discharge
Y36.4—War operations involving firearm discharge and other forms of conventional warfare

*Knife related injuries***:
W26—Contact with knife, sword or dagger
Z99—Assault by sharp object

Data Quality:
HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts, and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of Independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Ungrossed Data:
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1372-78W, on injuries: firearms, how many cases of incidents classified under the *(a)* X93, *(b)* X94 and *(c)* X95 code there were in each hospital in each year. [254107]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not available on the injuries at individual hospital level. The Hospital Episode Statistics collection does provide information by strategic health authority (SHA) of residence.

The following tables provide data for each of the requested codes for ten years. It should be noted that this list does not constitute the full set of codes used to identify gunshot wounds.

The structure of SHAs changed for data year 2006-07, with 28 SHAs merging to make just ten. The number of admissions does not represent the number of patients as a patient may have been admitted more than once.

Total number of admissions to hospital where the patient had a cause code of X93 broken down by strategic health authority of residence for the last 10 years
Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

		2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98
	Resident in England total	44	42	34	48	46	40	31	27	20	21
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic HA	..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic HA	..	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	2
Q03	Essex Strategic HA	..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Q04	North West London Strategic HA	..	7	5	8	5	5	6	2	1	1
Q05	North Central London Strategic HA	..	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	2	0
Q06	North East London Strategic HA	..	1	2	1	7	3	3	1	1	0
Q07	South East London Strategic HA	..	3	2	4	2	3	3	2	0	0
Q08	South West London Strategic HA	..	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	2	0
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Strategic HA	..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic HA	..	2	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	0
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Strategic HA	..	1	2	2	0	0	0	3	2	1
Q12	West Yorkshire Strategic HA	..	7	6	16	16	11	1	7	4	2
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic HA	..	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q14	Greater Manchester Strategic HA	..	4	4	3	1	2	1	6	2	4
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic HA	..	1	2	5	2	7	2	0	3	2
Q16	Thames Valley Strategic HA	..	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic HA	..	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Q18	Kent and Medway Strategic HA	..	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	1
Q19	Surrey and Sussex Strategic HA	..	0	2	0	1	1	2	0	1	2
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic HA	..	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q21	South West Peninsula Strategic HA	..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q22	Dorset and Somerset Strategic HA	..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Q23	South Yorkshire Strategic HA	..	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0
Q24	Trent Strategic HA	..	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Strategic HA	..	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic HA	..	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

2006-07 for all patients and those aged over and under 65. This is the only form that the data are available.

Total admissions 2006-07

	Number
England	2,581
64 and under	1,380
65 and under	1,200
Unknown	1

Source:
Statistics(HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Independent Reconfiguration Panel

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS hospital re-organisations have been referred to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel since it was established; and how many of those were changed as a result. [255819]

Ann Keen: Since the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) was established in 2003, the IRP has competed 14 full reviews at the request of the Secretary of State for Health.

In general terms, three of the 14 reviews undertaken by the IRP have supported local national health service proposals, four have not supported them and seven supported them in principle, but placed conditions on their implementation.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many requests from overview and scrutiny committees for *(a)* proposed and *(b)* in progress NHS re-organisations to be referred to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel have been rejected since overview and scrutiny committees were established. [255820]

Ann Keen: Regulation 4 of the Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002 allows overview and scrutiny committees the power to refer contested local national health service reconfigurations to the Secretary of State for Health.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health considers all referrals from overview and scrutiny committees.

Injuries: Firearms

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were *(a)* treated in accident and emergency departments and *(b)* admitted to hospital for (i) gunshot and (ii) knife wounds in each of the last five years. [249784]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on numbers treated in accident and emergency is not available as the information requested is not collected centrally. Information is available on patients who have been admitted to hospital for gunshot wounds and knife wounds—finished admission episodes.

The data for X99—assault by sharp object—has been included as it is the closest data code for intentional knife wounds. In order to enable comparison data for W26—contact with a knife, sword or dagger, has also been provided.

Reference should be made to all attached notes when reading this response.

Count of finished admission episodes with a gunshot wound or knife related injury by strategic health authority for period 2002-03 to 2006-07—national health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS

	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03
Gunshot wounds*	1,315	1,233	1,163	1,370	1,287
Contact with knife sword or dagger**	5,284	5,321	4,939	4,921	4,805
Assault by sharp object**	5,720	5,496	5,072	4,774	4,275

Notes:
1. Finished admission episodes—A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Cause Code—Gunshot* wounds and Knife** related injuries. The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects.
3. Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) has used the following ICD-10 external cause codes when referring to gunshot wounds and knife related injuries.
*Gunshot wounds**
W32—Handgun discharge
W33—Rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge
W34—Discharge from other and unspecified firearms
X72—Intentional self-harm by handgun discharge
X73—Intentional self-harm by rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge
X74—Intentional self-harm by other and unspecified firearm discharge
X93—Assault by handgun discharge
X94—Assault by rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge
X95—Assault by other and unspecified firearm discharge
Y22—Handgun discharge, undetermined intent
Y23—Rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge, undetermined intent
Y24—Other and unspecified firearm discharge, undetermined intent
Y35.0—Legal intervention involving firearm discharge
Y36.4—War operations involving firearm discharge and other forms of conventional warfare
*Knife related injuries***
W26—Contact with knife, sword or dagger
Z99—Assault by sharp object
Data Quality
HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts, and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of Independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Ungrossed Data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1372-78W, on injuries: firearms, how many cases of incidents classified under the *(a)* X93, *(b)* X94 and *(c)* X95 code there were in each hospital in each year. [254107]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not available on the injuries at individual hospital level. The Hospital Episode Statistics collection does provide information by strategic health authority (SHA) of residence.

The following tables provide data for each of the requested codes for ten years. It should be noted that this list does not constitute the full set of codes used to identify gunshot wounds.

The structure of SHAs changed for data year 2006-07, with 28 SHAs merging to make just ten. The number of admissions does not represent the number of patients as a patient may have been admitted more than once.

Total number of admissions to hospital where the patient had a cause code of X93 broken down by strategic health authority of residence for the last 10 years
Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

		2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98
	Resident in England total	44	42	34	48	46	40	31	27	20	21
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic HA	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic HA	—	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	2
Q03	Essex Strategic HA	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Q04	North West London Strategic HA	—	7	5	8	5	5	6	2	1	1
Q05	North Central London Strategic HA	—	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	2	0
Q06	North East London Strategic HA	—	1	2	1	7	3	3	1	1	0
Q07	South East London Strategic HA	—	3	2	4	2	3	3	2	0	0
Q08	South West London Strategic HA	—	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	2	0
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Strategic HA	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic HA	—	2	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	0
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Strategic HA	—	1	2	2	0	0	0	3	2	1
Q12	West Yorkshire Strategic HA	—	7	6	16	16	11	5	7	4	2
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic HA	—	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q14	Greater Manchester Strategic HA	—	4	4	3	1	2	1	6	2	4
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic HA	—	1	2	5	2	2	2	0	3	2
Q16	Thames Valley Strategic HA	—	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic HA	—	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Q18	Kent and Medway Strategic HA	—	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	1
Q19	Surrey and Sussex Strategic HA	—	0	2	0	1	1	2	0	1	2
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic HA	—	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q21	South West Peninsula Strategic HA	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q22	Dorset and Somerset Strategic HA	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Q23	South Yorkshire Strategic HA	—	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0
Q24	Trent Strategic HA	—	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Strategic HA	—	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic HA	—	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Total number of admissions to hospital where the patient had a cause code of X93' broken down by strategic health authority of residence for the last 10 years
Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

		2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country Strategic HA	—	2	2	1	0	6	1	2	0	1
Q28	West Midlands South Strategic HA	—	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Q30	North East SHA	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q31	North West SHA	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q32	Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q33	East Midlands SHA	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q34	West Midlands SHA	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q35	East of England SHA	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q36	London SHA	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q37	South East Coast SHA	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q38	South Central SHA	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q39	South West SHA	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
U	England – Not otherwise specified	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Other unknown/foreign SHAs	2	2	3	1	1	2	0	1	0	2

Total number of admissions to hospital where the patient had a cause code of X94' broken down by strategic health authority of residence for the last 10 years
Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

		2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-2000	1998/99	1997/98
	Resident in England total	52	51	51	49	54	61	48	61	42	49
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic HA	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic HA	—	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
Q03	Essex Strategic HA	—	0	1	1	2	0	1	6	2	0
Q04	North West London Strategic HA	—	1	5	4	6	3	3	2	1	3
Q05	North Central London Strategic HA	—	3	2	1	0	4	0	1	1	2
Q06	North East London Strategic HA	—	4	3	3	3	0	4	3	2	2
Q07	South East London Strategic HA	—	3	1	3	5	0	5	0	2	1
Q08	South West London Strategic HA	—	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Strategic HA	—	1	0	1	4	1	2	3	3	2
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic HA	—	2	0	1	1	1	3	1	2	1
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Strategic HA	—	4	2	2	1	4	1	1	5	1
Q12	West Yorkshire Strategic HA	—	7	7	11	12	13	12	11	6	7
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic HA	—	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	1
Q14	Greater Manchester Strategic HA	—	4	2	2	7	7	3	2	4	4
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic HA	—	4	7	4	1	4	3	2	0	1
Q16	Thames Valley Strategic HA	—	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	0	0
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic HA	—	0	0	3	0	0	2	1	1	0
Q18	Kent and Medway Strategic HA	—	1	3	0	0	2	0	1	1	3
Q19	Surrey and Sussex Strategic HA	—	0	1	1	0	4	2	1	4	2

Total number of admissions to hospital where the patient had a cause code of X94[1] broken down by strategic health authority of residence for the last 10 years
Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

		2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-2000	1998/99	1997/98
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic HA	—	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	2
Q21	South West Peninsula Strategic HA	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Q22	Dorset and Somerset Strategic HA	—	3	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	0
Q23	South Yorkshire Strategic HA	—	1	4	1	1	1	0	6	2	1
Q24	Trent Strategic HA	—	1	3	2	0	3	2	2	0	4
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Strategic HA	—	2	0	1	1	0	1	2	2	5
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic HA	—	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country Strategic HA	—	4	3	3	0	5	2	7	1	4
Q28	West Midlands South Strategic HA	—	1	3	0	0	2	1	2	1	0
Q30	North East SHA	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q31	North West SHA	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q32	Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q33	East Midlands SHA	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q34	West Midlands SHA	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q35	East of England SHA	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q36	London SHA	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q37	South East Coast SHA	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q38	South Central SHA	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q39	South West SHA	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
U	England—Not otherwise specified	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Other/unknown/ foreign SHAs	2	0	0	1	2	3	1	1	1	2

Total number of admissions to hospital where the patient had a cause code of X95[1] broken down by strategic health authority of residence for the last 10 years
Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

		2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98
	Resident in England Total	125	127	122	134	119	119	75	82	51	66
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Strategic HA	—	0	2	1	0	2	2	1	1	0
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Strategic HA	—	2	0	4	2	1	1	2	0	1
Q03	Essex Strategic HA	—	0	0	1	2	0	3	1	3	1
Q04	North West London Strategic HA	—	14	6	7	5	6	5	7	1	6
Q05	North Central London Strategic HA	—	3	3	3	0	3	3	1	1	4
Q06	North East London Strategic HA	—	6	3	6	7	8	2	4	4	0
Q07	South East London Strategic HA	—	24	15	14	15	10	10	3	6	2
Q08	South West London Strategic HA	—	4	3	5	3	0	0	5	2	4
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Strategic HA	—	1	6	2	1	5	5	6	3	3
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley Strategic HA	—	0	0	3	3	3	1	4	4	3
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Strategic HA	—	1	0	3	3	1	2	1	0	0
Q12	West Yorkshire Strategic HA	—	4	5	10	8	19	5	3	3	3
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic HA	—	3	2	3	1	1	1	1	2	3

Total number of admissions to hospital where the patient had a cause code of X95[1] broken down by strategic health authority of residence for the last 10 years
Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

		2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98
Q14	Greater Manchester Strategic HA	—	13	11	13	8	11	9	11	3	9
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic HA	—	12	18	16	9	14	5	7	3	7
Q16	Thames Valley Strategic HA	—	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	0
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic HA	—	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	0
Q18	Kent and Medway Strategic HA	—	3	2	7	3	5	0	0	0	1
Q19	Surrey and Sussex Strategic HA	—	5	3	1	1	0	2	7	0	1
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic HA	—	8	8	1	7	1	3	1	2	2
Q21	South West Peninsula Strategic HA	—	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Q22	Dorset and Somerset Strategic HA	—	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	0
Q23	South Yorkshire Strategic HA	—	6	4	1	2	2	1	1	1	2
Q24	Trent Strategic HA	—	2	3	7	8	4	2	1	1	2
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Strategic HA	—	1	2	0	3	1	1	0	1	0
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic HA	—	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country Strategic HA	—	8	15	11	24	17	6	8	4	11
Q28	West Midlands South Strategic HA	—	0	8	5	0	0	0	2	0	0
Q30	North East SHA	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q31	North West SHA	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q32	Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q33	East Midlands SHA	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q34	West Midlands SHA	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q35	East of England SHA	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q36	London SHA	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q37	South East Coast SHA	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q38	South Central SHA	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q39	South West SHA	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
U	England — Not otherwise specified	0	2	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Other/unknown/foreign SHAs	4	3	3	1	3	9	2	4	2	1

	Report title	*X93*	*X94*	*X95*
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire HA	—	—	2
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire HA	1	—	1
Q03	Essex HA	—	1	3
Q04	North West London HA	6	3	5
Q05	North Central London HA	1	—	3
Q06	North East London HA	3	4	2
Q07	South East London HA	3	5	10
Q08	South West London HA	3	0	—
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear HA	—	2	5
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley HA	1	3	1
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire HA	—	1	2
Q12	West Yorkshire HA	3	12	5
Q13	Cumbria And Lancashire HA	—	—	1
Q14	Greater Manchester HA	1	3	9
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside HA	2	3	5
Q16	Thames Valley HA	2	1	3
Q17	Hampshire and Isle Of Wight HA	1	2	1

	Report title	X93	X94	X95
Q19	Surrey and Sussex HA	2	2	2
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire HA	–	–	3
Q22	Dorset and Somerset HA	–	–	1
Q23	South Yorkshire HA	–	–	1
Q24	Trent HA	–	2	2
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland HA	–	1	1
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire HA	–	–	1
Q27	Birmingham and The Black Country HA	1	2	6
Q28	Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire HA	1	1	–
Y	Not known	–	1	2
	Other/unknown/foreign SHAs	2	3	9

Notes:
Ungrossed data Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (ie the data are ungrossed). *Finished admission episodes* A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year. *Cause Code*
[1] The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) has used the following ICD-10 external cause codes as requested for this parliamentary question. It should be noted that this is not the full list of codes used to identify gunshot wounds and so the data should not be used to illustrate this. X93—Assault by handgun discharge X94—Assault by rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge X95—Assault by other and unspecified firearm discharge.
Data quality HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain. *PCT/SHA data quality* PCT and SHA data was added to historic data years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of general practitioner (GP) practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data. *Assessing growth through time*
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Intensive Care: Isle of Wight

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions an excess of demand for intensive care unit beds on the Isle of Wight has resulted in patients being taken off the island for treatment in each week in the last 12 months. [257071]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Intermediate Care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to revise his Department's 2001 guidance on intermediate care. [256786]

Phil Hope: The Department is currently exploring the possibility of publishing revised guidance on intermediate care as part of the work on a wider prevention package for older people to be published in spring 2009.

LinkAge Plus

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the LinkAge Plus Programme; and if he will make a statement. [245737]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I've been asked to reply.

The LinkAge Plus pilots have been testing the principles of joined-up working. Going beyond the traditional benefits and care agendas, they also provide access to a wide range of services encompassing housing, transport and volunteering opportunities to form aspects of a seamless service for older people.

Each pilot focuses on local needs, and how best to integrate services within those locations, being driven by the needs and aspirations of older people themselves, while also developing existing links between central Government, local authorities and other organisations The pilots finished in September 2008. They are currently being evaluated and a final summary report is scheduled for publication by March 2009.

Early findings from the pilots suggest that LinkAge Plus is successful in enabling older people to access multiple services through a single contact and reaches those who are socially excluded.

In Gloucestershire, for example, they have set up a network of Village Agents who work directly with isolated older people in rural areas. Their presence within the community enables older people to get access to information and advice about the entitlements and services available to them—direct from a friendly, local contact.

We are also starting to disseminate the learning and core principles for LinkAge Plus across local authorities. To help do so, toolkit has been developed jointly with the Department of Health Partnership for Older People Projects. This seeks to help local authorities to put in place similar services.

Local Public Health Laboratories

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the funding of

Access Capacity Planning Guidance for the period 2006-07 to 2007-08 (1 May 2004); and

ISTC Manual (9 February 2006).

Copies of the guidance have been placed in the Library.

The Department has stated that it has no plans to run a third wave of ISTC procurement and will instead move towards greater local determination.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether people may be recruited to work in independent sector treatment centres if they have been employed in the NHS during the previous six months; and if he will make a statement. [256870]

Ann Keen: All independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) providers can employ any clinician regardless of their previous national health service engagement with the exception of a six-month restriction on those occupations listed on the Shortage Professions List.

However, ISTC providers can employ NHS clinicians (including those on the Shortage Professions List) during their non-contracted hours, provided they obtain the agreement of the NHS employer body.

NHS: Data Protection

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which private sector companies have access to *(a)* NHS databases and *(b)* patient information. [256702]

Mr. Bradshaw: Access to national health service patient information is permitted, with patient consent, to approved private sector organisations involved in providing services to NHS patients. Companies which provide technical support and maintenance for NHS databases may be given controlled access to databases and information for essential work. In both cases, companies will operate under contractual terms that require NHS information governance standards covering confidentiality, security and record retention to be complied with in full.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of prescription items dispensed in the community have been dispensed by *(a)* community pharmacists, *(b)* dispensing GPs and *(c)* others in each year since 1997. [255455]

Phil Hope: The available information for the percentages of prescription items dispensed by dispenser type is provided in the following table.

Percentage of prescription items prescribed in the community in England and dispensed in the UK, by dispenser type, based on a 1 in 20 sample of all prescriptions dispensed 2001 to 2007

	Community pharmacists and appliance contractors	*Dispensing doctors*	*Personally administered items*
2001	90.8	7.0	2.2
2002	90.9	7.1	2.0
2003	90.8	7.2	2.0
2004	90.7	7.3	2.0
2005	90.5	7.4	2.1
2006	90.8	7.4	1.8
2007	90.8	7.5	1.7

Notes:
1. Figures for community pharmacist dispensing are not available separately.
2. Figures for dispensing GPs are available only from 2001.

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA)

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many medicines use reviews have been conducted by pharmacies in each year since 2005-06; what estimate he has made of the average cost of conducting a medicines use review; and if he will make a statement. [255670]

Phil Hope: The number of medicines use reviews (MURs) provided by accredited pharmacists are published in table 8 (table 10 in 1996-97 to 2005-06) of the annual bulletins "General Pharmaceutical Services in England and Wales" published by the Information Centre for health and social care.

Copies of the bulletins for 1996-97 to 2005-06, 1997-98 to 2006-07 and 1998-99 to 2007-08 have been placed in the Library.

Under the community pharmacy contractual framework, a fee per MUR is payable to contractors providing the service up to a maximum of 400 MURs per pharmacy in any financial year (except for pharmacies which have not made arrangements before 1 October, in which case payment will be made to a maximum of 200 MURs per pharmacy in the first year). The fee payable per MUR since the introduction of the service is as follows:

	Fee payable per MUR (£)
From April 2005	25
From October 2007	27
From October 2008	28

NHS: Energy

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans to reduce energy consumption in the NHS are in place; [256936]

(2) what target he has set for the reduction of energy consumption in the NHS. [256937]

Phil Hope: Under the requirements of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Climate Change Programme, the Department set mandatory energy/carbon efficiency targets on the national health service in England to:

reduce the level of primary energy consumption by 15 per cent. or 0.15 million tonnes carbon from March 2000 to March 2010;

achieve a target of 35-55 GigaJoules/100 cubic metres (cu.m) energy efficiency performance for the health care estate for all new capital developments and major redevelopments or refurbishments; and

achieve a target of 55-65 Gj/100 cubic metres (cu.m) for all existing facilities.

The Department monitors progress towards achievement using the Estates Returns Information Collection (ERIC) system and monitors progress towards the mandatory targets. Although significant progress was being made against the targets there remained scope for the NHS to maintain progress. To assist an Energy and Sustainability Capital Fund has been provided and is anticipated to generate significant carbon and revenue savings.

In January 2009, the newly formed NHS Sustainable Development Unit published their NHS Carbon Reduction Strategy, which supports the Government's Climate Change Act 2008 target of 80 per cent. greenhouse gas reduction by 2050 with 26 per cent. carbon dioxide reduction by 2020. It goes further by challenging the NHS to aim for an interim reduction of 10 per cent. from 2007 to 2015.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the total amount of energy used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS in each of the last five years. [257578]

Phil Hope: The following table shows the total energy consumption for the Department in each of the last five years.

	Total energy consumption (MWh)
2003-04	19,121
2004-05	19,824
2005-06	18,090
2006-07	16,176
2007-08	16,241

The following table shows the total energy consumption reported by the national health service in each of the last five years. The data relating to total energy consumption and occupied floor area have been extracted from the Department's Estates Returns Information Collection (ERIC) system.

	Total energy consumption (MWh)	*Occupied floor area (m^2)*	*Average Energy Consumption (KWh/m^2)*
2003-04	12,765,382	25,813,941	494
2004-05	12,441,322	25,428,351	489
2005-06	12,566,507	25,529,693	492
2006-07	12,446,516	25,486,209	488
2007-08	12,702,494	26,331,121	482

The occupied floor area has increased by 517,180 m^2 over this time period while total energy consumption has decreased by 62,888 MWh indicating an improvement in how energy is utilised within the NHS.

NHS: Equality

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons he has established a working party to examine the implications of age discrimination legislation for the NHS; what the *(a)* remit, *(b)* membership and *(c)* timetable of the group is; and if he will make a statement. [257179]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement issued on 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 46-48WS.

Radiology Reports

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of radiology investigation reports which include consultants advice that are returned to patients' GPs within *(a)* two, *(b)* three, *(c)* four, *(d)* six, *(e)* 10 and *(f)* 12 weeks of the test in (i) Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency, (ii) Morecambe Bay Primary Care Trust area and (iii) England. [258147]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect these data.

From 1 January 2009 no one should wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred to the start of their hospital treatment, unless this is clinically appropriate or they choose to wait longer. This commitment includes all appointments and diagnostic tests between referral and start of consultant led treatment.

NHS: Parking

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many parking spaces were available in each NHS trust in 2007-08; what average fee was charged per hour for patient or visitor parking; how many disabled parking spaces were available; how many parking spaces were available for patients or visitors; what average hourly fee was charged for staff parking; how many parking spaces were available for staff; and what income was received from *(a)* staff and *(b)* patient parking. [257736]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information available has been placed in the Library.

The information has been supplied by the national health service and had not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

The provision of hospital car parking and any associated charges are decided locally by individual NHS trusts to help cover the cost of running, maintaining and securing a car park. All trusts should have exemption and concessionary schemes in place to ensure that patients and carers who visit hospital regularly are not disadvantaged. They should also have sustainable public transport plans in place for staff and visitors.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many parking spaces for *(a)* staff and *(b)* patients were available in the NHS in England in each financial year since 1997-98; and how much was received from (i) staff and (ii) patients in parking charges in each such year. [257740]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested.

Since 2001-02, the Department has collected annual data from national health service trusts on car parking provision and any associated charges, through the Estates Returns Information Collection (ERIC). The available data for each year since 2001-02 have been placed in the Library.

The information provided has been supplied by the NHS and had not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

The provision of hospital car parking and any associated charges are decided locally by individual trusts to help cover the cost of running, maintaining and securing a car park. All NHS trusts should have exemption and concessionary schemes in place to ensure that patients and carers who visit hospital regularly are not disadvantaged. They should also have sustainable public transport plans in place for staff and visitors.

NHS: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which private contractors have withdrawn from NHS private finance initiative contracts in the last 12 months; what the contract was in each case; and what the monetary value of the contract was in each case; [255300]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the economic downturn on hospital private finance initiative projects; [255336]

(3) what hospital building projects are planned to be completed in each of the next 10 financial years; [255337]

(4) which hospital private finance initiative projects are waiting for approval from HM Treasury; and on what date each was first submitted to the Treasury for approval; [255338]

(5) what data his Department collects to monitor progress on hospital building projects; [255339]

(6) what new hospitals have been built since 1997; when each was opened; how each was funded; and what the current capital asset value of each is; [255340]

(7) how many of the 100 new hospitals referred to in the NHS Plan have opened; on what date each opened; and how much capital expenditure there was on each; [255342]

(8) how many of the 100 new hospitals referred to in the NHS Plan have not yet opened; when each is expected to be opened; and how much capital expenditure there will be on each. [255343]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the hospital schemes which have opened or begun construction (with their expected opening date) since 1997, with the capital construction cost of each, has been placed in the Library.

The private finance initiative (PFI) schemes in the list are currently accounted for as off balance sheet and are not therefore accounted as an asset by trusts. The national health service is in the process of determining the value these assets which will be disclosed in their 2009-10 accounts under the new international financial reporting standards (IFRS) which apply to public sector accounts with effect from 2009-10. In respect of the public capital funded schemes, the total asset value of land and buildings for each trust is held centrally, but these are aggregate values which do not separately identify individual capital investment projects.

The 2000 NHS Plan set a target of opening 100 new hospital schemes by 2010. At the time of the NHS Plan, 69 schemes had already been given the go ahead—all but three of these schemes have opened (these three are currently under construction). The NHS Plan identified another 18 schemes to go ahead in the next two years under the PFI, bringing the total at the time to 87 schemes; the target of 100 was set in anticipation of more schemes being given the go ahead in future years. For example in addition to the 18 future PFI schemes identified in the NHS Plan, another 11 PFI schemes were given the go ahead shortly afterwards. Since then a number of other PFI and public capital funded projects have also proceeded and opened, which means that the NHS Plan target of opening 100 new hospital schemes was achieved in October 2008.

The information placed in the Library identifies both PFI and public capital schemes currently under construction and which are due to be completed (open) in the next 10 years. Schemes developing PFI proposals and actively preparing an initial outline business case (OBC) or currently in procurement, are shown in the following table.

Commissioning body	*OBC approved/ OBC to be submitted for approval*	*Estimated total capital value (£ million)*
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	2009	143
North Bristol/South Gloucestershire PCTs	[1]	475
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	2009	61
Sandwell and West Birmingham Acute NHS Trust	2009	368
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	2010	280
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	2010	110
Papworth Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2009	160
Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital NHS Trust	2009	235
Mersey Care NHS trust	2009	170
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust	2009	477

[1] OBC approved May 2007 Financial close expected before the end of 2009

Proceeding to financial close and construction for these schemes is dependent on business cases being submitted and approved. It is too early to provide financial close and opening milestone dates for these schemes apart from the most advanced, North Bristol/South Gloucestershire primary care trusts (PCTs), where an expected financial close date is given.

The Government's policy continues to be that PFI and other public private partnerships should be used to deliver public services when this offers value for money. This is assessed on a case by case basis at the appropriate approval point for each scheme. The North Bristol/South Gloucestershire PCTs is the only health sector PFI scheme in the market at the moment and the two consortiums competing to be appointed preferred bidder

have held discussions about current economic conditions and have factored this into their bids as part of the competitive process. No bidding consortium (which includes the prime contractor) has withdrawn from competition on an NHS PFI scheme in the last 12 months.

None of these schemes is awaiting approval from Treasury. The business case for the appointment of the preferred bidder at North Bristol/South Gloucestershire PCTs is expected to be submitted to the Department in April or May this year; it will need subsequent approval by Treasury.

There are a further four public capital hospital building schemes timetabled to begin construction in the next financial year (2009-10), subject to approval of their full business cases. No information is held centrally on the expected pipeline of public capital funded schemes for 2010-11 or later years.

The Department monitors the progress of all hospital building schemes (i.e. both PFI and public capital) in terms of the major project milestone dates (business case approval dates, financial close and opening) and collects and collates the appropriate information as it becomes available.

Nurses: Training

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the number of student nurses working 10 or more hours a week in addition to their placements and lectures; and what assessment he has made of the impact of external paid work on the performance of students of nursing and allied health professions in their studies. [253607]

Ann Keen: The Department is currently undertaking a review of NHS student support as part of Lord Darzi's NHS Next Stage Review. The information requested is not held centrally.

Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will reconstitute the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board as one of the Department's standing advisory bodies, with a remit covering all age groups and all care settings; and if he will make a statement; [257074]

(2) what plans he has to evaluate the implementation of the nutrition action plan. [257180]

Phil Hope: I expect to receive the report of the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board by the end of spring 2009. Decisions on these issues will be made in light of that report.

Nutrition: Screening

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will include the conduct of nutritional screening in the next version of the Quality and Outcomes Framework; and if he will make a statement. [257182]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to oversee a new independent and transparent process for developing and reviewing Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) clinical and health improvement indicators for England from 1 April 2009 as part of their role in providing guidance for the NHS based on evidence of clinical effectiveness and cost effectiveness. We launched a public consultation on the proposed new process on 30 October 2008. The consultation ended on 2 February. Subject to the outcome of that consultation, any proposal for further changes to QOF indicators would need to be considered under that new process. The Department has no current plans to ask NICE to consider the conduct of nutritional screening by general practice within the QOF.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department last issued guidance to health and social care organisations on the details of weight and height measuring equipment used for nutritional screening. [257183]

Dawn Primarolo: On 4 August 2008, the Department of Health and Department for Children, Schools and Families published "The National Child Measurement Programme Guidance for PCTs: 2008/09 school year". This guidance included information on measuring the height and weight of children in reception (aged four to five years) and year 6 (aged 10 to 11 years). Guidance was also issued in July 2008 on "Weighing Scales for the National Child Measurement Programme".

Both documents are available at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthimprovement/Healthyliving/DH_073787

Copies have been placed in the Library.

The National Child Measurement Programme is one element of the Government's work programme on childhood obesity. The data collected are used to inform local planning and delivery of services for children; and gather population-level surveillance data to allow analysis of trends in growth patterns and obesity.

Patient Choice Schemes

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1938W, on patient choice schemes, how many people were referred to first outpatient appointments in each primary care trust area in January 2009; and what the equivalent figures were for January 2008. [257787]

Mr. Bradshaw: The figures for the number of patients referred to a first consultant-led outpatient appointment following a referral by their general practitioner (GP) in each primary care trust (PCT) from January 2009 have not been published yet. The pre-announced date for publication is 27 February 2009. However, the following table shows figures for January 2008 and December 2007 and December 2008.

Organisation name	December 2007	January 2008	December 2008
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	4,439	3,864	4,933
Barking and Dagenham PCT	2,336	3,060	2,665

Organisation name	December 2007	January 2008	December 2008
Barnet PCT	6,268	6,568	6,745
Barnsley PCT	3,159	4,502	4,175
Bassetlaw PCT	1,610	2,334	1,914
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	1,785	2,863	2,637
Bedfordshire PCT	5,000	6,569	6,658
Berkshire East PCT	3,363	4,642	4,752
Berkshire West PCT	4,015	5,343	5,620
Bexley Care Trust	1,855	2,364	2,389
Birmingham East and North PCT	3,665	5,266	5,542
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	2,083	2,663	2,613
Blackpool PCT	1,667	2,266	2,228
Bolton PCT	3,765	5,260	4,958
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	4,295	6,205	5,073
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	4,465	5,817	6,349
Brent Teaching PCT	3,709	5,667	5,606
Brighton and Hove City PCT	3,494	5,469	4,878
Bristol PCT	4,586	5,965	5,906
Bromley PCT	4,654	6,295	5,254
Buckinghamshire PCT	5,242	6,995	6,350
Bury PCT	2,670	3,610	3,201
Calderdale PCT	2,664	3,672	2,745
Cambridgeshire PCT	5,523	7,711	7,099
Camden PCT	3,295	4,067	3,565
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	5,570	7,290	6,216
Central Lancashire PCT	6,163	8,168	8,167
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	4,925	6,310	4,958
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	5,967	8,058	8,510
County Durham PCT	6,551	8,665	7,572
Coventry Teaching PCT	4,252	5,018	5,356
Croydon PCT	5,556	6,956	6,754
Cumbria Teaching PCT	6,435	9,108	8,265
Darlington PCT	1,132	1,568	1,408
Derby City PCT	3,491	4,495	4,067
Derbyshire County PCT	8,625	11,437	10,236
Devon PCT	8,380	10,721	9,565
Doncaster PCT	3,632	5,163	4,630
Dorset PCT	5,263	7,263	6,032
Dudley PCT	3,920	5,501	5,266
Ealing PCT	5,196	6,830	5,939
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	6,574	8,159	7,369
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	5,447	7,267	6,663
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	3,956	5,296	4,934
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	5,231	6,714	6,746
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	8,766	11,163	9,851
Enfield PCT	5,295	5,869	4,585
Gateshead PCT	3,166	4,156	3,252
Gloucestershire PCT	6,993	8,116	7,385
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	3,409	4,383	4,057
Greenwich Teaching PCT	2,268	3,199	3,068
Halton and St Helens PCT	4,465	5,882	5,014
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	2,328	3,105	2,672
Hampshire PCT	15,...67	20,363	17,383
Haringey Teaching PCT	3,313	4,676	3,812
Harrow PCT	2,581	3,300	3,058
Hartlepool PCT	956	1,471	1,295
Hastings and Rother PCT	2,619	3,355	3,265
Havering PCT	2,894	3,420	3,668

Organisation name	December 2007	January 2008	December 2008
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	2,904	5,014	5,665
Hertfordshire PCT	2,167	2,954	2,605
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	2,987	3,976	3,235
Hillingdon PCT	3,331	4,309	3,829
Hounslow PCT	3,780	4,043	2,885
Hull Teaching PCT	3,619	4,893	4,367
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	2,005	2,677	2,482
Islington PCT	2,983	3,817	3,014
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	2,363	2,772	2,605
Kingston PCT	2,010	2,509	2,326
Kirklees PCT	5,100	6,570	5,661
Knowsley PCT	2,407	3,503	3,159
Lambeth PCT	3,153	4,742	4,903
Leeds PCT	8,582	10,278	10,796
Leicester City PCT	3,753	4,951	4,456
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	7,474	10,379	9,725
Lewisham PCT	2,747	4,411	4,192
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	9,815	12,591	12,136
Liverpool PCT	6,311	8,666	7,293
Luton PCT	2,625	2,625	2,993
Manchester PCT	7,570	10,376	9,219
Medway PCT	4,307	4,925	4,640
Mid Essex PCT	4,126	5,072	4,804
Middlesbrough PCT	1,622	2,266	2,009
Milton Keynes PCT	2,267	2,884	3,002
Newcastle PCT	3,426	4,470	3,498
Newham PCT	4,680	5,585	5,766
Norfolk PCT	9,729	11,830	12,702
North East Essex PCT	3,194	3,877	3,249
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	1,801	2,421	2,125
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	4,136	5,687	4,993
North Lincolnshire PCT	1,918	2,350	2,266
North Somerset PCT	2,480	2,996	2,968
North Staffordshire PCT	2,635	3,641	3,273
North Tyneside PCT	2,617	3,701	3,180
North Yorkshire and York PCT	9,340	11,676	10,111
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	7,074	9,663	7,763
Northumberland Care Trust	5,831	7,136	6,291
Nottingham City PCT	3,769	4,887	3,938
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	8,295	10,269	9,068
Oldham PCT	2,985	3,908	3,297
Oxfordshire PCT	6,131	8,208	6,453
Peterborough PCT	1,700	2,193	2,380
Plymouth Teaching PCT	3,173	3,874	4,000
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	2,997	3,649	3,271
Redbridge PCT	3,063	4,171	4,050
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	1,367	1,928	1,728
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	2,376	3,231	2,773
Rotherham PCT	3,123	4,290	3,627
Salford PCT	3,129	4,370	3,819
Sandwell PCT	4,332	6,136	5,852
Sefton PCT	4,203	5,432	5,651
Sheffield PCT	7,698	10,386	8,765
Shropshire County PCT	2,503	3,606	3,441
Solihull Care Trust	1,919	2,662	2,792
Somerset PCT	6,403	8,047	6,720
South Birmingham PCT	3,503	5,156	5,511
South East Essex PCT	4,130	5,653	5,766
South Gloucestershire PCT	2,567	3,439	2,938

Organisation name	December 2007	January 2009	December 2008
South Staffordshire PCT	9,199	10,658	9,775
South Tyneside PCT	2,321	2,959	2,727
South West Essex PCT	5,072	6,866	5,623
Southampton City PCT	2,228	3,266	2,994
Southwark PCT	3,169	6,073	4,087
Stockport PCT	3,987	5,146	4,572
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching PCT	2,196	3,078	2,448
Stoke on Trent PCT	3,674	6,585	4,150
Suffolk PCT	7,269	9,612	8,967
Sunderland Teaching PCT	3,538	4,828	3,843
Surrey PCT	12,563	16,916	14,910
Sutton and Merton PCT	6,590	8,586	7,613
Swindon PCT	3,092	3,665	3,292
Tameside and Glossop PCT	3,360	4,577	3,875
Telford and Wrekin PCT	1,116	1,301	2,047
Torbay Care Trust	1,532	1,955	2,090
Tower Hamlets PCT	3,023	3,265	3,303
Trafford PCT	3,740	4,631	4,300
Wakefield District PCT	4,326	5,046	5,261
Walsall Teaching PCT	3,873	4,895	4,105
Waltham Forest PCT	2,376	3,666	3,933
Wandsworth PCT	5,074	6,709	6,182
Warrington PCT	1,939	2,706	2,197
Warwickshire PCT	6,871	8,851	6,230
West Essex PCT	4,486	4,570	4,001
West Hertfordshire PCT	5,977	8,140	6,579
West Kent PCT	7,986	10,063	9,979
West Sussex PCT	8,710	11,551	10,765
Western Cheshire PCT	3,402	4,877	3,905
Westminster PCT	3,316	8,055	3,636
Wiltshire PCT	5,686	7,357	6,925
Wirral PCT	4,078	5,745	4,502
Wolverhampton City PCT	3,593	4,635	4,013
Worcestershire PCT	7,335	12,267	8,120

Note:
General practitioner referrals for 1st outpatient appointment by primary care trust.
Source:
MAB/C098

Pharmacy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many community pharmacies there were *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 100,000 population in (i) England (ii) each primary care trust; [255430]

(2) how many community pharmacies were under contract with their local primary care trust on *(a)* 31 March 2006, *(b)* 31 March 2007 and *(c)* 31 March 2008 to provide local enhanced services (i) in England and (ii) in each primary care trust area, and how many in each category provided (A) all local enhanced services, (B) anti-coagulant monitoring, (C) diseases specific medicines management, (D) gluten-free food, (E) home delivery, (F) language access, (G) medication reviews, (H) medications assessment and compliance support, (I) minor ailment schemes, (J) needle and syringe exchanges, (K) on-demand availability of specialist drugs, (L) out-of-hours services, (M) patient group direction, (N) prescriber support, (O) screening, (P) stop smoking services, (Q) supervised administration and (R) supplementary prescribing. [255690]

Phil Hope: Details of the number of pharmacies in contract with primary care trusts (PCTs) at 31 March 2008 are contained in table 2 of the annual bulletins 'General Pharmaceutical Services in England and Wales' published by the Information Centre for health and social care. Breakdowns by PCT are in the online appendices.

The number of community pharmacies in contract with PCTs to provide local enhanced services is not collected centrally. Table 6 of the bulletins (table 9 in 1996-97 to 2005-06) lists the total number of local enhanced services provided by pharmacy contractors in contract with PCTs. An individual pharmacy contractor may offer more than one locally enhanced service. Again, breakdowns by PCT are in the online appendices.

Copies of the 'General Pharmaceutical Services in England and Wales' bulletins and associated online appendices for 1996-97 to 2005-06, 1997-98 to 2006-07 and 1998-99 to 2007-08 have been placed in the Library.

Copies are also available on the NHS Information Centre website:

www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/pharmserv9808/General%20Pharmaceutical%20Services%20in%20England%20and%20Wales%202007_08%20PCT%20LHB%20level%20Appendix.xls

www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/pharmserv9808/General%20Pharmaceutical%20Services%20England%20and%20Wales%202007-08.pdf

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reasons he has identified for the decline in the net ingredient cost of items dispensed by pharmacies over the last three years, referred to in the General Pharmaceutical Services in England and Wales 1998-99 to 2007-08 bulletin. [255526]

Phil Hope: A number of factors have contributed to the decrease in the average net ingredient cost (NIC) per prescription item since April 2005. These include:

the introduction in April 2005 of the category M scheme for calculating the reimbursement prices of selected generic medicines, which has lowered overall generic medicine prices in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08;

the introduction of the 2005 pharmaceutical price regulation scheme (PPRS) which required all companies that sold more than £1 million worth of branded medicines to the national health service to reduce prices by 7 per cent. This lowered overall branded medicine prices in 2005-06; and

more effective prescribing with high generic prescribing rates (83 per cent. of all prescription items were written generically in 2006). For example, the quarterly better care, better value indicator on statins has encouraged more systematic prescribing by general practitioners of therapeutically equivalent low cost generic statins in place of higher cost branded statins.

Pharmacy: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultant pharmacists worked in the NHS in each year since 2003. [255569]

Phil Hope: Since "A Vision for Pharmacy in the New NHS" first identified this important role in 2003, there has been a steady increase in the number of approved consultant pharmacist posts in England. The number of consultant pharmacists in national health service hospital and community health services, as at 30 September is shown in the following table.

	Number of consultant pharmacists
2003	6
2004	8
2005	9
2006	12
2007	14

Source:
NHS Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.

Informal sources relating to 2008 indicate that there may now be as many as 30 strategic health authority approved consultant pharmacist posts.

Pregnancy: Smoking

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the guidance on smoking and pregnancy provided to pregnant women by his Department, if he will make it his Department's policy to use the phrase 'there's two of you now' in all advice it provides to pregnant women; and if he will make a statement. [256533]

Dawn Primarolo: In February 2009, the Department launched a new campaign to motivate and support pregnant smokers to stop smoking. The campaign includes information and materials for midwives, and new resources for pregnant smokers.

The phrase 'there's two of you now' is not an integral element of the overall messaging of the smoking and pregnancy campaign. It has been used in communication aimed directly at pregnant mothers who smoke and who are seeking information on ways to improve their health and the health of their baby.

Prescriptions: Over-60s

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of providing free prescriptions to those aged over 60. [257655]

Dawn Primarolo: The cost of dispensing free prescriptions to those aged 60 and over in England in the community is estimated at between £300 and £350 million for the year 2008-09, where cost is assumed to be prescription charge revenue.

This estimate is based on Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates and on an assumption that approximately 70 per cent. of those aged 60 or over would be exempt via another route due to, for example, being a recipient of a qualifying mean-tested benefit or having a medical exemption certificate. The cost is calculated by estimating that 50 per cent. of those having to pay would purchase a prepayment certificate and the balance would pay a charge per item.

R. Channing Wheeler

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the value for money of the employment of Mr R Channing Wheeler as Commercial Director in his Department. [256239]

Mr. Bradshaw: As the Department's Commercial Director-General, Mr. Channing Wheeler secured the independent sector's further contribution to the national health service bringing to financial close eight Independent Sector Treatment Centre (ISTC) schemes providing extra capacity and greater choice for NHS patients. Mr. Wheeler oversaw the revalidation of ISTC schemes that resulted in nine schemes not going forward where value for money for the taxpayer could not be demonstrated.

Mr. Wheeler also led the Department's team in renegotiation of the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme and continued to take forward the embedding of commercial expertise within the Department and the NHS.

Rapid Review Panel

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many products the Rapid Review Panel has reviewed in the last 12 months. [257308]

Mr. Bradshaw: The panel has undertaken 51 reviews in the last 12 months.

Slaughterhouses

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the costs incurred by abattoir owners of employment of an on-site veterinarian in each year since the creation of the Meat Hygiene Service. [257424]

Dawn Primarolo: The costs attributable to operators of approved fresh meat establishments (including abattoirs) for the employment of Official Veterinarians (OV) and Meat Hygiene Inspectors (MHI) and the actual charge levied on operators are shown in the following table. Under the present charging system, in place since April 2001, it is not possible to separate out the charge to operators for Official Veterinarians.

£ million

	Estimation of industry cost	*Total charge paid by food business operators for OVs and MHIs*
1995-96	33.9	31.5
1996-97	26.6	26.0
1997-98	31.9	29.8
1998-99	38.9	33.8
1999-2000	42.3	36.3
2000-01	38.4	34.7
2001-02	38.7	20.6
2002-03	46.6	21.5
2003-04	46.2	21.7
2004-05	54.1	23.5
2005-06	55.1	23.5
2006-07	56.7	23.4
2007-08	55.1	23.8

Social Care: Research

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what academic studies he has commissioned as part of the drafting of the Green Paper on Social Care; [256703]

(2) when he plans to publish the Green Paper on Social Care. [256704]

Phil Hope: The Department has commissioned two academic studies to inform the Green Paper process. The purpose of one piece of work, being undertaken by the personal social services research unit, is to make projections of likely future demand for long-term care and associated expenditure under a range of different funding scenarios. The other piece of work, undertaken by Les Mayhew of Cass Business School, concerns the financial products that could potentially support private contributions in a new care and support system.

The Government intend to publish the Green Paper on care and support reform in spring 2009.

Teenage Pregnancy: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the teenage pregnancy rate was in each of the principal seaside towns of England at *(a)* town, *(b)* ward and *(c)* lower level super output area level, for the most recent year for which figures are available. [257373]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the teenage pregnancy rate was in each of the principal seaside towns of England at (a) town, (b) ward and (c) lower level super output area level, for the most recent year for which figures are available. (257373)

Figures on teenage conceptions are not routinely published by principal seaside towns of England at (a) town, (b) ward and (c) lower layer super output areas due to concerns in maintaining confidentiality of individuals.

However, ONS routinely publishes number of conceptions to girls aged under 18 by local authorities in England and the latest figures for 2006 are provided in the table, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Available figures are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or legal termination.

Transplant Surgery: Foreigners

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 826-7W, on transplant surgery: foreigners, (1) how many of those receiving organs survived beyond the point of their three month check-up; [257492]

(2) whether the transplantations listed were fully funded by the NHS. [257494]

Ann Keen: The following tables show overseas residents transplanted in UK NHS hospitals who (a) died within three months; (b) survived beyond three months; and (c) no three month follow-up information available:

Organ and (ocular) tissue transplants in the UK where the recipient is recorded as being resident outside the UK, by trust of transplanting hospital, April 1998 to March 2008, where patient died within three months of transplant

Trust	*Kidney*	*Heart*	*Lung(s)*	*Heart/lung*	*Liver*	*Cornea*	*Sclera*	*Total*
Newcastle upon Tyne NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	24	—	—	24
Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Mary's NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	20
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barts and the London NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Organ and / ocular / tissue transplants in the UK where the recipient is recorded as being resident outside the UK[1], by trust of transplanting hospital, April 1998 to March 2008, where patient died within three months of transplant

Trust	Kidney	Heart	Lung(s)	Heart/lungs	Liver	Cornea	Sclera	Total
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	30	—	—	30
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Bristol NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	5
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lothian University Hospital NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Tayside University Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	1	1	—	1	83	—	—	85

[1] Residents of the Republic of Ireland not included.

Organ and / ocular / tissue transplants in the UK where the recipient is recorded as being resident outside the UK[1], by trust of transplanting hospital, April 1998 to March 2008, where patient known to be alive three months post transplant

Trust	Kidney	Heart	Lung(s)	Heart/lungs	Liver	Cornea	Sclera	Total
Newcastle upon Tyne NHS Foundation Trust	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	4
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	92	—	—	92
Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	18	—	—	18
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	4
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Mary's NHS Trust	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	1	—	—	—	79	—	—	80
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Barts and the London NHS Trust	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	11
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3

Organ and (ocular) tissue transplants in the UK where the recipient is recorded as being resident outside the UK[1], by trust of transplanting hospital, April 1998 to March 2008, where patient known to be alive three months post transplant

Trust	Kidney	Heart	Lung(s)	Heart/lungs	Liver	Cornea	Sclera	Total
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	–	–	–	–	298[1]	–	–	298
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	4
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
North Bristol NHS Trust	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	1	–	–	–	28	–	–	29
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
Lothian University Hospital NHS Trust	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tayside University Hospitals NHS Trust	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University NHS Trust	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	31	3	1	2	517	4		558

[1] Residents of the Republic of Ireland not included.
[2] Includes one liver/kidney/pancreas transplant.
[3] Includes one liver/kidney transplant.

Organ and (ocular) tissue transplants in the UK where the recipient is recorded as being resident outside the UK[1], by trust of transplanting hospital, April 1998 to March 2008, where no three month follow-up information is available

Trust	Kidney	Heart	Lung(s)	Heart/lungs	Liver	Cornea	Sclera	Total
Newcastle upon Tyne NHS Foundation Trust	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	2
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust	–	–	–	–	40	1	–	41
Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
St. Mary's NHS Trust	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Barts and the London NHS Trust	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	4	–	–	–	–	3	2	9
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	–	–	–	–	–	22	7	29
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS trust	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	–	–	–	–	–	7	–	7
Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	–	–	–	–	–	9	–	9
Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	2	–	–	–	–	1	–	3
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	–	–	–	–	29	–	–	29
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	3

Organ and (ocular) tissue transplants in the UK where the recipient is recorded as being resident outside the UK[1], by trust of transplanting hospital, April 1998 to March 2008, where no three month follow-up information is available

Trust	Kidney	Heart	Lung(s)	Heart/lungs	Liver	Cornea	Sclera	Total
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Bristol NHS Trust	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	6
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Lothian University Hospital NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tayside University Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total	16	—	—	—	74	53	9	152

[1] Residents of the Republic of Ireland not included.

Information as to whether the transplantations listed were fully funded by the NHS is not collated centrally.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 826-27W, on transplant surgery: foreigners, how many transplants of each type or organ have taken place in *(a)* private hospitals and *(b)* private units within NHS trusts and foundation trusts in each of the last 10 years. [257493]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the number of transplants to overseas residents in the United Kingdom units which the National Transplant Database has recorded as private hospitals, April 1998 - March 2008:

Transplant type	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Kidney	0	3	1	4	4	2	3	[1]2	3	3	[1]25
Liver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	[1]1
Cornea	2	2	7	9	3	4	2	0	1	0	80
Sclera	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	2	5	8	13	9	6	5	3	4	3	58

[1] From living donor

Pursuant to the answer given on 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 826-27W, information is not collated centrally on whether the transplants took place in private units within national health service and foundation trusts.

Tuberculosis

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what co-operation his Department undertakes with its counterparts in Scotland and Wales to combat tuberculosis in Great Britain. [256098]

Dawn Primarolo: Health policies for England, Scotland and Wales are determined by each country individually. However, each health department maintains regular contact and sharing of policies on tuberculosis (TB) through a number of formal routes, such as the UK Health Protection Oversight Group, which meets regularly to maintain good communication between the four nations (including Northern Ireland), and informally as needed.

Through these meetings, key publications such as the Department's TB Action Plan, the NICE TB Prevention and Control Guidance and the awareness raising work are shared with Scotland and Wales, who consider England's actions when formulating their own policies.

The Health Protection Agency in England has close links with each health department, and collects and publishes annual data on TB rates for each country.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve general practitioners' ability to detect tuberculosis at an early stage. [256105]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2006, the Department has supported the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in development of guidance "Clinical Diagnosis and Management of Tuberculosis, and Measures for its Prevention and Control" to increase awareness of

tuberculosis (TB) among general practitioners to improve referrals for TB testing, diagnosis and treatment in specialised facilities.

Currently, the Department is sponsoring TB Alert to develop TB awareness raising messages for people at risk of TB to increase referrals for TB testing and effective treatment as well as with primary care workers to increase awareness of TB.

Tuberculosis: HIV Infection

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of patients diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB) are subsequently tested for HIV infection; and what proportion of those diagnosed with HIV are subsequently tested for TB. [256090]

Dawn Primarolo: To protect identity of patients with HIV/AIDS, the national HIV/AIDS database is anonymised. For this reason, it is not possible to identify the sequence in which the diagnosis of tuberculosis (TB)/HIV co-infection was established. It is only possible to identify an overall proportion of patients with TB/HIV co-infection.

The most recent data from the Health Protection Agency indicate that approximately 8 per cent. of TB cases in England are co-infected with HIV (2005).

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of tuberculosis (TB) patients in England are co-infected with HIV; and what plans there are to reduce HIV-TB co-infection rates. [256091]

Dawn Primarolo: The most recent data from the Health Protection Agency indicate that approximately 8 per cent. of tuberculosis (TB) cases in England are co-infected with HIV (2005).

The Department supported development of the following guidance that recommends shared case management between TB and HIV professions:

'Clinical Diagnosis and Management of Tuberculosis, and Measures for its Prevention and Control' (National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE), 2006)

'Tuberculosis Prevention and Treatment: A Toolkit for Planning, Commissioning and Delivering High-Quality Services in England' (2007);

'Recommended Standards for NHS HIV Services' (2003);

'HIV in Primary Care' (2004); and

'HIV for non- HIV Specialists' (2008).

Copies have been placed in the Library.

Tuberculosis: Medical Treatments

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of tuberculosis (TB) patients received directly observed therapy in the last five years; what proportion of those had a treatment outcome of lost to follow up; and what steps NHS trusts take to encourage patients to complete the course of their treatment for TB. [256088]

Dawn Primarolo: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) does not collect these data. The HPA has recently redeveloped its surveillance system to collect this information about risk factors and whether patients started on treatment are under direct observation, and the new system is currently being rolled out nationally.

In 2007, the Department initiated a 'Find and Treat' (F&T) project to actively look for cases of tuberculosis (TB) among the homeless and other vulnerable groups in London, and to promote the use of directly observed treatment (DOT), which provides supervised medication and support to patients to improve adherence to treatment. Currently, the F&T team is helping over 300 people with TB who have challenging lifestyles to complete their treatment.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to prevent the spread of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis. [256089]

Dawn Primarolo: Prevention of the emergence and spread of any type of drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) is being addressed through the Chief Medical Officer's (CMO) TB Action Plan. The Plan provides guidelines to primary care trusts on improving the public health surveillance system, fast and comprehensive detection of cases, rapid identification of drug resistance if it exists, and good clinical management, including measures to ensure treatment is both appropriate and completed by the patient.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Guidelines on the Treatment and Diagnosis of TB (2006) include specific guidance on treatment and rapid contact tracing of people in contact with any type of drug resistant TB.

The key step in preventing development of drug-resistant TB is improving adherence to treatment among those TB patients who have already started their treatment.

In 2007, the Department has initiated a 'Find and Treat' project to actively look for cases of TB among the homeless and other vulnerable groups in London, and to promote the use of directly observed therapy, which provides supervised medication and support to patients to improve adherence to treatment.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of those diagnosed with tuberculosis complete treatment; and what steps are being taken to increase treatment completion rates. [256092]

Dawn Primarolo: Information from the Health Protection Agency (HPA) Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance System shows that of the 93 per cent. of tuberculosis (TB) cases reported in 2006 in England for which the outcome is known, 79 per cent. completed treatment within 12 months of starting treatment.

The Department of Health has issued the following guidance which supports primary care trusts (PCTs) in improving treatment completion:

'Clinical Diagnosis and Management of Tuberculosis, and Measures for its Prevention and Control' (National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE), 2006); and

'Tuberculosis Prevention and Treatment: A Toolkit for Planning, Commissioning and Delivering High-Quality Services in England' (2007).

In 2007, the Department has initiated a 'Find and Treat' project to actively look for cases of TB among the homeless and other vulnerable groups in London, and to promote the use of directly observed therapy,

which provides supervised medication and support to patients to improve adherence to treatment.

Currently, the Department is sponsoring an awareness campaign by TB Alert to raise awareness of TB among groups vulnerable to TB, including the importance of TB treatment completion.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on treating drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) patients in the last five years; and if he will estimate the cost of treating those patients as if they had drug-susceptible TB. [256097]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on the costs associated with treatment of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MRD-TB), either by case or in total, are not routinely collected. The National Institute for Clinical Excellence have undertaken analysis of TB treatment costs as part of the development of guidance 'Tuberculosis—National clinical guideline for diagnosis, management, prevention, and control'.

An estimated average cost of treating one patient with MDR-TB is £60,000, compared to an £6,000 for an average case of drug-susceptible TB.

The number (and proportion) of confirmed tuberculosis cases with MDR-TB in England by year 2002-07 is as follows:

	Number	*Proportion (percentage)*
2002	33	0.9
2003	49	1.3
2004	44	1.1
2005	40	0.9
2006	49	1.1
2007	47	1.1

Note:
The proportions are among culture confirmed cases reported to ETS that had drug susceptibility testing results for at least isoniazid and rifampicin.
Source:
Health Protection Agency Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance System (ETS)

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the threat from extensive drug resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB) to public health; and what capacity the NHS has to treat multiple XDR-TB patients. [256104]

Dawn Primarolo: In the United Kingdom, less than 1 per cent. of tuberculosis (TB) cases are multi drug resistant (MDR-TB), that is, less than 50 TB cases per year. A very small proportion of the UK MDR cases might now be classed as extensive drug resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB). The Health Protection Agency (HPA) maintains monitoring of all types of TB, and since 1993, a total of eight cases would fall into the definition of XDR-TB.

Drug-resistant TB cases need to be treated in airflow controlled isolation. In 2003, the National Audit Office carried out an audit of the national health service (NHS) isolation facilities. A total of 176 trusts were surveyed. Out of these, 63 had at least one airflow controlled room, with a total of about 300 (this figure includes paediatric facilities). It is for the NHS to determine the local level of provision of isolation facilities.

Tuberculosis: Schools

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many outbreaks of tuberculosis have occurred in schools in *(a)* London and *(b)* England in the last five years. [256099]

Dawn Primarolo: The data for tuberculosis (TB) outbreaks are shown in the following table.

	Number of school outbreaks in England[1]	*Number of school outbreaks in London*
2008[2]	58	34
2007	56	25
2006	51	17
2005	55	31
2004	53	23
Total	273	130

[1] Inclusive of London incidents.
[2] As of 6 February 2009.
Source:
Health Protection Agency's TB incident and outbreak surveillance system (TBIOS)

Vaccinations: Pensioners

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pensioners in York received influenza inoculations in each of the last five years. [257839]

Dawn Primarolo: Flu vaccine is given free of charge on the national health service to those aged 65 years and over. This influenza vaccine uptake is reported to the Department by primary care trusts (PCTs) and strategic health authorities and is based on the number of patients registered at reporting general practitioner practices who were vaccinated between 1 September and 31 January of the given year. Data are not collected by constituency.

The city of York is currently covered by North Yorkshire and York PCT and prior to 2006 was covered by Selby and York PCT.

	Primary Care Trust	*Number of registered patients 65 years and over*	*Number of patients 65 years and over vaccinated*	*% uptake (to 1 decimal point)*
2008-09	North Yorkshire and York PCT	149,559	113,411	75.8
2007-08	North Yorkshire and York PCT	146,894	111,177	75.7
2006-07	North Yorkshire and York PCT	145,440	110,892	76.2
2005-06	Selby and York PCT	46,860	37,561	80.2
2004-05	Selby and York PCT[1]	46,883	35,553	76

1 Data collected for the year 2004-05 were cumulative to 31 December 2004.

Vioxx

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have had since June 2008 with the US Administration on the drug Vioxx; and if he will make a statement. [256528]

Phil Hope: Neither Ministers nor officials in the Department have held any discussions with the United States Administration on this matter.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of treating those with health impairments resulting from the use of Vioxx in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [256531]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has made no such estimate.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people who have experienced strokes related to their use of the drug Vioxx. [256532]

Dawn Primarolo: Vioxx (rofecoxib) was one of a relatively new group of anti-inflammatory medicines known as COX-2 selective inhibitors. It was licensed in the United Kingdom and many other countries for the treatment of arthritic conditions - osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis—and also for the short-term treatment of some painful conditions. COX-2 selective inhibitors are effective anti-inflammatory, pain-relieving medicines that are thought to have less risk of gastrointestinal side effects, for example stomach ulcers, than conventional anti-inflammatory medicines.

Since 2000, evidence from clinical trials had raised concerns about a possible increased risk of heart attacks and other cardiovascular conditions associated with Vioxx, and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)/Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM) had continually reviewed the cardiovascular safety of this drug since it was first licensed. The product information for healthcare professionals and patients, which lists all the known side effects of the medicine, was updated on a number of occasions on the basis of emerging evidence, and in accordance with CSM's advice.

Data are not available on which to base a valid estimate of the number of heart attacks, strokes and other adverse effects that may have been caused by Vioxx and other COX-2 inhibitors. The underlying medical condition of many patients treated with COX-2 inhibitors means that they are already at higher risk of heart attack and stroke than the rest of the population, and the impact of the COX-2 inhibitor on this risk is not possible to calculate.

Since Vioxx was voluntarily withdrawn by the manufacturer in 2004, the safety of other COX-2 inhibitors and traditional anti-inflammatory drugs—non-selective non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)—has been under continual and intense assessment in the UK and Europe. The latest evidence suggests that both NSAIDs and COX-2 inhibitors might pose a small increased risk of heart attacks or strokes, although the exact level of risk may vary between medicines. The MHRA has widely communicated the latest information and advice for healthcare professionals in letters and bulletins, and other publications through liaison with the British National Formulary and National Prescribing Centre. In addition, product information (including patient information leaflets) has been updated in order to support informed decision-making in relation to the choice of anti-inflammatory medicine.

Vioxx: Compensation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Legal Services Commission since June 2008 on the award of legal aid for actions involving damage to health caused to individuals by the drug Vioxx; and if he will make a statement. [257581]

Dawn Primarolo: We have had no such discussions. It would be inappropriate for either Ministers or Government officials to intervene in or comment on decisions made about the grant of funding by the independent Legal Services Commission in individual cases. It is important that these decisions are, and are seen to be, free from political and Government influence.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 23 February 2009

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department provided to Afghanistan in 2008; what the projected figure is for 2009; and if he will make a statement. [255333]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details on the Department for International Development's (DFID) expenditure in 2008-09 are not yet available but will be published in the 2009 Annual Report in July. The most recent data can be found in 'Statistics on International Development 2008', which was published in November 2008 and is available online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Details of DFID's annual allocation of resources are available in Annex 2 of DFID's 2008 Annual Report. This publication is available online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

or from the Library. The allocation for DFID's programme in Afghanistan in 2009-10 is £115 million.

Agriculture: Research

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1614W, on agriculture: research, which nations have received funding for agricultural research and development from his Department in the last five years. [258195]

Mr. Michael Foster: The majority of DFID's centrally funded expenditure on agricultural research is directed through international agricultural research organisations. These funds are used to benefit the lives of poor people in all developing countries, especially in Africa and Asia. DFID also supports regional programmes in the Andes, East Africa and West Africa. Regional programmes are planned for Southern Africa and South Asia. A table of organisations and programmes supported by DFID is attached with information on the countries/regions they cover.

DFID is contributing £5 million over five years through a strategic partnership with the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) under the programme on Sustainable Agriculture Research for International Development to fund 12 research grants in crop science. These grants were announced in January 2008 and have been made to consortia which include one UK partner and at least one partner from a developing country. In 2008-09, partners from Bangladesh, China, Ghana, India, Kenya, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda, have directly benefited from this programme.

Name of institution/programme	*Countries/regions covered*
Andes Regional Programme	South America
Pro-Poor Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Risk Reduction Project- Lead institutions - Food and Agriculture Organization, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)	Africa and Asia
Sustainable Agriculture Research for International Development (SARID)	Bangladesh, China, Ghana, India, Kenya, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda
Bioversity International (IPCRI)	Global
Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International (CABI)	Global
Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)	Central, West, Eastern and Southern Africa and Latin America
East African Regional Programme (Agriculture) (ASARECA)	Eastern and Central Africa
Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)	Africa
Generation Challenge Programme	Global
Global Alliance Livestock Vaccines and Medicines (GALVmed)	Africa and Asia
Harvest Plus Challenge Programme	Brazil, China and India
International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)	North Africa, Nile Valley, Sub-Saharan Africa, West Asia, Arabian Peninsula, Highlands of North Africa & West Asia and Latin America
International Centre for development oriented Research in Agriculture (ICRA)	Global
International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)	Africa, Asia and South America
International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)	Global
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)	North Africa & Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, South & Central Asia, East and South East Asia, Central, South and Caribbean
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)	Africa
International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)	Global
International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT)	Global
International Potato Centre (CIP)	Global
International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)	Global
International Water Management Institute (IWMI)	Global
Research into Use	Africa and Asia
South Asia (planned)	South Asia
Southern Africa (planned with Southern African Development Community (SADC))	Southern Africa
West Africa Regional Programme (Agriculture) (CORAF)	West Africa
West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA)	Africa
World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF)	Eastern Africa, West & Central Africa, Southern Africa, Latin America, South Asia and South East Asia

Name of institution/programme	Countries/regions covered
World Vegetable Center (AVRDC)	Global
WorldFish Centre (ICLARM)	Global

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many (*a*) EU foreign nationals and (*b*) non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [256206]

Mr. Michael Foster: Declaration of nationality by staff within the Department for International Development (DFID) is voluntary. Where details are known, the numbers of our Home Civil Service (HCS) staff who are:

(*a*) EU foreign nationals and;

(*b*) non-EU foreign nationals are shown in the following table.

	Number of home civil service staff
EU foreign nationals	29
non-EU foreign nationals	6

DFID also employs 787 staff appointed in country (SAIC), engaged in our overseas offices on local terms and conditions. Most SAIC are non-EU nationals.

Islamic Development Bank

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Islamic Development Bank on development finance; and if he will make a statement. [256598]

Mr. Michael Foster: I signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Islamic Development Bank during my visit to Saudi Arabia in January 2009 with the aim of increasing co-operation in countries and sectors of mutual interest. This was the first agreement of its kind between the Department for International Development (DFID) and an Arab or Islamic development institution.

DFID has been increasing its engagement with the Islamic Development Bank over the last two years building a partnership around common aims. The Islamic Development Bank's 'Vision 1440H' supports the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

In November 2008 DFID and the Bank launched a first joint project to deliver access to clean water and improved sanitation for 36,000 people in Al Howta City in Yemen. DFID and Bank officials are currently exploring new areas for co-operation.

Morphine: Developing Countries

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to provide morphine supplies to developing countries for medical purposes; and if he will make a statement. [255481]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is working with the Foreign Office, the Home Office, and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), to press for greater recognition of the importance of access to controlled medicines, including oral morphine, at the forthcoming Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2009. This is being supported through a DFID-funded post in the UK Mission in Vienna. We are also working with the US Government to identify pilot countries in which we can support greater access to oral opiates for pain relief and for use in harm reduction interventions for injecting drug users.

Major legal and regulatory barriers to access for strong analgesics, such as oral morphine, have been identified in many countries in DFID commissioned research studies. We have discussed these barriers with experts from multilateral agencies and national governments, and developed a programme of work aimed at overcoming them. Further information on DFID funded research is available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/

Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much aid his Department has provided to Zimbabwe in the last 12 months; [256648]

(2) how much aid his Department has provided to (*a*) Bangladesh, (*b*) Sri Lanka, (*c*) Lebanon and (*d*) Somalia in the last 12 months; [256587]

(3) how much aid his Department has provided to the Democratic Republic of Congo in the last 12 months; [256582]

(4) how much aid his Department has provided to Somaliland in the last 12 months; [256581]

(5) how much aid his Department has provided to Gaza in the last 12 months. [256579]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details on the Department for International Development (DFID) bilateral expenditure and imputed share of multilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) are contained in the DFID publication 'Statistics on International Development'. This publication is available from in the Library and online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Relevant figures are produced in the following table.

It is difficult to give precise figures for Gaza, as some of our aid is earmarked for activities in both Gaza and the west bank. Figures for both Gaza and the west bank are presented below. Similarly, it is not possible to give separate figures for Somaliland, as it is part of the Somalia programme. Figures for Somalia are produced in the following table.

DFID expenditure in 2007-08

£000

	Total DFID bilateral expenditure	DFID imputed multilateral share
Zimbabwe	43,266	7,427
Bangladesh	129,392	42,927
Sri Lanka	1,817	6,290
Lebanon	169	7,111
Somalia	25,724	8,812
Democratic Republic of Congo	82,711	34,297
West Bank and Gaza	45,031	36,316

St. Helena: Economic Growth

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with businesses on the development of the economy of St Helena. [257951]

Mr. Michael Foster: I met representatives of Impregilo on 10 February in regard to their tender for the St. Helena airport project. I intend to meet representatives of the St. Helena Leisure Corporation (Shelco) shortly.

Through our support to the St. Helena Development Agency, we maintain regular contact with the private sector in St. Helena, including the St. Helena Chamber of Commerce, the Tourism Association and other local businesses. The Agency also maintains dialogue with inward investors and provides assistance to those seeking to invest in St. Helena.

Tax Havens: Developing Countries

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the level of tax revenue lost in developing countries from the use by multinational companies operating in those countries of tax havens. [255729]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

There is no official estimate of the level of tax revenues lost in developing countries by these means. DFID, in consultation with HMT and HMRC, has commissioned research into this subject which it is hoped will be completed by the end of the year.

Tuberculosis

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what proportion of tuberculosis (TB) patients being cared for in programmes funded by his Department are tested for HIV; and what proportion of HIV patients in such programmes are tested for TB. [256131]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) funds TB and HIV programmes through support to global partnerships, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) and UNITAID, multilateral organisations such as the World Health Organisation, support to countries and support for research. Our funds are often pooled with that of other donors and partner countries. We also support the broader health sector plans of developing country governments through sector wide programming and poverty reduction budget support.

It is difficult to attribute the proportion of TB patients who are also tested for HIV and the proportion of HIV patients tested for TB. However, in a number of countries supported by DFID, the co-ordination of TB and HIV programmes is continuing to improve. The World Health Organisation reports that there has been a substantial improvement in TB-HIV collaboration activities. The provision of HIV testing for TB patients between 2002 and 2006 increased from 21,806 across nine countries in 2002 to 687,174 patients across 112 countries in 2006. Screening for TB among HIV positive people attending HIV care services grew from 194,718 in 2005 to 314,394 people in 2006.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department provides to organisations developing tuberculosis diagnostics for use in developing countries. [256133]

Mr. Michael Foster: Between 2005 and 2008 the Department for International Development (DFID) provided £5.5 million for the Special Programme for Research and Training on Tropical Diseases (TDR; UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO) between 2005 and 2008. TDR focuses on accelerating the development of new diagnostics, including for tuberculosis, and identifying those which may be appropriate and useful for developing countries. We are in the first stage of a competition, inviting expressions of interest from organisations involved in product development, which will lead to bids for our research funding. We expect groups working on diagnostics to be among the applicants.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with which organisations his Department is working to develop a new vaccine against tuberculosis for use in developing countries. [256134]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID), along with other donors, supports the Advanced Market Commitment (AMC). This is an innovative funding mechanism, which commits governments to fund an agreed volume of doses at an agreed price if a product is successfully developed. This AMC will be formally implemented in the first half of 2009, and accelerate the introduction and distribution in developing countries of pneumococcal vaccine.

There is significant expectation around the launch of a second AMC. This would potentially be targeted at developing a vaccine for tuberculosis (TB), but there are other critical diseases (such as malaria) that also need to be addressed.

The UK is focused on completing the implementation of the pneumococcal vaccine AMC. Following completion, we plan to reconvene the group of independent international experts (that recommended that the first AMC address pneumococcus) and request that they to make a recommendation for the next AMC.

We are in the first stage of a competition, inviting expressions of interest from organisations involved in product development, which will lead to bids for our research funding. We expect groups working on vaccines to be among the applicants.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that all tuberculosis (TB) patients in developing countries have access to quality TB diagnostic services and treatment. [256218]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports access to quality TB diagnostic services and treatment through: international organisations and partnerships, countries' TB programmes,

and health systems strengthening. We provide core funding to the World Health Organisation (WHO) and to the Stop TB Partnership. We pledged up to £1 billion for 2008-15 to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, and made a long-term commitment to the international drug purchase facility UNITAID starting with €20 million in 2007.

Examples of DFID support to countries' TB programmes include:

In China, funding from DFID and other donors has contributed to increasing detection rates from 30 per cent. in 2002 to over 70 per cent. in 2007; cure rates are now well above 85 per cent. and 1.5 million patients are being successfully treated.

In India, we support the national TB programme which has treated 6.3 million patients and saved 1.1 million lives since 1997.

DFID provides budget support to Pakistan, where case detection rates increased from 13 per cent. in 2002 to 51 per cent. in 2006 and to 69 per cent. in 2007.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what assessment his Department has made of the effect of extensively drug-resistant strains of tuberculosis in developing countries on the prospects of fulfilment of the Global Plan to Stop TB; [256219]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to prevent the spread of drug-resistant tuberculosis globally. [256132]

Mr. Michael Foster: The emergence of drug resistant strains of tuberculosis (TB) pose a serious threat to achieving the goals of the Global Plan to Stop TB. The response to drug resistant TB falls far short of what is needed. Much more needs to be done to ensure prompt quality diagnosis and effective treatment.

The Department for International Development (DFID) funds research into new TB drugs, through the Global Alliance for TB Drugs, and also operational research. In 2006 DFID provided an additional £1.6 million to the Stop TB Partnership to address extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) in South Africa. This was in response to an urgent request from the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Prompt diagnosis and effective treatment is essential to prevent the emergence of drug resistance. DFID supports actions to strengthen TB programmes through international organisations such as the World Health Organisation, global partnerships such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and UNITAID, our support to countries' health systems and our funding for research. By 1 December 2008, global fund-supported programmes had detected and treated 4.6 million additional cases of infectious tuberculosis.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to answer Question 246213, tabled by the hon. Member for Stroud on 17 December 2008, on UK National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and Afghanistan. [255640]

Mr. Michael Foster: The parliamentary question referred to by my hon. Friend was transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and answered on 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2308-09W.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Arms Trade

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the Government's policy is on UK companies exhibiting at the International Defence Exhibition and Seminar in Karachi; what guidance his Department issues to companies on *(a)* exhibiting at overseas arms exhibitions and *(b)* exporting arms to (i) Sudan and (ii) Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [253391]

Mr. Thomas: UK companies' attendance at overseas defence exhibitions is a matter for those companies and the exhibition organisers. Guidance on the impact of the UK's trade controls on exhibitions is available on the BERR website. Further guidance may be given to companies as appropriate by export control advisers in BERR so that their attendance at an exhibition may comply with UK law on the export of defence goods, including in respect of embargoed destinations such as Zimbabwe, and Sudan. UKTI Defence and Security Organisation offers support and advice to defence and security companies to assist them succeed internationally. That organisation attended the recent defence exhibition and seminar in Karachi and displayed a range of equipment in accordance with UK law on exports.

Australia: Overseas Trade

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the monetary value of trade between the UK and *(a)* Queensland, *(b)* New South Wales and *(c)* Western Australia was in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [256590]

Mr. Thomas: The United Kingdom does not produce statistics on trade with sub-national parts of other countries. The Australian Government publishes some data on trade between the UK and individual Australian states and territories, for example at:

http://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/stats-pubs/trade_state_and_territory.html

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the monetary value of *(a)* exports from the UK to Australia and *(b)* imports from Australia to the UK was in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [256591]

Mr. Thomas: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 23W.

On 10 February 2009, the Office for National Statistics published its first estimates of trade in goods for 2008: UK exports of goods to Australia were worth £3,091 million and UK imports of goods were worth £2,378 million. Figures for UK trade in services with Australia in 2008 are due to be published in the late summer.

Bed and Breakfast Accommodation

Mr. Paice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of bed and breakfast establishments in *(a)* rural areas and *(b)* urban areas in each year since 1997. [255743]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what estimate has been made of the number of bed and breakfast establishments in (a) rural areas and (b) urban areas in each year since 1997 (255743).

The main source of business count estimates is the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR). The IDBR comprises of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses, however most bed and breakfast establishments will fall below the threshold for VAT and PAYE registration and so will be excluded.

The table below covers those enterprises registered for VAT and/or PAYE held on the IDBR and classified, using the Standard Industrial Classification (2003), to subclass 5523/9 "other tourist or short stay accommodation". This subclass includes guest houses, farmhouses, inns with letting rooms and other facilities not elsewhere classified. Statistics on urban and rural geography are only available for England and Wales and from 2005 onwards.

Count of VAT and/or PAYE based Enterprises in England and Wales by SIC'2003 subclass 5523/9 and Urban/Rural split

Data as at March of the year specified	*Rural*	*Urban*	*Total*
2005	515	840	1,355
2006	560	870	1,430
2007	600	890	1,490
2008	665	950	1,615

Note:
All figures have been rounded to avoid disclosure.

Biotechnology

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to encourage investment in the biotechnology industry. [250423]

Ian Pearson: The Review and Refresh of Bioscience 2015 was published on 22 January 2009 and its recommendations are currently being considered by the Government. A formal response will issue in the spring.

Businesses, including firms in the biotechnology sector, can find out about eligibility for a range of Government support schemes from the 'Real help for businesses now' web page hosted by Business Link at

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk

Borrowing: Elderly

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to inform older people of the risks they incur through borrowing too much. [255764]

Mr. Thomas: The Government fully recognise the risks for older people of borrowing too much, particularly for those on low incomes. The vast majority of older people have no debts and are able to manage their finances. However, we are aware that many older people struggle to meet the cost of day to day living, and that some have been borrowing to finance these costs.

The Government have invested considerable resource in debt advice over recent years. It has allocated £130 million to expand the provision of free debt advice for the financially excluded through the Financial Inclusion Fund. A further £15.85 million was allocated to support the National Debt Line and Citizen's Advice in the last Pre-Budget Report. These services are targeted at the financially excluded, including older people in financial difficulty.

The Government have also undertaken a number of measures to strengthen signposting to debt advice services, including a Direct.Gov campaign. The Direct.Gov website provides links to Help the Aged, Age Concern and other organisations able to provide financial information to this vulnerable group.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assistance his Department provides to businesses to assist them with export activities. [253322]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment is the joint BERR/FCO organisation that helps UK-based companies succeed in the global economy and assists overseas companies to bring high quality investment to the UK.

UKTI's trade development services for UK-based companies help them to develop their international trade potential, and to access international markets. Further details on these services can be found in UKTI's Autumn Performance Report 2008 (Cm 7520) and on UKTI's website

www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the proposal from the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts for a fund to support early stage companies. [255645]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are aware of the difficulties small companies are facing in raising venture capital funding and the risk that this poses to the UK's economic future. We are currently working with the venture capital sector, businesses and investors to discuss possible solutions. This includes discussions with NESTA about their proposal, but no decisions have yet been made.

Car Industry: Redundancy

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many redundancies from positions in the car manufacturing industries have been notified to his Department in the last 12 months: [254442]

(2) how many redundancies in the commercial vehicle manufacturing industry have been notified to his Department in the last 12 months. [255050]

Mr. McFadden: Employers who propose to make 20 or more redundancies at one establishment are required to notify the Secretary of State of the proposal under provisions contained in the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. Records are held using the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. In the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008 this Department was notified of the following proposed redundancies:

(SIC 29) Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers—6154

(SIC 30) Manufacture of other transport equipment—9098

Consumer Focus: Manpower

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many Consumer Focus staff work principally on postal services issues. [256082]

Mr. McFadden: At the current time, 12 Consumer Focus staff work primarily on postal services issues, including postal and post office network activity. A further five staff work directly on postal services issues, as part of their wider responsibilities.

Of the 17 staff who work directly on postal services issues, 11 staff work on a Great Britain wide basis, there are three staff in Consumer Focus Northern Ireland post, two staff in Consumer Focus Scotland and a staff member in Consumer Focus Wales.

Consumer Focus formed on 1 October 2008 as a result of the merger between the National Consumer Council, Postwatch and energywatch.

Credit Cards: Interest Rates

Jessica Morden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to ensure that credit card companies do not charge exorbitant interest rates. [256259]

Mr. Thomas: The Government fully understand the recent concerns over high interest rates charged by some credit card lenders. We secured agreement from credit card lenders to develop fair principles for any interest rate increase they introduce on reviewing an individual's account. These came into force in January 2009 and provide extra protections when a customer or group of customers' interest rate is changed as a result of a perceived change in their ability to repay their debts.

Where a lender increases their rates, customers will be given the option to close down their account and repay their remaining balance at the existing rate of interest. Lenders also agreed not to increase rates for customers who have failed to make two or more consecutive minimum payments, where an agreed repayment plan is in place for the account, or where lenders have been notified by a not-for-profit debt advice agency that the customer is in serious discussion with it.

Credit card lenders will also give a breathing space of up to 60 days to borrowers in difficulty. During this time lenders will not commence debt collection proceedings, giving borrowers time to agree a repayment plan with the help of a not-for-profit debt advice agency.

We have also implemented a number of measures to provide vulnerable and low-income consumers with access to affordable credit and free debt advice. £80 million has been invested in the Growth Fund scheme to support loans to low-income families, and £130 million has been allocated to expand the provision of free debt advice for the financially excluded through the Financial Inclusion Fund. The Government will continue to monitor the credit market closely through the new Consumer Finance Forum, bringing together representatives from the financial services industry, consumer groupssand Government. This Forum will meet regularly to address issues facing borrowers during the downturn.

Credit Reference Agencies: Regulation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what statutory requirements there are on credit reference agencies to provide information to his Department and its agencies; and if he will make a statement. [255346]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 10 February 2009]:* Under the Consumer Credit Act 1974, credit reference agencies must be licensed by the Office of Fair Trading. Certain essential information about the firm must be provided to OFT as part of the application process for a licence. Credit reference agencies may also be required or permitted to supply information to relevant investigating authorities for the purposes of criminal investigations under the Social Security Fraud Act and the Data Protection Act. There are no specific statutory requirements for the provision of information to BERR or its agencies by credit reference agencies.

The Government are in discussion with the credit industry with regard to agreeing the voluntary provision by lenders of data on the performance of credit markets. This may involve the release of data held by credit reference agencies on behalf of credit providers. Any such data sharing will be compliant with data protection principles.

Credit: EU Action

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of whether personal reserves on bank accounts should be brought within regulations under the European Consumer Credit Directive. [252764]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* Bank accounts that offer personal reserve facilities do fall within the scope of credit agreements covered by the consumer credit directive. The directive is due to be implemented by June 2010 and BERR will be consulting formally on implementation proposals in spring 2009.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many official journeys *(a)* the Secretary of State and his predecessors and *(b)* his officials made by plane in each of the last five years. [247508]

Mr. McFadden: The number of official journeys made by plane by *(a)* Minister of State for the Department for Business and Regulatory Reform and his predecessors and *(b)* his officials for the last five years was as follows:

January to December each year	*(a)*	*(b)*
2005	14	6,098
2006	33	4,912
2007	22	4,101
2008	15	4,029

Figures for 2004 are not available; to obtain these figures would entail disproportionate costs.

Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many expert advisers, excluding special advisers, have been commissioned by his Department since June 2007; and on which topics they have advised. [254740]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not define the term expert advisers (excluding special advisers) or hold a central list of such advisers. Details could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 599W, on departmental ICT, what the original expected *(a)* cost and *(b)* delivery date was of each project referred to; and if he will make a statement. [251245]

Mr. McFadden: The original expected *(a)* cost and *(b)* delivery date for each of the BERR ICT projects referred to in the answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 599W, were as follows:

HR Online

(a) £7.2 million for development and implementation; £1.1 million per annum for support.

(b) May 2008.

SPIRE 3

(a) £897,000 for development and implementation; £155,000 per annum for support.

(b) March 2009.

RITE

(a) £800,000 for development and implementation; £641,000 per annum for support.

(b) December 2008.

Point of Single Contact

(a) £1.6 million; support costs continue to be negotiated.

(b) March 2010.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, which ICT projects his Department and its predecessors initiated and abandoned before completion in each year since 1997; what costs were incurred in each project; who the contractors for each were; on what date each was *(a)* commenced and *(b)* abandoned; and if he will make a statement. [251387]

Mr. McFadden: Since 1997 the Department and its predecessors have not abandoned any ICT projects initiated during this period. The Department has a main information technology contract which is a private finance initiative (PFI) agreement with Fujitsu Services and this has been in place for more almost 10 years as well an alternative IT framework agreement with a number of other suppliers to enable competition.

The Department does not hold central information regarding ICT projects initiated by its agencies.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what records his Department maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240479]

Mr. McFadden: All expenditure on entertainment and hospitality is recorded on Mentor, the Department's financial accounting and management system. There is no separate record of expenditure on alcohol for official hospitality. All spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in 'Managing Public Money'.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent on Ministerial hospitality in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08, expressed in current prices. [241244]

Mr. McFadden: The Department's accounting system does not separately identify ministerial hospitality from other forms of hospitality. To provide the information could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

All spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in "Managing Public Money".

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to advise staff of pension options available to them in relation to added years or additional voluntary contributions. [253269]

Mr. McFadden: Members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of their pension on retirement if they continue in service

to scheme pension age. The benefit statement prompts the member to consider boosting their pension and provides details of the civil service pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including options for making additional voluntary contributions and a calculator to work out costs for added pension (previously added years).

New entrants are informed of pension options in the employment offer and are provided with a pension information pack.

Cabinet Office provides leaflets that explain added pension and additional voluntary contributions for members. The information is also available in scheme booklets. These are available on the Civil Service Pensions website or on request from the member's pensions administrator.

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) uses an internal HR Intranet to communicate with staff on a range of issues. This includes comprehensive information on how staff can boost their pension through added pension and additional voluntary contributions (AVCs).

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department has spent on flowers in each of the last three years. [254870]

Mr. McFadden: Over the last three financial years, this Department has spent the following on foliage via our contracted supplier, Plantforce, on its HQ Estate. It includes spend at Kingsgate House which is part occupied by DIUS.

	Spend on foliage (£)
2006-07	23,865
2007-08	24,467
2008-09 (to date)	24,155

This spend includes all internal plant displays and maintenance, exterior maintenance and purchase of Christmas trees and Remembrance Day wreaths and flowers.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the expenditure his Department will incur on UK Trade and Investment in each financial year from 2009-10 to 2014-15. [257651]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade & Investment is a joint department of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), working also in close partnership with the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

UK Trade & Investment has three main funding streams. UKTI Programme for front line delivery, BERR administration, which is mainly for staff based in the UK, and FCO programme and administration, which pays for the operation of the overseas network.

UKTI's budgets are agreed as part of the spending review process with HM Treasury. The current spending review period covers the years 2008-09 to 2010-11. Our estimate of expenditure for 2009-10 and 2010-11 is:

	2009-10	*£ million 2010-11*
UKTI Programme	91.4	91.2
BERR Admin	52.7	52.1
FCO Resource	166.4	165.4
Total	310.5	308.7

These figures are subject to UKTI's annual corporate planning and annual parliamentary approval. We have not been allocated any formal budgets beyond this time frame.

Departmental Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 462-3W, on redundancy, what estimate has he made of the annual payroll savings accruing to his Department as a result of staff exit schemes in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09 excluding the cost of severance packages; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for 2009-10. [254471]

Mr. McFadden: The estimate[1] of the annual payroll savings resulting from staff exit schemes in each of the following financial years are:

	£ million
2005-06	5.5
2006-07	6.4
2007-08	6.4
2008-09 (YTD)	0.7

With respect to an estimate for the year 2009-10, this will be dependant on the results of BERR's annual business planning process.

[1] This estimate is based on median base pay at 2008 pay levels and represents the full year effect of any exits.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions his Department has had with outside organisations to discuss policy on reducing the effect of the recession on matters within his Department's responsibility. [254068]

Mr. McFadden: As one would expect, the Department has regular engagements with outside organisations including relevant Government Departments on a range of issues relating to the economy.

Economic Situation: Pharmaceuticals

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make an assessment of the effect of the recession on the financial ability of pharmaceutical companies to undertake pre-market research and development work. [256606]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

There are no plans to undertake an assessment. The Government recognise that in the current economic climate the bio-pharmaceutical industry is facing challenges. The Prime Minister held a summit with global leaders from the industry on 27 January 2009 to discuss the main issues facing the industry in the United Kingdom. He reinforced the message that the Government are committed to working with the industry to ensure that the UK maintains its position as a world leader in this sector, and to this end, he announced the creation of an Office for Life Sciences, to be led by Lord Drayson, the Science and Innovation Minister. The Office will be tasked with undertaking work in the short-term to address some of the issues facing the industry, and to develop a longer-term life sciences industrial strategy.

Environment Protection

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the international competitiveness of the UK's environmental industries. [256467]

Mr. Thomas: According to data from a forthcoming, independent report by Innovas, commissioned by BERR, the global market value of the Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services (LCEGS) sector is £3,046 billion, the UK (LCEGS) market (combined home market and export) accounts for 3.5 per cent. of this at £107 billion. UK exports of (LCEGS) are currently at only £10.5 billion or just around 10 per cent. of the UK market value, and there is a real opportunity for the UK to increase its global market share.

The UK market is well positioned to develop and gain comparative advantage in key areas of the environmental supply chain, such as Water and Wastewater Treatment, through exporting to developing nations looking to upgrade their current infrastructure.

Analysis shows that there are significant opportunities for the UK to export its goods and services across all areas of the (LCEGS) sector.

An analysis of the competitive advantages of the UK environmental goods and services (EGS) industry is set out in the UKTI publication entitled "The UK—a world leader in environmental solutions" (URN 08/558). Examples of the advantages differentiating the UK from our main competitors in the international EGS sector include leading the way in environmental improvements through progress in the waste management and water sectors, setting standards in professional services such as world class environmental consultancies, and investing in innovative approaches.

EU Internal Trade

Mr. Cash: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions the Secretary of State has had with his EU counterparts on *(a)* the application of the EU Posted Workers Directive in respect of the rulings of the European Court of Justice on cases C-438/05, C-346/06 and C-319/06 and *(b)* proposals for new legislation related to EU Directive 96/71/EC and Article 49 of the EC Treaty. [255664]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 February 2009]*: My noble Friend, the Secretary of State is in regular discussions with his EU counterparts on a range of issues.

Fines

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what administrative financial penalties may be levied by his Department and its agencies. [253604]

Ian Pearson: The National Minimum Wage Act 1998 provides for penalties to be levied on an employer for non-compliance with an enforcement notice which requires them to pay the NMW and repay arrears to workers who have been underpaid the NMW. The enforcement is carried out by HM Revenue and Customs and by DEFRA in relation to the agricultural minimum wage. The Employment Act 2008 includes provisions to strengthen the enforcement regime of the NMW. These provisions, which will come into force on 6 April 2009, will replace the current enforcement and penalty notices with a single notice of underpayment imposing automatic penalties of between £100 and up to £5,000 for employers for non-compliance with the requirement to pay workers the NMW.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House agencies and they will respond to you directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 23 February 2009:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question, reference 253604, to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Since 1992 Companies House has levied penalties on companies registered that file their accounts late.

From 1 October 2009, the Companies Act 2006 introduces a new penalty of £200 where a company amends its articles of association and fails to send a copy of the amended articles to Companies House within 15 days. The penalty will only be triggered if a company receives notice from the Registrar requiring it to deliver a copy of its amended articles and it does not comply within 28 days.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 23 February 2009:

I refer to your question (2008/858), to ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what administrative financial penalties may be levied by his Department and its agencies.

I have been asked to reply for The Insolvency Service, which is an executive agency of that department.

I can confirm that we levy no such penalties.

Internet: Security

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many companies that produce internet filtering products have applied to the British Standards Institute for certification of their products. [253402]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

BSI Group consists of three divisions: BSI British Standards, BSI Management Systems and BSI Product Services. It is the Management Systems division that provides independent third-party certification of management systems. These activities are conducted on a purely commercial basis and are outside of the scope

of the relationship with the UK Government. As such we are unable to comment on private certification agreements. Queries of this nature should be directed to the certification body.

The Government have a relationship with the British Standards division as its designated national standards body and in that capacity, fulfils the UK Government's international obligations in the field of standardisation.

Iran: Overseas Investment

Mr. Hague: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representation UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) has in Iran; and what services UKTI offers in that country. [253950]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) does not deliver services in support of British companies wishing to trade with or invest in Iran. UKTI shut down its representative office in the British embassy in Tehran in July 2008

Mobile Phones: Contracts

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions the Government has had with Ofcom on a reduction in mobile termination rates. [250685]

Mr. McFadden: Ministers and officials have regular meetings with the Office of Communications (Ofcom) on a wide range of issues. Ofcom's progress on regulating mobile termination rates has been discussed on several occasions.

Motor Vehicles: Government Assistance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what steps the Government are taking to support the car industry; [251255]

(2) what recent steps the Government have taken to ensure confidence in the car market; [251256]

(3) what recent steps the Government have taken to ensure the availability of credit to businesses to enable the purchase of motor vehicles; [251257]

(4) what recent steps the Government have taken to ensure job security for those employed by the UK automotive industry; [251258]

(5) what recent steps the Government have taken to facilitate the sale of UK-manufactured cars abroad. [251259]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 26 January 2009]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the statement I made in the House on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 165-67, on the automotive sector.

In addition, UK Trade and Investment supports the UK automotive sector in overseas markets and will continue to do so. For example, during his recent trip to India, the Business Secretary used his keynote address to the Symposium on International Automotive Technology to promote UK automotive excellence. UKTI senior staff, including our ambassadors, regularly promote UK automotive excellence by hosting high profile events around the overseas launch of UK-manufactured cars.

In March, UKTI will launch the UK Advanced Engineering Marketing Strategy, to promote the UK as international partner of choice in the automotive, aerospace and engineering sectors. This is in line with other UK marketing strategies, such as those for energy, ICT and life sciences.

Ofcom: Fines

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what arrangements Ofcom makes for payments from organisations it has fined; and within what period of time penalised parties are required to make payment; [254379]

(2) how many organisations Ofcom has fined in each year since its inception; how much it has imposed in fines in each such year; and how much it has imposed in fines in 2009 to date; [254383]

(3) what estimate Ofcom has made of the monetary value of fines it expects to *(a)* recoup and *(b)* remit in the next 12 months; [254387]

(4) within what period and upon what terms organisations fined by Ofcom are required to make payment. [254786]

Mr. McFadden: The matters raised are the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Public Houses

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many sub-post offices now operate, either full or part-time, from the premises of public houses. [257306]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Public Houses: Closures

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of public house closures. [241808]

Mr. Thomas: The Government are taking a range of steps to help businesses through the current economic downturn to boost capital and liquidity in the market. This is across all sectors of the economy. Key measures include the introduction of a new Enterprise Finance Guarantee to support up to £1.3 billion of bank lending, a separate £10 billion guarantee facility to support further working capital bank lending, a £75 million Capital for Enterprise Fund to convert businesses' debt into equity, and £25 million of regional funds. Public houses are able to access the package of help on offer, including a Business Link "Health Check", via:

www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp

Public Telephones

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many coin-operated telephone boxes in each parliamentary constituency have been converted to card operation in each of the last 10 years. [242170]

Mr. McFadden: This information is not held by the Department. Neither BT nor Ofcom hold these data broken down by constituency of location. The cost of generating the data on this basis would incur disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* coin-operated and *(b)* card-operated public telephone boxes in each parliamentary constituency have been removed from operation in each of the last 10 years. [242171]

Mr. McFadden: This information is not held by the department. However, after a review by Ofcom, BT consulted with the local authorities on its national rationalisation programme of removing up to 8,700 telephone boxes. That process has now ended and BT has taken steps to remove those telephone boxes that are cash operated or cashless only where there has been no objection from the local authority. These data are not available in each of the last 10 years at constituency level but BT could provide more recent data by geographic area on request subject to their discretion.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* coin-operated and *(b)* card-operated public telephone boxes there were in each constituency in each of the last 10 years. [242206]

Mr. McFadden: This information is not held by the Department. Neither BT nor Ofcom hold this data for each parliamentary constituency in the last 10 years. The cost of generating the data on this basis would incur disproportionate cost.

Regional Development Agencies: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much each regional development agency has budgeted to pay in empty property business rates in 2008-09. [253778]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows how much each regional development agency has budgeted to pay business rates on empty properties in 2008-09.

Budgeted business rates on empty properties in 2008-09

RDA	*£000*
AWM	35
EEDA	109
EMDA	24
LDA	164
NWDA	83
ONE	191
SEEDA	[1]309
SWERDA	146
YF	[2]1,026

[1] An assessment is currently being undertaken on an additional property following its purchase.

[2] The economic regeneration of Yorkshire and Humber's main urban centres is a Regional Economic Strategy Priority. To support delivery of this priority, YF has acquired strategic properties and sites. The economic downturn is lengthening the delivery of re-uses and new uses for these sites which impacts on rates and empty rates costs.

Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps UK Trade and Investment is taking to support the renewable energy industry. [255209]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade & Investment has an ongoing and active programme of support for the UK renewable energy industries, in partnership with UK Renewables. This includes such activities as organising UK groups at overseas trade shows and bringing potential buyers and decision makers to the UK to see our renewables capability first-hand.

UKTI is implementing the delivery of a UK Energy Excellence Marketing Strategy, to promote the UK as international partner of choice across all the energy industries including renewables. This is a major Government campaign, operating alongside other UK marketing strategies, such as those for ICT and life sciences.

UKTI is also developing a UK Low-Carbon International Marketing Strategy, which will assist UK suppliers of renewable and other clean energy equipment and services.

Sri Lanka: Arms Trade

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cash value of defence equipment sales to Sri Lanka was in each of the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [257299]

Mr. Thomas: The Government publish detailed information on export licences issued, refused and revoked, by destination, including the overall value and a summary of the items covered by these licences, in its annual and quarterly reports on Strategic Export Controls.

The Government's annual reports, published since 1997, and quarterly reports, published since 2004, are available from the Libraries of the House and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website at

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/publications/annual-reports/export-controls1.

The Government do not approve any defence related exports if it judges that there is a clear risk that they will be used in contravention of the Consolidated Criteria, including for external aggression or internal repression. We routinely refuse export licences where we believe there is a risk of this, and have refused a number of licences to Sri Lanka on this basis.

Telecommunications: Hearing Impaired

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will direct Ofcom to take steps to ensure that deaf and hard-of-hearing people have *(a)* equal access to mobile and internet telecommunication services and *(b)* access to modernised relay services. [254297]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* Within its existing remit in this area, Ofcom has stated that it would like to see the introduction of additional relay services and have commissioned a study into the social and economic benefits of such services. It is important that the approach reflects current and emerging technology and this study is examining the gap between services that are currently available (including the existing relay service, SMS, instant messaging and email) and potential services. The study will consider the existing relay service Text direct (also known as Type Talk which allows two way telephone conversations between deaf or speech impaired people), captioned telephony (where the relay assistant re-voices one end of the call into captions using speech recognition technology), Video relay (which enables sign language users to communicate with hearing people in real time, using a sign language interpreter based remotely) and internet protocol access to text relay (which would enable people to have fixed and mobile access to text relay via a PC with an internet connection, removing the need for specialist terminal equipment).

The European legislation that establishes the objectives of member state regulation in this area is currently being reviewed. The Government have supported efforts to strengthen the obligations on member states in this area to achieve results that are practical use to disabled users. Our response to the public consultation on the review of the EU legislation noted

"There was universal recognition that disabled users should not be excluded from being able to enjoy the benefits of a modern telecommunications sector where economic technical solutions existed."

Temporary Loans Fund

Tony Baldry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform by what means businesses in Banbury constituency may access the Temporary Loans Fund. [240396]

Mr. McFadden: The South East Development Agency has established a Loan Fund for companies in the south-east. The Agency will provide up to £3 million in transition loan funds, available through the Bridging Mezzanine Debt Fund Managed by Finance South East Ltd. The fund will help high-growth businesses having difficulty obtaining finance from the commercial sector. Unsecured loans of up to £150,000 will be available in the form of commercial loans to bridge the gap between the amount the banks are able to offer businesses and the amount these businesses need to survive and grow. Companies in the south-east can apply for funds by contacting Finance South East Ltd. through their website:

www.financesoutheast.com

Trade Promotion

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many overseas visits have been made by each of the business ambassadors since 3 October 2008; and what the cost of *(a)* flights, *(b)* accommodation, *(c)* gifts and *(d)* other expenses was for each such visit. [254631]

Mr. Thomas: The following table sets out the overseas visits undertaken by business ambassadors since 3 October 2008, as at 6 February 2009, and also details related direct costs:

Name	*Visit made*	*Flight cost (£)*	*Accommodation costs (£)*	*Gifts (£)*	*Other expenses (£)*	*Note/(£)*
Sir John Bond	New York (November 2008). Meeting with Consul-General and UKTI Trade Team	0	0	0	0	All costs met by business ambassador
Paul Skinner	Australia (November 2008). Speeches in Melbourne and Sydney	0	0	0	0	All costs met by business ambassador
Digby, Lord Jones of Birmingham	Dubai (November 2008). Led largest UK trade mission ever to the Gulf. Over 200 UK companies involved.	3,601.24	735.26	0	[1]646.53	Total: 4,983.03
Dick Olver	Oman (January 2009). Meeting/ lunch with HMA and Young President's Organisation of Oman	0	0	0	0	All costs met by business ambassador
Dick Olver	Abu Dhabi (January 2009). Meeting/lunch with HMA and Abu Dhabi UK business leaders	0	0	0	0	All costs met by business ambassador

Name	Visit made	Flight cost £	Accommodation costs £	Gifts £	Other expenses £	Note[1] £
Lord Richard Rogers	Mexico (February 2009). Meeting with HMA and UKTI representatives. Meeting with Mexican Secretary of Communications and Transport and HMA. Meeting with Coordinator of the infrastructure and Tourism Cabinet, Office of the President of Mexico and HMA	0	0	0	0	All costs met by business ambassador

[1] Car hire

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost of running the business ambassadors' secretariat within UK Trade and Investment has been since 3 October 2008; and what proportion of that cost has been for *(a)* secretariat staff salaries and *(b)* other expenses. [254632]

Mr. Thomas: UKTI has resourced the business ambassador secretariat from within its overall internal resources. The estimated salary cost for the period since 3 October 2008 is approximately £24,000; this includes set-up costs. No other expenses have been incurred.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the levels of carbon dioxide emissions resulting from producing electricity from used cooking oil as compared to (a) fossil fuels and (b) other biofuels. [253283]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

I am not aware of any research that is focused specifically on deriving the levels of carbon emissions from producing electricity from used cooking oil specifically. However as part of our ongoing review of our 'National Calculation Methodologies', building performance assessment tools the standard assessment procedure for dwellings and the simplified buildings energy method for non-dwellings, Government are working with OFTEC (Oil Firing Technical Association) to establish the carbon emission factors for the bio-liquids that are being developed as a low carbon alternative for kerosene. While it is expected that these liquids, which are likely to include some used cooking oil as well as other liquids produced from biomass, will mainly be used in plant to produce space heating and hot water they could equally be used to generate electricity. Nonetheless, through this work we will be able to estimate the carbon impact of using such bio-liquids compared with other fuels.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has conducted into the generation of hydrogen from biomass. [255152]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None. The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is responsible for funding research through the UK Research Councils and the Technology Strategy Board.

British Energy: EDF Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change by what date he expects EDF's purchase of British Energy to be completed. [255991]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: EDF's offer for British Energy was declared unconditional on 5 January, 2009.

Christmas

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment since the formation of his Department. [243730]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has made no expenditure on Christmas parties. The only expenditure on staff entertainment (that is, for a celebration, or where there is no clear and justifiable reason for expenditure) since the Department's formation on 3 October 2008 has been £1,733 on a cross-government event on 3 December 2008 as a celebration to mark the passing of the Climate Change and Energy Acts.

Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of its capacity to adapt to climate change; and what plans he has to publish a climate change adaptation strategy. [241179]

Joan Ruddock: In July 2008, the cross-Government adapting to climate change programme published adapting to climate change in England—a framework for action which set out the Government's strategy for adaptation and the work-plan for the cross-Government programme for the next three years. This programme increases Government's capacity to adapt by ensuring a coordinated approach across all Departments and the public sector, and overall responsibility for it rests with DEFRA. Information about the programme and its work can be found at:

www.defra.gov/adaptation

This includes taking forward work flowing from the Climate Change Act—including a national climate change risk assessment and cost benefit analysis which will inform future priorities for the statutory adaptation programme that will then begin in 2012.

The Government's longer term strategy on adapting to a changing climate will be set out in this statutory national adaptation programme, which will be reviewed and updated on a five year rolling basis in response to updated risk assessments, and report to Parliament.

In addition, DECC has established governance structures to ensure that there is proper read-across from DEFRA's adaptation strategy both into the policy areas for which DECC has responsibility, and into its corporate decision-making process.

Climate Change: Arctic

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has conducted into the scale of polar icepack melting in the Northwest Passage. [255188]

Joan Ruddock: My Department funds the Met Office Hadley Centre (MOHC), through its Integrated Climate Programme with joint funding from the MOD and DEFRA, to monitor, understand and predict climate change; this research includes incorporating sea ice into global climate models to ensure best possible predictions on melting of Arctic sea ice. We also liaise with other research groups in the U.K. and internationally on this topic.

The Northwest Passage temporarily became fully open and navigable in summer 2007, for first time in recorded history, due to the record low extent (September average area: 4.28 million sq km) of Arctic sea ice melt. The same situation occurred in summer 2008, when the sea ice area (4.67 million sq km) was at its second lowest on record. Satellite monitoring data since 1979, available from the US National Snow and ice Data Centre (NSIDC) shows there has been a long-term decline in the extent of summer Arctic sea ice and that this decline has accelerated over the last decade; the long-term downward trend of around 10 per cent. per decade can be linked to human emissions of greenhouse gases and aerosols. It is not yet clear if the much larger summer ice melt in the last two years is an acceleration of this long term trend or a short term variation around it. Recent analysis by the MOHC suggests that changes as large as the observed record low in 2007 can indeed result from natural year-to-year variability around the longer term downward trend; this provides confidence in the ability of the MOHC's climate model to simulate changes in the area of Arctic sea ice and its continuing decline. However, it is evident that climate models show a wide range of future predicted rates of sea ice decline. Whilst the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report suggested the Arctic would be largely free of summer ice by 2100, many more recent models predict this will happen much sooner—by the middle of this century or even earlier; several experts suggest there may possibly be no summer sea ice by the mid 2010s.

Satellite and other records also show a long-term decline in the average thickness and age of Arctic sea ice over recent decades. For example, scientists from University College London recently reported that the thickness of the ice was significantly lower (by an average of 10 per cent.) during the winter of 2007-08 than during the previous five winters, indicating that the total volume of sea ice has decreased significantly. Though based only on satellite data (which are not ideal for measuring sea ice thickness), this result confirms previous evidence of decreasing sea ice thickness over the past three decades from US and UK submarine sonar measurements.

The retreat of Arctic sea ice has geo-political implications, with the Northwest Passage becoming increasingly ice free and fully open to shipping. There are other important implications; by reducing the reflectivity (albedo) of the Earth's surface, it increases the amount of solar radiation that the surface absorbs, thereby accelerating warming. Temperatures have already risen almost twice as quickly in the Arctic as in the rest of the world over the past 100 years. Sea ice retreat also has significant impacts on Arctic ecosystems, as many organisms (including certain species of fish) depend on its presence for survival. DECC is continuing to seek updated assessments of Arctic sea ice conditions and impacts from UK and international experts.

Climate Change: EU Presidency

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent meetings Ministers and officials from his Department have had with their Czech counterparts to discuss the energy and climate change priorities of the Czech Presidency of the European Union. [255172]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State met Martin Bursik, the Czech Environment Minister, on 7 November 2008 to discuss the 2020 Energy and Climate Package. He also plans to meet the Czech ambassador in London later this month to discuss the energy and climate change priorities of the Czech presidency.

On 18 December 2008 DECC officials visited Prague for meetings with officials from the Environment Ministry and the Ministry of Industry and Trade to discuss preparations and priorities for the Czech presidency. DECC officials also attended the first informal workshop on climate change of the Czech presidency in Prague on 18-20 January, which outlined the priorities of the Czech presidency.

The UK strongly supports the Czech presidency's focus on taking forward the Commission's Second Strategic Energy Review, in particular on energy security and on preparing the EU for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change meeting in Copenhagen in December 2009.

Coal: Pollution Control

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make it his policy to allocate funds to the development of clean coal technology in order to reduce levels of coal imports; and if he will make a statement. [254398]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 11 February 2009]:* The Government's policy on clean coal technologies was set out in the "Strategy for Developing Carbon Abatement Technologies for Fossil Fuel Use" in 2005 and more recently in the Energy White Paper, 2007. Clean coal technologies include: higher efficiency conversion processes; fuel switching to lower carbon alternative such as biomass co-firing; and CO_2 capture and storage (CCS). Some of these approaches will result in increased efficiency of the operation of the generation plant, but some such as CCS will require additional energy to operate.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) supports demonstration of carbon abatement technologies through the Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF). To date DECC has committed £2.2 million to an oxy-fuel combustion CCS project.

In addition the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) support R & D on clean coal technologies via the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) and the research councils. The TSB has identified carbon abatement technologies as a priority area in its energy generation and supply strategy and currently supports around 11 projects with a total value of around £ 13.4 million.

The research councils also support a wide range of underpinning research and training in carbon abatement technologies through their research councils' energy programme and through their individual programmes. In the last five years some 25 projects covering CCS totalling over £23 million have been funded.

Sourcing of coal is a matter for generators and other coal users, but the Government believe that making the best use of UK energy resources, including coal reserves, contributes to our security of supply goals, and that this reflects a value in maintaining access to economically viable reserves of coal.

Coal: Prices

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of increases in energy prices on levels of fuel poverty among pensioners who use coal as their main source of domestic heating. [255599]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* The Department does not carry out separate analysis to quantify the effect of rising energy prices on coal users. The total number of fuel poor households in England that rely on coal and other solid fuels as their primary source for central heating fell from 106,000 to 101,000 households between 2005 and 2006, however, the actual proportion of households reliant on solid fuels that were fuel poor rose slightly, from 45 per cent. in 2005 to around 46 per cent. in 2006.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what cost savings his Department has made since its creation. [255206]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As for all Departments, the Department for Energy and Climate Change will be required by HM Treasury under the terms of its Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 settlement to deliver 5 per cent. per annum real savings in 2009-10 and 2010-11 compared to the baseline budget set for 2008-09. The administration budget for 2008-09 will be set in the upcoming spring supplementary estimate.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of the IT systems in his Department is fully accredited to the Government's security standards. [245375]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was formed on 3 October 2008, bringing together policy responsibility for energy (formerly with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR)) and climate change (formerly with the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)). The Department does not at present have its own IT systems, but instead makes use of BERR's and Defra's existing IT systems. Given that, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 322W and by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs for the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 423W.

Departmental E-mail

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people have a decc.gsi.gov.uk email account. [255167]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: 923 people have a decc.gsi.gov.uk e-mail accounts as of 5 February 2009.

Departmental ICT

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what IT projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are undertaking; what his most recent estimate of the total cost of each project is; and what the projected completion date of each is. [255958]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The IT projects which are being undertaken within DECC are:

North Sea Licensing — establishing an off-shore register equivalent to the onshore Land Registry. Cost is £250-300,000 and will be finished in summer 2009.

Electricity Portal for electricity consents. Cost approximately £350,000 and will be live by summer 2009.

Environmental emissions monitoring database, as joint project with oil industry, to capture data and report for Kyoto. The cost is expected to be £250,000 and will be complete by spring 2010.

DECC has no executive agencies.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make it his policy that temporary and permanent employees of his Department employed at the same grade receive the same hourly rate of pay. [248410]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1431W.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on *(a)* pot plants and *(b)* flowers since it was established. [254875]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There is no central record of this so it is not possible to answer this question without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost has been of his Department's contracts with public relations consultancies since it was established. [251266]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: According to the most recent records, DECC has spent £23,966.93 on contracts with public relations consultancies since its establishment on 3 October 2009.

Departmental Publications

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department publishes a staff magazine. [255990]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has not published a staff magazine.

Departmental Responsibilities

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when his Department will undertake a capability review. [255162]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As a newly formed Department, the first action in the capability review process for DECC will be to undertake a baseline assessment. DECC will discuss when might be appropriate to conduct this baseline assessment with the Capability Reviews Team in Cabinet Office.

District Heating

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what work his Department has undertaken on heat markets and district heating; and what further work is planned. [255146]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Heat markets and district heating were both considered in the Heat Call for Evidence published in January 2008

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file43609.pdf

127 organisations and individuals responded to the Call for Evidence. These responses have been analysed and have informed further policy development in this area. The Government are now consulting on their heat and energy saving strategy, which was published on 12 February and which contains further proposals on heat markets and district heating

http://hes.decc.gov.uk/

Electricity Generation

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has conducted into highly distributed power systems. [255159]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Research into distributed power systems has been carried out by the DECC funded Centre for Sustainable Electricity and Distributed Generation and the Electricity Networks Strategy Group. Copies of final reports can be found on their respective websites:

www.sedg.ac.uk

and

www.ensg.gov.uk

Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what work the *(a)* Energy Markets Unit, *(b)* Energy Development Unit, *(c)* Renewable Energy and Innovation Unit and *(d)* Cleaner Fossil Fuels Unit (i) has undertaken and (ii) plans to undertake. [255119]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: These teams—formerly as part of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and now in the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)—contribute to delivering the Government's policy goals of reliable supplies of energy, lower carbon emissions, competitive energy prices, fewer people in fuel poverty and effective management of the coal health and nuclear liabilities from the past.

The teams have been subject to some restructuring as part of the creation of DECC. The detail of their forward work plans is subject to the Department's current business planning for future years and to the further development of DECC's overarching strategy to address energy and climate change challenges.

Energy Strategy Unit

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what work the Energy Strategy and International *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 2 Unit has undertaken; and what further work is planned for each. [255120]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: These teams—formerly as part of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and now in the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)—contribute to delivering the Government's policy goals of reliable supplies of energy, lower carbon emissions and competitive energy prices.

The teams have been subject to some restructuring as part of the creation of DECC. The detail of their forward work plans is subject to the Department's current business planning for future years and to the further development of DECC's overarching strategy to address energy and climate change challenges.

Energy Supply

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the number of households in each *(a)* Government region, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* Parliamentary constituency who have not switched their electricity supplier since taking up residence in their property in each of the last three years. [255981]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC holds information on customer switching relating to the total number of households which have switched supplier in each PES (public electricity supplier) area since the electricity market was deregulated.

Data on the total number of domestic electricity consumers who have switched supplier are available in section 2 of "Quarterly Energy Prices", the latest edition of which was published in December 2008 and is available online at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file49203.pdf.

Table 2.4.1 on page 23 shows the percentage of consumers who have switched supplier in each region, split by payment method.

However, the Department holds no information on customer switching relating to the length of residence in a property, and information is not available by Government region, local authority area or parliamentary constituency.

Energy: Finance

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the availability of debt finance for investment in energy infrastructure projects. [255192]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Large energy companies continue to be able to access both bond and commercial paper markets for investment purposes, with several utilities launching successful debt issues in recent months. The cost of new debt in relation to the risk-free rate has risen relative to the pre-credit crunch situation, but the risk-free rate itself has fallen in recent months. The Government and Ofgem continue to monitor levels of energy investment closely.

Smaller energy firms have found debt financing harder to come by due to the financial crisis, in common with firms in other sectors of the economy. However, many of these firms will be eligible for the Government's recently-announced schemes to restore the flow of credit to businesses (Working Capital Scheme, Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme).

Energy: Hydrogen

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has conducted into new hydrogen storage materials. [255153]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None. The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is responsible for funding research through the UK Research Councils and the Technology Strategy Board.

Energy: Meters

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress his Department has made (1) in co-ordinating arrangements to oversee the roll-out of smart meters; [254806]

(2) in developing a model for the roll-out of smart meters; [254807]

(3) in determining a standard specification for smart meters. [254808]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government announced on 28 October last year that we will mandate the provision of smart meters to all households. We are currently considering a range of policy issues which need to be developed further in preparation for the roll out of smart meters, including the delivery model, meter functionality and programme management. We will make further announcements on such matters when we are able to do so.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the number of smart meters installed in domestic properties. [255862]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Whilst definitions of "smart meters" vary, the Department's estimate is that less than one per cent. of meters installed in domestic properties could be described as "smart meters".

Energy: Prices

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to increase liquidity in wholesale gas and electricity markets. [255211]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government aim to maintain and where necessary to improve regulatory conditions to ensure effective wholesale energy markets, in the UK and the EU, with sufficient liquidity to send effective price signals to market participants. We welcome Ofgem's current work on wholesale market liquidity, and look forward to its findings.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the effect of changes in domestic energy prices in the last 12 months on the number of people in fuel poverty. [255857]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The most recent fuel poverty estimates are available for 2006 in the Sixth Annual Progress report on the Fuel Poverty Strategy:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file48036.pdf

These show that in the UK, there were around 3.5 million households living in fuel poverty in 2006 and around 2.4 million in England. The statistical annex to this report gives indicative projections for fuel poverty in England. These show an estimated further 1.2 million households moving into fuel poverty between 2006 and 2008, largely due to fuel price increases. However, these estimates were based on information known at the time and therefore have clearly been overtaken by a more complex price increase and so should not be regarded as representing the Government's view about what the current figures are.

Fuel Cells

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has conducted into enzymatic fuel cells. [255155]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None. The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is responsible for funding research through the UK Research Councils and the Technology Strategy Board.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has conducted into microbial fuel cells. [255156]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None. The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is responsible for funding research through the UK Research Councils and the Technology Strategy Board.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has conducted into fuel cell integrity. [255158]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None. The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is responsible for funding research through the UK Research Councils and the Technology Strategy Board.

Fuel Poverty

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent assessment is of the number of people in fuel poverty in *(a)* St Albans constituency, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* England and Wales. [254223]

Joan Ruddock: The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2003, and shows that there were around 1,900 fuel-poor households in the St. Albans constituency and around 22,200 fuel-poor households in Hertfordshire.

More recent figures are available for England and Wales. These show that in 2006, there were around 2.7 million fuel-poor households in England and Wales.

Fuel poverty is not measured at an individual level.

Housing: Insulation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent insulating the homes of pensioners in each of the last 10 years. [250665]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 26 January 2009]:* Figures for the amounts spent on insulating pensioners' homes are set out in the following table:

Spend on insulation for the over 60s under the warm front scheme in England and the home energy efficiency scheme (HEES) in Wales

	Number of households assisted	*Spend (£ million)*
Warm Front		
2005-2006	21,291	8.6
2006-2007	59,104	23.9
2007-2008	57,142	23.0
2008-2009	38,416	15.9
HEES (Wales)		
2005-2006	n/a	n/a
2006-2007	4,695	1.8
2007-2008	7,541	3.1
2008-2009	3,360	1.4

n/a = No figures available

The supplier obligation, which began in 2002, led to an estimated investment of almost £2 billion between 2002 and 2008 in household energy efficiency measures. We estimate that energy suppliers invested around £800 million of this in a priority group of vulnerable and low-income households, including pensioners. Under the current three year phase of the obligation to 2011, known as the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), we estimate suppliers alone will need to invest over £3.2 billion in household energy efficiency measures, £1.8 billion of which will be delivered to the priority group. However, Government have not made specific estimates for what proportion of the priority group spend by suppliers might be attributed to pensioners.

Industrial Injuries: Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on medical testing of miners under the coal health compensation scheme since the introduction of the scheme; and how much has been paid to each provider of such tests in that period. [252776]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The total medical costs for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease is £404.64 million; and for Vibration White Finger is £34.95 million as at December 2008. In the time available we are unable to breakdown these figures by provider.

International Renewable Energy Agency

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the UK's contribution to the International Renewable Energy Agency. [255175]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have been in close contact with the German government on the development of IRENA. We participated in the preparatory meetings last year and at both the Founding Conference on 26 January and the first session of the Preparatory Commission of IRENA on 27 January.

We have been talking to Germany about:

(i) how IRENA can make a stronger contribution to the roll-out and deployment of renewables;

(ii) how we can broaden the membership to include key Asia-Pacific countries (e.g. Canada, China, Japan, India and the US) to ensure that the Agency has true global reach; and

(iii) how we can make sure that IRENA works closely with, and avoids overlap and duplication with, other international bodies and organisations, such as the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), of which the UK is already a member.

We will continue to participate in the further preparatory meetings this year with a view to joining shortly. We plan to reach a final decision on UK membership of IRENA once we have satisfactorily concluded our discussions with the German government.

IRENA is expected to start full operations in 2010.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration his Department gave to extending the availability of Low Carbon Buildings Programme grants to commercial and public sector applicants to mid-2010. [254102]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2 has been open since January 2007 and has committed £27 million to public sector and not for profit organisations' projects. The programme is due to close to new applications in June 2009 but a significant amount of work will be ongoing for installers through to mid 2010. We would like to see as many eligible organisations such as public sector organisations making maximum use of the grants programme up to June 2009.

We are currently considering the transition from grant funding and other incentives to the proposed small scale electricity feed in tariff and renewable heat incentive support mechanisms.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much of the £50 million allocated to the Low Carbon Buildings Programme phase 2 has been committed to projects. [254103]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: To date, £27.1million has been allocated to projects under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on the renewables sector of the planned closure of phase 2 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in June 2009. [254104]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Low Carbon Buildings programme Phase 2 has been open since January 2007 and has so far committed over £27 million to 1,433 projects. Although the money will be committed up to June 2009 a significant amount of work will be completed for the period through to mid 2010. We would like to see framework suppliers and eligible organisations making maximum use of the grants programme up to June 2009. We are considering the next steps post June 2009.

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to encourage community groups to install low-carbon energy and energy efficiency technologies in their buildings after the end of phase two of the Low Carbon Buildings programme; what steps he is taking to assist community groups to use such technologies; and if he will make a statement. [255456]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* To date, we have committed £576,158 to 32 community groups under phase 2 of the Low Carbon Buildings programme.

We would like eligible organisations to make maximum use of the grants programme up to June 2009. Although the money will be committed up to June 2009 a significant amount of work will be completed for the period through to mid 2010.

We are currently considering the options open to us to ensure that as many of these organisations can benefit from installing their own energy generating equipment.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many grant applications the low carbon buildings programme has received from households in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire since the programme was established. [253784]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: To date, household applications received by the Low Carbon Buildings programme in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire were as follows:

Hemel Hempstead

Technology	*Householder grant applications received*
Solar photovoltaic	4
Solar thermal hot water	8
Wind turbine	3
Total	15

Hertfordshire

Technology	*Householder grant applications received*
Air source heat pump	1
Ground source heat pump	7
Solar photovoltaic	36
Solar thermal hot water	103
Wind turbine	33
Wood fuelled boiler system	8
Total	188

Members: Correspondence

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he will reply to the hon. Member for Weston-Super-Mare's letters of 20 October 2008, 18 November 2008 and 5 January 2009 on behalf of his constituent, Ms Janette Dalbeith. [253161]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I replied to the hon. Member on 29 January and apologise for the delay, which was due to departmental reorganisation.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the Minister of State plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 2 December 2008 about an application for a Government grant. [254709]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 23 January and apologise for the delay.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the Minister of State plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 4 November 2008 on Flogas and the price of liquefied petroleum gas. [254711]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* I am told that the Department has no record of receiving the letter from the hon. Member. Officials have requested a copy of the letter and I will respond in due course.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford to the Prime Minister of 17 November 2008 on his constituent Mr T Woodcraft of Chelmer Village, Chelmsford, transferred to his Department for a response on 27 November 2008. [256518]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 12 February. I apologise for the delay, which was due to departmental reorganisation.

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Cleethorpes regarding *(a)* Mr Daniel Stewart, dated 30 October 2008 and *(b)* Mr Stephen Turner, dated 6 November 2008. [256971]

Joan Ruddock: I responded to my hon. Friend the member for Cleethorpes, letter on behalf of Mr. D. Stewart on 16 February and apologise for the delay, which was due to departmental reorganisation.

My hon. Friend's letter on behalf of Mr. S. Turner has been transferred to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department will respond shortly.

Natural Gas: Prices

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what data his Department *(a)* collects and *(b)* compiles on (i) spot and (ii) future wholesale gas prices. [255863]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC collects and compiles data on wholesale gas spot and forward prices, as well as other relevant price indicators, from a range of sources, including proprietary information providers, media, and organisations in the sector for internal analysis. These data include the UK system average price and prices for gas for the day-ahead, working days next week, monthly, quarterly, half yearly and yearly. Similar data for trading hubs in Belgium, the Netherlands and the US are also collected.

DECC produces assumptions for future trends in fossil fuel wholesale prices (including gas) up to 2030 which are used for modelling and other analytical work. This information is available on the following website:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file46071.pdf.

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* project managers and *(b)* administration managers have been recruited to the generic design assessment (GDA) team for new nuclear build; and what the cost has been to date of conducting the nuclear GDA. [253965]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

Generic Design Assessment (GDA) of potential new nuclear power stations is being undertaken by both the Nuclear Directorate of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), and by the Environment Agency. From the start of this work in 2007 up to the end of 2008, the costs recovered from the companies requesting the assessment was £5.84 million for work undertaken by HSE and I am informed by the Environment Agency that their recovered costs for the same period were £1.72 million. Both regulators' costs will continue to be fully recovered for work assessing the two designs which are being taken through the final stages of GDA.

To help with the management of the GDA project, HSE's Nuclear Directorate employs four staff on project management activities. Three are on contract: two from an external agency, one from the Health and Safety Laboratory, and one was appointed from existing HSE resource. The head of the Environment Agency's GDA team was appointed from within the Agency's existing cadre, and acts as project manager for his team's work. One administration manager has been seconded into the HSE GDA team from another Government Department.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many former prisoners are employed by his Department; and what his Department's policy is on employing former prisoners. [246347]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has been formed by bringing together work previously covered by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The final details of staff transferring from these Departments are yet to be confirmed. Given that, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column reference 332W and by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Employment Relations and Postal Services for the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column reference 565W.

Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what cars are *(a)* owned, *(b)* leased, *(c)* hired and *(d)* otherwise regularly used by his Department, broken down by cubic capacity of engine. [250148]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC does not own, lease, hire or otherwise regularly use any cars, apart from those provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. Given that, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 10W about cars provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Plutonium

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* asset and *(b)* liability value of the UK's plutonium holdings. [255993]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The UK's plutonium holdings are considered as a zero value asset.

Power Stations: Peterhead

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding the Government has provided for BP's proposed carbon capture and storage power plant in Peterhead, Scotland. [255121]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None.

Recycling: Oils

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to encourage the recycling of used cooking oil to produce carbon-neutral electricity. [251151]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Renewables Obligation provides specific support for the use of biodiesel derived from cooking oil in the generation of carbon-neutral electricity. The level of support is dependent on the proportion of cooking oil within the biodiesel.

Renewable Energy

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he plans to have with his US counterpart on renewable energy policy. [253098]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State plans to discuss renewable energy, among other issues, when he visits the UK in the coming months. This issue is of particular importance in view of the renewable energy aspects of the President's American recovery and investment plan.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the proposed timetable for the establishment of a financial support mechanism for renewable heat is. [255210]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We expect the Renewable Heat Incentive to be in place by April 2011. This will allow the necessary work to take place to consult on the design of the scheme and draft the regulations which will establish the RHI.

Renewable Energy: EC Action

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Southampton, Test (Dr. Whitehead) of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 886, on a European supergrid, what recent assessment he has made of the merits of a pan-European supergrid; what estimate he has made of the likely annual cost of such a supergrid; and what assessment he has made of its likely effects on security of supply. [253797]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding reply 4 February 2009]*: DECC officials are currently in discussion with the European Commission and other European countries on proposals for a supergrid linking offshore wind projects in the North Sea. This would be a major, long term but expensive project.

We are currently putting in place a new regulatory regime to connect to the GB Grid up to 33GW of renewable offshore generation needed in to meet our renewable energy targets. The cost of offshore connections for these projects alone is estimated to be up to around £15 billion - more than twice the value of the onshore grid.

A cost-benefit analysis DECC has undertaken on the optimal design of offshore transmission systems:

www.sedg.ac.uk

shows that the most economic connections for those offshore wind farms are direct connections to the nearest shore involving little extra cable capacity. This was supported by the recent study prepared by National Grid for the Crown Estate, on grid connections for round three offshore wind projects:

www.thecrownestate.co.uk//newscontent/92-round3-grid-study.htm

The UK supports further energy market integration by enabling greater cross-border electricity trade, which should also increase security of supply. However, it should be for the market to decide, based on the most economically efficient solutions.

Warm Front Scheme

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what mechanisms are in place to ensure that Warm Front contractors are providing value for money. [242477]

Joan Ruddock: The prices for Warm Front measures have been set through a competitive Official Journal of European Union tendering process. Installers in each region provided independent quotations for each installation type-service available on the scheme and the most economically advantageous quotes were selected. Prices are harmonised at a regional level to reflect regional price variations and to ensure fairness.

In 2007 the Government commissioned an independent audit looking at whether Warm Front prices provided value for money, this is available on the DEFRA website. The report found that Warm Front delivers heating systems at significantly below the wider market rate.

Warm Front is currently undergoing a new round of installer retendering, to select contractors who will work on the scheme from June 2009. As in the previous tendering exercise, the price offered by applicants will be a key determinate in whether their bid is successful.

Warm Front Scheme: Wansbeck

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Warm Front scheme grants were awarded to applicants from Wansbeck constituency in each of the last five years. [254213]

Joan Ruddock: The following table illustrates the number of households who received Warm Front grants in Wansbeck constituency over the last five years.

Wansbeck constituency	*Assisted households*
2003-04	1,023
2004-05	714

Wansbeck constituency	Assisted households
2005-06	207
2006-07	561
2007-08	414
Total	2,919

TREASURY

Bank Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people in the UK without a bank or building society account, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* sex. [254148]

Ian Pearson: The Government are committed to reducing financial exclusion and increasing the number of people who can manage their money by using a bank account.

The Family Resources Survey data for 2006-07, published in June this year, shows that the number of adults living without access to a bank account fell from 2.8 million in 2002-03 to 2.1 million in 2006-07. The Financial Inclusion Taskforce recently published their third annual report on access to banking. The report contains profiles of the number of people in the UK without access to a bank account, including breakdowns by age and sex. You can find the report on the Taskforce's website:

http://www.financialinclusion-taskforce.org.uk

Bank Services: Elderly

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the needs of older people in the development of new payment methods and banking technology by banks; and if he will make a statement. [256268]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury has received recent representation on this issue.

Decisions relating to the development of new payment methods and banking technologies are commercial ones. However, the Payments Council (the organisation that sets strategy for UK payments) is tasked to ensure that payment systems meet the needs of users, payment service providers and the wider economy.

The Government recognise that some groups still value certain methods of payments and continues to support customer choice, competition and efficiency in the payments market.

Bank Services: Fraud

Jessica Morden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what provision the EU Payment Services Directive makes for persons who have been the subject of internet fraud to have access to the *(a)* time, *(b)* date and *(c)* location of money transfer agency money collections. [256265]

Ian Pearson: The Payment Services Directive requires payment service providers to provide their customers with information before, during and immediately after a payment transaction. However, there are no provisions requiring the provider to disclose specific information about the recipient in the event of internet fraud.

The UK implementation of the Directive will bring money remitters under the Financial Ombudsman Service's (FOS) remit. If a customer is not satisfied with the transactional information provided and had complained to the provider without success, he or she could refer the matter to the FOS.

Banks

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the *(a)* domestic assets and *(b)* foreign assets of (i) the UK banks in which UK Financial Investments has taken a significant stake and (ii) the regulated banking sector are non-performing. [255384]

Ian Pearson: UK Financial Investments Limited (UKFI), which is wholly owned by the Government, manages the Government's investments in the recapitalised banks but ownership of the shares of the recapitalised banks still lies with HM Treasury. Neither HM Treasury nor UKFI collect or hold such information relating to non-performance of assets. However, information on non-performing assets is reported by each bank in their annual accounts.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who he has appointed as members to the independent review of the corporate performance of the UK banking industry; on what basis he appointed Sir David Walker as Chair of the review; when he expects the review to report; and if he will make a statement. [256723]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor of the Exchequer has appointed Sir David Walker to conduct a review of corporate governance of UK banks.

The review will examine board management of risk (including the effectiveness of risk and audit committees), incentives to manage risk in bank remuneration policies, the competences needed on bank boards, board practices and structures, and the role played by institutional shareholders.

As a former regulator, director and banker, Sir David has a strong understanding of the issues of corporate governance, board practices, financial markets and relationships with institutional shareholders.

The review will report jointly to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Financial Services Secretary to the Treasury with preliminary conclusions by the autumn and final recommendations by the end of the year.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the prospects for the banking industry in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [256891]

Ian Pearson: The comprehensive package announced last October was designed to ensure the stability of the financial system and to protect ordinary savers, depositors, businesses and borrowers. The action we took including the recapitalisation scheme prevented the collapse of the banking system.

On 19 January 2009 the Government announced further measures designed to reinforce the financial system, to increase confidence and capacity to lend, and in turn to support the recovery of the economy. The tripartite authorities are now working on the implementation of these measures and will monitor the impact of these schemes. The Government will publish further details of the asset protection scheme shortly.

Banks: Accountancy

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish his Department's analysis of the 2007 accounts published by banks regulated by the Financial Services Authority. [255260]

Ian Pearson: As a matter of course, HM Treasury does not comment on individual financial institutions.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much in *(a)* assets and *(b)* liabilities is being held off-balance sheet by each of the banks regulated by the Financial Services Authority. [256998]

Ian Pearson: Information on off balance sheet assets and liabilities is reported by banks in their annual accounts under international financial reporting standards.

Banks: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much the Government has spent on support for the banking industry in the last 12 months; [251655]

(2) what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the Government's holdings in banks. [251656]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answers given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 23-25WS, 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 26WS, and on 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1495-1496.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps UK Financial Investments Ltd. is taking to monitor the use to which the recapitalisation funds provided by the Government to the banking industry are being put. [253482]

Ian Pearson: UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI) is actively engaged with the banks in order to monitor and work to secure compliance with the conditions agreed as part of the Government's recapitalisation scheme announced last October.

More details can be found in the letter dated on 3 November from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, which is available in the House of Commons' Library.

Banks: Government Assistance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Government has spent on *(a)* equity, *(b)* preference shares, *(c)* loans, *(d)* guarantees and *(e)* other financial support to each bank for which it has provided support. [254946]

Ian Pearson: Under the recapitalisation scheme announced on 8 October 2008, the Government have invested £19.97 billion in RBS and £16.96 billion in Lloyds TSB/HBOS. These banks are also eligible to use the Government's Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS), under which up to £250 billion of bank lending will be guaranteed. Participating banks have accessed some £100 billion of funding under the CGS so far. Figures for individual banks are confidential.

On 19 January, the Government announced a comprehensive package designed to reinforce the stability of the financial system, to increase confidence and capacity to lend, and in turn to support the recovery of the economy. The liabilities taken on will be backed by financial assets and fees will be charged for guarantees, safeguarding the taxpayers' interests. For more details, I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Chancellor on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 483-86.

As set out in written ministerial statements dated 13 October and 6 November, the Government have made payments totalling £5.4 billion to retail depositors in Bradford and Bingley (B and B) and UK subsidiaries of Icelandic banks covering deposits above Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) limits. These written statements and a Treasury Minute dated 21 October 2008 gave details of the short-term loan facilities provided by the Bank of England to the FSCS to cover their share of payouts to retail depositors in these banks. As set out in the pre-Budget report, the Government are refinancing £21 billion of these Bank of England loans to the FSCS in 2008-09.

In addition the gross amount outstanding on the Government loan to Northern Rock is projected to be £12.2 billion at 31 March 2009.

Banks: Pay

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received opposing the payment of bonuses to employees of banks in receipt of funds from the public purse. [256835]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor receives a wide range of representations on issues relating to banks in receipt of public funds.

As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Banks: Regulation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect of Government policy and banking practices on lending standards; and if he will make a statement. [252996]

Ian Pearson: Following consultation and legislation, the Government put in place statutory regulation of first charge mortgages in 2004. The Financial Services Authority has published the findings of a review of its rules at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Communication/PR/2006/096.shtml

and

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Communication/PR/2008/030.shtml

Other consumer credit business is regulated by the Office of Fair Trading under consumer credit legislation. The regime is strengthened by the 2006 Consumer Credit Act, which has been fully implemented as of October 2008. The Government are committed to review the changes to the framework of consumer protection introduced as a result of this Act after a period of three years.

As announced in the pre-Budget report, the Government have established a new Lending Panel, which will improve monitoring of lending to households and businesses.

Capital Gains Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the revenue implications of taxing capital gains at the same marginal rates as income tax, with indexation for each financial year from 2009-10 to 2014-15. [257948]

Mr. Timms: It would be very difficult to provide a reliable estimate because of the difficulties of assessing the large behavioural responses which would result from a change of this kind.

Capital Investment

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether all of the re-profiled capital expenditure from 2010-11 has been allocated to specific projects in 2008-09 and 2009-10. [256186]

Yvette Cooper: The re-profiled capital spending brought forward from 2010-11 to 2008-09 has been allocated to specific projects and Departments are on track to deliver the investments.

Departments are on track to allocate the re-profile capital spending brought forward from 2010-11 into 2009-10 and in some cases the capital expenditure has already been allocated to specific projects.

Capital Investment: Venture Capital

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the sums invested in venture capital trusts in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09, to date; and if he will make a statement. [258215]

Mr. Timms: The estimated amount of funds invested in Venture Capital Trusts in each tax-year up to and including 2007-08 is published on the HM Revenue and Customs website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/venture/table8.6.pdf

The estimates for 2008-09 will be published in September 2009.

Car Allowances: Voluntary Work

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce tax relief on the travel expenses of pensioners who work as volunteers for charities. [258048]

Mr. Timms: There are no plans to introduce such a tax relief which would introduce administrative burdens for charities and volunteers. Many organisations demonstrate good practice by reimbursing their volunteers' travel expenses.

Child Tax Credit: Overpayments

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Tendring in receipt of child tax credit have been asked to repay overpayments. [256414]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) code of practice 26 'What happens if we've paid you too much tax credit?' explains the ways the department collect back an overpayment, and is available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/cop26.pdf

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate his Department has made of the proportion of families in Tendring in receipt of child tax credits currently receiving the incorrect amount. [256415]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available in the format requested. Estimates of the number of families with tax credit awards, including information on overpayments and underpayments by constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, for the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are available in the HMRC publications 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments. Geographical Analysis', for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

End of year adjustments are not incorrect payments: they are a consequence of the flexible system of tax credits that means that families can get extra support when their needs are greatest.

Child Trust Fund

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what average payment has been made by parents into Child Trust Fund accounts in *(a)* Darlington constituency, *(b)* County Durham, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since the scheme's inception. [258257]

Ian Pearson: The Detailed Distributional Analysis, including details of contributions made by parents and others was published on 6 November 2008. These data are only available at Government office region level and can be viewed on the HM Revenue and Customs' website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_trust_funds/dda-oct08.pdf

Constituency level data, including the number of vouchers issued and parental account opening figures, on child trust fund accounts were published on 6 November 2008 and can be viewed on the HM Revenue and Customs' website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/cons-stats-oct08.pdf

Child Trust Fund: Finance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of the Child Trust Fund in each financial year from 2009-10 to 2014-15. [258254]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 933W.

Child Trust Fund: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children in City of York constituency have received child trust fund payments of *(a)* £250 and *(b)* £500 at birth. [257971]

Ian Pearson: We are unable to supply this information as it would be possible to do so only at a disproportionate cost. However, information on the number of child trust fund vouchers issued and the number of accounts opened in each constituency are published on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/cons-stats-oct08.pdf

All children eligible for the child trust fund receive a £250 voucher. Children from low income families receive an additional £250 paid directly into their child trust fund account when the family's child tax credit award has been finalised.

The latest set of figures was published on 6 November 2008.

Contingency Reserve

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what allocations have been made from the contingency reserve for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [255003]

Yvette Cooper: Allocations from the DEL Reserve to departments are presented to Parliament through the estimates process.

The details of changes that were made to departmental budgets for 2008-09 budgets at winter supplementary estimates (November 2008) can be found on the HM Treasury website using the following link:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psr_pse_winter08_09.htm

A further update to 2008-09 departmental budgets will be provided at spring supplementary estimate, which will be published later this month. Allocations from the DEL Reserves for 2009-10 will be presented to Parliament through the estimates process during 2009-10. The main estimates for 2009-10 will be published following the Budget.

Debts

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average level of unsecured personal debt per head of population was in the UK in each year since 1979. [245258]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question on what the average level of unsecured personal debt per head of population was in the UK in each year since 1979. (245258)

Statistics for this are available back to 1982 and are shown in the table. The time series in the table below has been derived by linking two different vintages of data together. This is explained in the footnote.

Currently the UK National Accounts are calculated in accordance with the international guidelines set out in the European System of Accounts 1995 (ESA95). In this framework the personal sector equates to the household sector which is combined with the non-profit institutions serving households sector (NPISH), and it is not possible to separate the two. Examples of institutions included within the NPISH sector are: charities; trade unions; universities; churches and political parties. Data on this basis are available back to 1987.

Table 1 – Average level of unsecured personal debt per head of population in the UK

	Personal debt per head of population (£)
1982	469
1983	552
1984	630
1985	746
1986	837
1987	989
1988	1,176
1989	1,354
1990	1,466
1991	1,478
1992	1,460
1993	1,420
1994	1,491
1995	1,584
1996	1,588
1997	1,781
1998	1,954
1999	2,145
2000	2,360
2001	2,679
2002	3,009
2003	3,156
2004	3,579
2005	3,767
2006	4,036
2007	4,176

Notes:

1. Estimates of household and NPISH unsecured debt are on an ESA95 basis. Similar statistics based on the European System of Accounts 1979 (ESA79) for the personal sector are on a slightly different definitional basis and are available back to 1982. A single series has been obtained by linking the two series together. The series based on ESA79 has been linked onto the series based on ESA95 using the growth rate between 1986 and 1987.
2. Mid year UK resident population estimates have been used to estimate the average unsecured personal debt per head of the population.

Source:

United Kingdom National Accounts – The Blue Book 1997
United Kingdom National Accounts – The Blue Book 2008

Debts: Developing Countries

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* low income and *(b)* lower-middle income countries owe the UK. [253422]

Ian Pearson: The UK is owed a total of £349 million by low-income countries and £1,254 million by lower-middle income countries, using the World Bank's classification of low and lower-middle income countries[1].

The UK has cancelled or is due to cancel 100 per cent. of bilateral sovereign claims on all Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs) at Completion Point under the HIPC Initiative. To date, 24 out of 41 HIPCs have reached Completion Point, with a further 10 having reached Decision Point. The UK also provides 100 per cent. cancellation of debt service payments between Decision Point and Completion Point and holds in trust any payments received from HIPCs before they become eligible for debt relief.

[1] The World Bank's classifications are based on gross national income per capita in 2007.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [256040]

Angela Eagle: My Department will place in the Library a copy of the display energy certificates and their associated advisory reports in respect of HM Treasury's London and Norwich offices. The Debt Management Office is currently working with their advisers and their Landlords' managing agents towards gathering the required information and will display an energy performance certificate in due course.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish a copy of his Department's website accessibility plan. [257233]

Angela Eagle: Information about accessibility is available on our departmental website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/accessibility_index.htm

Departmental Pay

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's policy is on placing a pay cap on *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers. [254906]

Yvette Cooper: The Government's objective for civil service pay are to recruit and retain the necessary levels of staff needed to support service delivery, to be affordable within the overall fiscal environment, to offer value for money and to be consistent with the achievement of the Bank of England's inflation target.

Annual pay arrangements for special advisers are decided by the Special Advisers' Remuneration Committee, reporting to the Prime Minister, based on the general economic and pay context including pay settlements elsewhere including the senior civil service and wider public sector.

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average number of days sick leave per staff member in his Department was in each of the last five years. [256390]

Angela Eagle: This information is published data and can be found on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department were recorded as having been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December in each of the last five years. [256637]

Angela Eagle: In 2004 there were six employees having been on sick leave for over 12 months, and in each of the years 2005, 2006 and 2008 there were under five employees having been on sick leave for over 12 months. In 2007 no employees were reported having been on sick leave for over 12 months.

Departmental Television

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 310W, on departmental television, what premium television channels *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency subscribe to; and at what cost. [250472]

Mr. Timms: Data systems show a total spend of £8,521 across HMRC in the year April 2007 to March 2008 with British Sky Broadcasting Ltd and Sky Business.

The system does not have the level of detail to show the channels subscribed to and would involve disproportionate cost to provide the information requested.

The Valuation Office Agency does not subscribe to any premium television channels.

Employment

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of the jobs summit held on 12 January 2009 at the Science Museum. [254106]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The global economic downturn has far-reaching consequences and requires a coordinated response from across Government and businesses. We have been working hard to promote closer working between employers and Jobcentre Plus. On 12 January, for example, we hosted an Employment Summit, bringing together around 120 employers, representative groups and training providers to discuss how businesses can play their part in the response to rising unemployment. The total cost of the event was £162,076.18.

Building on this, the Secretary of State jointly hosted the first meeting of the National Employment Partnership on 11 February. This event was attended by 22 key employers from across a number of sectors to discuss the implementation of the Government's new package of support for those who are still unemployed six months into a jobseeker's allowance claim, and to discuss the role and importance of Local Employment Partnerships.

In addition to these events, Ministers and senior officials continue to meet with outside organisations on a regular basis to discuss specific issues arising from the recession across the whole spectrum of the Department's work.

Financial Inclusion Fund

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate his Department's expenditure on the financial inclusion fund in each financial year from 2009-10 to 2014-15. [257652]

Ian Pearson: The Financial Inclusion Fund is worth £130 million in 2008-11. The allocations over this time are:

Financial Inclusion Fund allocation

	£ million
2008-09	42.996
2009-10	43.457
2010-11	43.547
Total	130

Financial Services Authority

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions the Chairman of the Financial Services Authority has been consulted about a notice served under section 49 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 prior to it being served on a regulated financial institution. [252196]

Ian Pearson: The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act Code of Practice stipulates that a requirement to disclose a key to protected information from a provider of financial services shall not be imposed upon any company or firm authorised by the Financial Services Authority without prior notification to the Chief Executive of the Authority or a person designated by him for that purpose. I understand that the FSA has not received notification that any such requirement has been issued to a company or firm authorised by them.

Financial Services: Crown Dependencies

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps are being taken to encourage co-operation between the Financial Services Authority and the Crown Dependencies' financial regulators. [255486]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 11 February 2009]:* The Financial Services Authority already has regular contact with the Crown dependencies' financial regulators.

The FSA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with each other of the Crown dependencies' regulators to provide a formal basis for cooperation, including the exchange of information and investigate assistance.

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/Pages/Library/corporate/Memorandums/International/index.shtml

Financial Stability Forum

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what reports he has received from the Chairman of the Financial Services Authority following the latter's attendance at the Financial Stability Forum in Hong Kong. [256840]

Ian Pearson: As the memorandum of understanding between HM Treasury, the Bank of England and the FSA sets out, the tripartite authorities have regular meetings and discussions to work together towards the common objective of financial stability in the UK. In particular, the memorandum of understanding provides that the FSA and the Bank will keep the Treasury informed of relevant developments in the international regulatory community.

High Level Group on the City

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when Sir Fred Goodwin ceased to be a member of the High Level Group on the City; and for what reasons he ceased to be a member of the group. [254951]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor's High-Level Group last met in June 2008. The membership of the Group will be reviewed before it next meets later this year, to reflect changes to senior management positions among the Group's institutional members.

Income Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of raising the income tax personal allowance to *(a)* £8,000, *(b)* £9,000 and *(c)* £10,000 and lowering the higher rate of income tax by (i) one per cent., (ii) two per cent., (iii) three per cent., (iv) four per cent. and (v) five per cent. in 2009-10. [256223]

Mr. Timms: The estimates of increasing the personal allowance and lowering the higher rate of income tax can be approximated from table 1.6 'Direct effects of illustrative tax changes' on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-6.pdf

The figures exclude any estimate of behavioural response.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of raising the personal allowance for all people to £10,000 and *(a)* restricting the personal allowance by half from a £100,000 and to zero by £140,000 at a marginal deduction rate of 20 per cent., *(b)* restricting the personal allowance to zero from a £100,000 at a marginal deduction rate of 20 per cent. and *(c)* restricting the personal allowance to zero from the upper earning rates threshold at a marginal deduction rate of 20 per cent. in each financial year from 2009-10 to 2014-15. [257648]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available. The particular estimates cannot be derived from information available on the Exchequer effect of changes to personal allowances.

Insolvency

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effects on the economy of the insolvency, of *(a)* large and *(b)* medium-sized businesses in 2008-09. [257950]

Ian Pearson: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer the Financial Secretary gave to the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1624-25W.

Landfill Communities Fund

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what funding has been provided to waste reduction schemes under the Landfill Communities Fund and its predecessor in each of the last three years. [256968]

Angela Eagle: Figures supplied by the fund's regulator, Entrust, show that expenditure provided for on sustainable waste management projects under the landfill communities fund (formerly the landfill tax credit scheme) is as follows:

Financial year, 1 April to 31 March	*£ million*
2005-06	23.0
2006-07	17.9
2007-08	6.8

Prior to Budget 2003, there were additional objects which covered sustainable waste management projects, which this question concerns. The fund was reformed in Budget 2003 following discussion with stakeholders. As well as extending the scope of the scheme from 1 October 2003 to include habitat creation projects on land that need not have public access, in order to support biodiversity, the objects relating to sustainable waste management were removed from 1 April 2003 and a proportion of the funding for the scheme was redirected to public spending on a new sustainable waste delivery programme.

Lehman Brothers

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* another of the tri-partite authorities has raised with the US authorities the issue of the return to the UK of the funds transferred from Lehman Brothers UK to Lehman Brothers USA on the evening the insolvency of Lehman Brothers was announced. [258125]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations and international partners. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 29 December 2008, (1) on Bradford and Bingley, PO Ref: 1/65517/2009; [256921]

(2) on licensing of banks for Financial Services Authority compensation scheme regulations, PO Ref: 1/65525/2009. [256922]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member for PO Ref: 1/65517/2009.

For PO Ref: 1/65525/2009, due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Financial Services Secretary hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he plans to respond to the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire's letter of 21 November 2008 on Derbyshire Building Society; [257958]

(2) when the Financial Secretary plans to respond to the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire's letter of November 2008 concerning the failure of Kaupthing Bank; [257960]

(3) when the Economic Secretary plans to respond to the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire's letter of 23 October 2008 on inclusion of non-bank building societies in the financial support package for the banking industry; [257961]

(4) when the Economic Secretary plans to reply to the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire's letter of 23 October 2008 on the Government's decision to implement a financial support package for the banking industry; [257962]

(5) when the Economic Secretary plans to respond to the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire's letter of 23 October 2008 on the merger between the Derbyshire and Nationwide Building Societies. [257963]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Financial Services Secretary hopes to be in a position to reply to the right hon. Member shortly.

Mortgages

Willie Rennie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of households with shared appreciation mortgage products in negative equity; and if he will make a statement. [256272]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 11 February 2009]:* The Government have made no assessment of the number of households with shared appreciation mortgages which are presently in negative equity.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell) on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 90W. Treasury Ministers have received written representations on shared appreciation mortgages from a number of individuals and from the Shared Appreciation Mortgage Action Group.

The Government understand the concerns of people who purchased shared appreciation mortgages in the mid-1990s. However, to date no evidence of mis-selling has been found by the Financial Ombudsman Service.

Mortgages: Arrears

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for the Vale of York (Miss McIntosh) of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1625W, on mortgages: arrears, if he will make it his policy to *(a)* collect and *(b)* lay before the House figures on mortgage arrears on a monthly basis. [257344]

Ian Pearson: The Council of Mortgage Lenders publishes the number of mortgages in arrears, available at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/statistics

The Ministry of Justice publishes figures for the numbers of possession orders made by county courts, available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics.htm

Both these sets of figures are published on a quarterly basis.

Mortgages: Repossession Orders

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which 10 financial providers made the highest number of repossessions of homes for reasons of mortgage arrears in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [256350]

Ian Pearson: The Government do not hold these data. The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) publishes the total numbers of properties taken into possession in the UK, available at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/statistics

As announced in the pre-Budget report, the Government have established a new lending panel, which will improve monitoring of lending to households and businesses, as well as drive up best practice across the mortgage market and promote awareness of initiatives to support households against repossessions.

The major mortgage lenders on the panel have agreed to a moratorium on repossessions—committing not to repossess for at least three months after an owner-occupier falls into arrears. Some mortgage lenders have now gone further, and committed not to repossess for at least six months after an owner-occupier is in arrears. The Government welcome such moves.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations his Department has received on the abolition of empty property tax relief for commercial premises in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [258075]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of such representations.

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much port businesses in the statutory ports owe in arrears of non-domestic rates; and what the cost to the public purse will be of his proposal to allow them to pay this over eight years without interest. [257040]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

Local authorities are responsible for the billing and collection of business rates and the Department does not hold the information on individual arrears. The impact of the policy is set out in the Impact Assessment which was laid before this House on the 10 February accompanying The Non-Domestic Rating (Collection and Enforcement) (Local Lists) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2009 (SI 204).

Non-domestic Rates: Sports

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many sports clubs received mandatory business rates relief in each year since its inception. [258152]

Mr. Timms: By the end of 2008, over 5,000 Community Amateur Sports Clubs were registered with HMRC, and entitled to receive 80 per cent. business rates relief. Information is not available centrally on how many have taken up this relief, or on how many of these have received the additional 20 per cent. relief which local authorities have discretion to provide.

Premium Bonds

Mr. Breed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many premium bonds with what monetary value have been purchased in each of the last 12 months. [253432]

Ian Pearson: The following table contains the value of premium bond sales for the period January 2008 to December 2008:

Total sales	*Value (£)*
2008	
January	478,367,451
February	423,566,785
March	461,970,631
April	531,465,300
May	421,230,240
June	425,737,360
July	484,071,670
August	424,526,830
September	895,707,050
October	1,424,850,770
November	636,302,120
December	464,942,550
Total	7,072,738,846

These figures are un-audited and the December 2008 figure is provisional. With regard to the number of premium bonds sold, as each bond has a value of £1, the volume of premium bonds sold and the value of those sales are identical.

Presbyterian Mutual Society

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings officials in his Department have had on the Presbyterian Mutual Society in Northern Ireland entering into administration; and if he will make a statement. [253580]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Presbyterian Mutual Society (PMS) is an industrial and provident society registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act (Northern Ireland) 1969. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland is the registrar.

The Government announced at PBR 2008 that it would carry out a review of the regulatory framework for credit unions and industrial and provident societies in Northern Ireland, in association with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland, which is the Department with responsibility for these matters within the devolved Administration. The review has now started and work is ongoing.

Public Expenditure

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what criteria he has assessed the required level of modernisation funding for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11, referred to in table B18, page 214 of the Pre-Budget Report 2008; and what the level of modernisation funding was in each of the last four years. [244467]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 16 December 2008]*: The Modernisation Fund provides support to Departments to meet the transitional costs associated with releasing savings over the CSR period and embedding ongoing efficiencies over the longer-term. The level of modernisation funding over 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 was agreed with Departments as part of the comprehensive spending review process when budgets were set for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Modernisation funding in table B18 of the PBR represents an estimate of the profile of modernisation funding required by Departments. The exact amount of drawdown of modernisation funding in each year is discussed and agreed between Departments and the Treasury.

The Modernisation Fund has only been in operation since 2007-08. Drawdown in 2007-08 was £141.4 million. All Departments are also expected to improve services and deliver improved value for money from within their spending review settlements.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce unnecessary expenditure across Government departments. [255838]

Yvette Cooper: The 2004 spending review set stretching efficiency targets for all Departments to release resources for reinvestment in key front line services to deliver public services that represent value for money for the taxpayer. During the 2004 spending review period Departments delivered over £26.5 billion of savings, substantially over-delivering against the £21.5 billion set in 2004.

In the 2007 comprehensive spending review the Government agreed to deliver a further £30 billion of savings by 2010-11, all gains to be cash-releasing and net of costs. Departments are in the progress of delivering these savings and will report on progress in their departmental reports. In addition to the £30 billion value for money target, Budget 2008 launched the Operational Efficiency programme and the Public Value programme to explore whether further efficiency savings could be achieved. The 2008 pre-Budget report announced an increase of the existing cross-Government value for money target for 2010-11, releasing £5 billion of additional efficiency savings in 2010-11.

Public Sector: Investment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to facilitate public sector capital investment projects facing delays due to the recent problems in the financial markets; and if he will make a statement. [255280]

Yvette Cooper: The Government are on track to deliver total investment of over £50 billion in 2008-09. In addition, new arrangements have been put in place to make sure that the additional spending brought forward as part of the fiscal stimulus announced in November goes ahead.

PFI deals are still going ahead, but like all private sector investment projects, the global credit crunch is having an effect. The Government have been working for some time with individual projects to help them close and the measures the Treasury has already announced to support bank lending are intended to help anyone seeking finance.

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which public sector pension schemes have a standard retirement age of less than 65 years of age. [250588]

Yvette Cooper: Normal pension ages for major public sector occupational pension schemes are given in table 3.23 on page 23 of the Occupational Pension Schemes Annual Report, 2007 edition, published by the Office for National Statistics on 23 September 2008.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/OccPensions2007/OPSS_Annual_Report_2007.pdf

This table reflects the position in 2007 and since then the NHS scheme has introduced a normal pension age of 65 for new entrants from April 2008 and, in due course, for other members who wish to transfer to the revised terms.

Research and Development Tax Credit

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 100W on research and development tax credit, how many companies used Business Link's interactive tool to calculate their eligibility for research and development tax credits in each month since March 2006. [256062]

Angela Eagle: No monthly breakdown is available of the previous answer. In total, since its launch, the tool has now been successfully used in around 9,400 instances.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 101-2W, on research and development tax credit, what figures for the *(a)* number and *(b)* value of research and development tax credits claimed in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08 will be available. [258065]

Angela Eagle: Statistics on the number and cost of claims for research and development tax credits are published in December each year as national statistics on the HM Revenue and Customs website.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/randdtcmenu.htm

Figures for years up to and including 2006-07 were published on 19 December 2008. Those for 2007-08 are scheduled for publication in December 2009.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the level of accuracy of the quotes provided to companies using Business Link's interactive tool to calculate their eligibility for research and development tax credits. [258086]

Angela Eagle: The interactive tool was developed with HMRC. Since launch the content of this tool has been reviewed by HMRC in March 2007, July 2007 and January 2008 with the aim of ensuring that the tool continues to meet the purpose of allowing companies to check whether they may be likely to be eligible for R and D tax credits. HMRC is currently in the process of undertaking a further routine review of the tool.

Revenue and Customs: ICT

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* original projected cost and *(b)* implementation milestones of HM Revenue and Customs' new IT system were; how much has been spent on the system; what milestones have been met; how much remains to be spent; and what the remaining implementation milestones are. [258011]

Mr. Timms: The contract with Capgemini is not for a single new IT system. It is for the maintenance of a wide range of existing IT services (including application maintenance, automated data capture, data centre services, desktop service, printed output, Wide Area Network (WAN) and telecoms services) and the development and enhancement of new systems that arise from ministerial and other business requirements.

The cost of the IT services contract with Capgemini (Aspire) when it was signed was £3.3 billion but it has subsequently been significantly expanded to take account of additional demands and changing business requirements. For example, HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) contract with Capgemini now incorporates the IT services provided to the former HM Customs and Excise by Fujitsu as well as the delivery of additional projects to implement the Carter Review recommendations, modernise the Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) system and improve HMRC's internal Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system as part of the Department's Transformation Programme.

From July 2004 to December 2008 HMRC has spent £3.2 billion for all IT services provided including a substantial portfolio of change and legislative initiatives. The balance to be spent over the remaining years of the contract is estimated to be £4.5 billion.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the original contract completion date was for HM Revenue and Customs' IT system being implemented by Capgemini; and whether the completion date has since been extended. [258127]

Mr. Timms: The original contract with Capgemini was scheduled to be completed in June 2014 but at the end of 2007 it was agreed with Capgemini that the contract would be extended for a further three years to June 2017.

Revenue and Customs: North West

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people work at the HM Revenue and Customs offices at *(a)* Regian House, Liverpool, *(b)* Dukes House, Southport and *(c)* Birchen House, Birkenhead; how many people in each age band there are in each; and how many (i) men and (ii) women there are in each office. [256519]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 12 February 2009]*: The following number of people (headcount) work in these buildings as at 1 February 2009:

(a) Regian House, Liverpool—445, of which 193 are men and 252 are women

(b) Duke's House, Southport—67, of which 19 are men and 48 are women

(c) Birchen House, Birkenhead—98, of which 29 are men and 69 are women

The number of people (headcount) in each age band is as follows:

(a) Regian House, Liverpool

Age band	*Headcount*
20-24	14
25-29	30
30-34	23
35-39	56
40-44	64
45-49	96
50-54	85
55-59	56
60 and over	21
Total	445

(b) Duke's House, Southport

Age band	*Headcount*
25-29	1
30-34	3
35-39	6
40-44	10
45-49	14
50-54	15
55-59	14
60 and over	4
Total	67

(c) Birchen House, Birkenhead

Age band	*Headcount*
20-24	1

(c) Birchen House, Birkenhead

Age band	Headcount
25-29	5
30-34	1
35-39	20
40-44	15
45-49	17
50-54	15
55-59	20
60 and over	4
Total	98

Revenue and Customs: Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1273W, on Revenue and Customs: Northern Ireland, if he will take steps to ensure that appointments to HM Revenue and Customs offices in Northern Ireland more closely reflect the proportions of the working age population. [256818]

Mr. Timms: HMRC is committed to equality of opportunity and is taking the following steps to ensure that appointments reflect the economically active population of Northern Ireland and that any perceived barriers are minimised.

All recruitment processes within HMRC are designed to be fair and equitable and selection is based solely on merit.

HMRC is taking positive action by ensuring that all HMRC vacancy advertisements carry a 'welcome' message. This states that 'we welcome applications from all sections of the community but, as members of the Protestant community are currently underrepresented, applications from this community are particularly welcome'.

HMRC Work Experience Programmes have been targeted to promote HMRC positively to the Protestant community. We anticipate that this will increase awareness of the opportunities that exist within HMRC and in turn lead to an increase in applications from the Protestant community.

HMRC has met with the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI) and is currently working with the ECNI to agree an affirmative action plan to ensure fair participation of all sections of the community in its work force.

Royal Bank of Scotland: Directors

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many directors of the board of the Royal Bank of Scotland have left the board since the arrangements were made for UK Financial Investments to acquire a majority stake in the bank. [251619]

Ian Pearson: Since 13 October 2008, the date on which HMT's proposed investment in RBS was announced, four directors of the board have stepped down or retired and two directors have indicated their plans to leave the board in due course.

Schools: Uniforms

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 668W, on schools: uniforms, what discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the introduction of a reduced value added tax (VAT) rate for items of school uniform that are not already VAT zero-rated since March 2008. [257483]

Mr. Timms: The Government have not discussed this issue further with European counterparts since this question was raised on 31 March 2008. There is currently no scope within EU VAT law to introduce a reduced rate for items of school uniform not already VAT zero-rated.

The European Commission published a legislative proposal on reduced VAT rates in July 2008 in order to provide greater flexibility for member states to apply reduced rates. This proposal did not include children's clothing.

Sports: Concessions

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on value added tax charges on concessionary admissions to sports centres. [257809]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mr. Geoffrey Robinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the Exchequer receipts for stamp duty land tax for *(a)* residential and *(b)* commercial property for the period September 2008 to February 2009. [258176]

Ian Pearson: Receipts for stamp duties as a whole are published monthly at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/table1-3.pdf

Receipts for stamp duties as a whole for January and February will be published at the end of February and March respectively. Receipts for stamp duty land tax for 2008-09, with separate estimates given for the residential and commercial components, will be published in September.

Tax Allowances: Pensions

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of tax relief on pension contributions for both *(a)* employees and *(b)* employers in each financial year from 2009-10 to 2014-15. [257647]

Mr. Timms: Estimates on the costs of tax reliefs on pension contributions beyond 2008-09 are not available.

The estimate for the costs of tax reliefs on pension contributions for 2008-09 can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-5.pdf

The latest information on the previous costs of tax relief on pension contributions to 2007-08 can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/table7-9.pdf

Tax Avoidance

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to counter the practice of offshoring legal ownership of company trademarks to low-tax locations; and if he will estimate the loss to the Exchequer as a result of this practice in each of the last 10 years. [256623]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* The detailed figures requested are not available. The Government have measures in place to counter tax avoidance and to protect the UK tax base, for example the controlled foreign company rules.

The UK is working with other countries to increase transparency and clamp down on harmful tax practices. Anti-avoidance measures are kept under review to ensure that tax loopholes that provide avoidance opportunities are legislated on.

Tax Yields: Wales

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of UK tax receipts raised in Wales in 2008. [258169]

Mr. Timms: Figures for total tax receipts at regional level are not available.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publish estimates of income tax, council taxes and vehicle taxes paid by households by region, which is available on:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/Regional Disposable Household Income 1995-2006.xls

The relevant data can be found under "D.5 Current taxes on income, wealth etc" in Table NUTS 2:8.

Regional stamp duty receipts attributable to residential property are published by HMRC, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table15-2.pdf

Valuation Office: Manpower

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff have been employed in the Valuation Office Agency in each year since 2003. [256929]

Mr. Timms: The numbers of full-time equivalent staff employed by the Valuation Office Agency as at the end of March each year are shown in the following table:

	Number
2003	4,000
2004	3,803
2005	4,812
2006	4,850
2007	4,296
2008	4,081
2009	[1]3,804

[1] As at 1 February 2009.

VAT

Mr. Byers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer in tax forgone of the reduction in the rate of value added tax to 15 per cent. in the period from 1 April 2009 to 1 January 2010. [257491]

Mr. Timms: The estimated cost of the temporary reduction in the standard rate of VAT was published in Table B5 of the 2008 pre-Budget report. The value for 2009-10 relates to the specified period.

Welfare Tax Credits

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1639W, on tax credit, how many current recipients of tax credits would see their entitlement reduced to zero in each scenario. [257092]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not currently available.

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of tax credit payments were made to *(a)* working claimants and *(b)* claimants who were not working in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [257188]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available in the format requested.

Estimates of the average number of in-work and out-of-work families benefiting from tax credits in 2006-07, as well as their total tax credit entitlements are available in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Annual Awards 2006-07". This publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Estimates for 2007-08 are not yet available.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit claimants resident in Winchester were overpaid tax credits in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [257789]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the number of families with tax credit awards, including information on overpayments by constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, for the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are available in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments. Geographical Analyses", for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Estimates for 2007-08 are not yet available.

Welfare Tax Credits: St. Albans

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit claimants resident in St. Albans were overpaid tax credits in each of the last five years. [256974]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the number of families with tax credit awards, including information on overpayments by constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, for the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are available in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised

Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments. Geographical Analyses", for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Estimates for 2007-08 are not yet available.

Welfare Tax Credits: Wales

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the working population in Wales was in receipt of tax credits in 2008. [258093]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available.

However, estimates of the number of in-work families benefiting from Tax Credits, by country and government office region, as at December 2008, are available in table 1 of the HMRC snapshot publication, "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. December 2008", on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personaltaxcredits/cwtcgeogstats.htm

The latest published estimates of take-up rates of in-work families by country and government office regions are reported in table 9 of the HMRC publication, "Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit Take-up Rates 2005-06" which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personaltaxcredits/cwtctakeup.htm

Working Tax Credit

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many claims for *(a)* underpayments and *(b)* overpayments of working tax credit from residents of the Portsmouth travel-to-work area remain unresolved; [256546]

(2) how many people in the Portsmouth travel-to-work area were underpaid working tax credit in the last two years; how many of these have had their payments corrected to date; and how much his Department has spent on making correction payments to date; [256547]

(3) how much has been recovered from overpayments of working tax credit from residents in the Portsmouth travel-to-work area to date. [256548]

Mr. Timms: Information is not available in the format requested. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Code of Practice 26 'What happens if we've paid you too much tax credit?' explains the ways the Department collect back an overpayment.

HMRC publish information on the number and value of tax credits overpaid and underpaid by local authority and parliamentary constituency on its website at

www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-supp-06-07.pdf

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will publish a copy of the Government Equalities Office's website accessibility plan. [257232]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office will publish its website accessibility plan in June 2009.

Departmental Lobbying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether she received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [255237]

Maria Eagle: The Minister for Women and Equality has not received any representations from Lords Moonie, Taylor, Snape and Truscott in the last seven months.

Females: Public Appointments

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what progress she has made in increasing the proportion of women appointed to public bodies. [253343]

Maria Eagle: The latest figures, published by Cabinet Office show that, as at 31 March 2008, 33.3 per cent. of all public appointments were held by women. This is a decrease from the previous year. The Government remain committed to ensuring equal representation of women and men on the boards of our public bodies. The latest figures demonstrate more action is needed.

Government are strengthening legislation to support this agenda. The forthcoming Equality Bill will include a broad range of positive action provisions that will allow political parties and public bodies to take a range of steps to encourage involvement among under-represented groups.

The Commissioner for Public Appointments now has the power to take steps to promote diversity in the procedures for making public appointments within her remit. This came into force on 9 October 2008.

OLYMPICS

Construction: Olympic Games 2012

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many young people who have completed further education construction courses have undertaken job placements as part of the Olympic construction process. [256093]

Tessa Jowell: At the end of December 2008, there were 26 graduate trainees working for contractors on the Olympic Park. In addition, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) runs a work placement programme which allows undergraduates or recent graduates to obtain paid work within the ODA for up to 11 months.

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many undergraduates are being sponsored to obtain a construction-related degree as part of the Olympic construction process. [256094]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) does not specifically sponsor construction-related degrees but there are two other relevant programmes in place.

The ODA runs a work placement programme which enables undergraduates and recent graduates to obtain paid work within the organisation for up to 11 months in functions such as planning, legal and procurement. Of the six people currently on this scheme, five are recent graduates, and one is an undergraduate. In addition, to the end of December 2008, there were 26 graduate trainees working for contractors on the Olympic Park.

Contracts: Olympic Games 2012

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what penalties are payable under the contract with Lend Lease on early cancellation of the contract to construct and manage the Olympic Village contract. [256115]

Tessa Jowell: The agreement with Lend Lease is structured in such a way that early termination would be a last resort option. Early termination is possible only under certain circumstances and, in the event that termination does occur, there are no specific penalties payable to Lend Lease. However, any costs and expenses necessarily incurred or contracted by Lend Lease for delivery of the services would have to be met by the Olympic Delivery Authority to the extent that they cannot be mitigated. The details of the contract terms remain commercially confidential.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent discussions her Office has had with outside organisations to discuss policies on reducing the effect of the recession on matters within her Office's responsibility. [254062]

Tessa Jowell: Officials of the Government Olympic Executive and I meet a wide variety of stakeholders to discuss all aspects of the London 2012 games programme. These discussions frequently cover both the effects of the current economic downturn and the many economic benefits associated with the preparations for, and the legacy of, the 2012 games.

London 2012 is bringing a wide range of business and economic benefits including £6 billion worth of contracts, over 75,000 supply chain opportunities and many jobs, skills training and apprenticeship opportunities. These include 30,000 people helping to build the Olympic Park and Olympic Village; 2,500 people directly employed on the staging of the games with a contractor work force of some 100,000; and 50,000 new permanent jobs in the Park and the wider Lower Lea Valley after the Olympics are over. As well as further jobs in the supply chain, the games will also create 6,700 jobs in the wider visitor economy. Visit Britain estimates the tourism benefits at £2.1 billion. In terms of skills, at least 350 apprentices will gain valuable skills on the construction of Park and Village.

The economic downturn has reduced the amount of private sector investment available to the Olympic Village and the International Broadcast Centre/Main Press Centre projects. However, these projects remain on track; and to the extent that additional public sector funds are required, these can be delivered within the £9.325 billion public sector funding package.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she is taking to contain the cost increases of Olympic venues; and if she will make a statement. [256482]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* It is part of the Olympic Delivery Authority's (ODA) normal business to bear down on costs across the programme. As reported in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Annual Report, published January 2009, the forecast of potential final costs of the ODA programme includes estimated savings of £193 million, offsetting forecast increases. There are a range of controls in place to manage risks and budgets, control changes and control access to contingency. The forecast in potential cost increases in venues is offset by potential savings in other parts of the project. So far, the powerlines tunnelling project, Orient Way railway sidings project and the Weymouth and Portland sailing venue have all been delivered on time and budget.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what plans there are for the use of the *(a)* basketball arena, *(b)* white water course centre and *(c)* hockey centre after the end of the London 2012 Olympic Games. [256570]

Tessa Jowell: Business plans are currently being developed for the legacy use of all permanent London 2012 sporting venues.

The basketball arena is a temporary venue. The venue will be dismantled after the Games, and as many component parts as possible will be relocated and reused. The site will be available for development as part of the Legacy Masterplan Framework, the spatial development plan for the legacy of the Olympic Park.

The Whitewater course centre will operate as a Whitewater Canoe and Rafting Centre in legacy, with two courses (300 m and 100 m) for elite and community use.

The hockey venue for the Games is a temporary venue, and will therefore be dismantled after the Games to provide parkland and public domain within the Olympic Park. On the Olympic Park in legacy, Eton Manor will provide hockey, tennis and five-a-side football facilities for community and high performance uses. The site will also accommodate allotments, a war memorial and a wind turbine. Eton Manor will be operated in legacy by the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what plans there are for the use of the *(a)* international broadcast centre and *(b)* main press centre after the end of the London 2012 Olympic games. [256571]

Tessa Jowell: The Government are working closely with the Mayor, the London Development Agency, London borough of Hackney and other partners to explore a number of proposals for the legacy use of both the international broadcast centre and main press centre. Our vision is for permanent facilities, focussed on the creative and media industries and on high quality employment for local communities, together with higher

education uses. This work will be taken forward by the Olympic Park Legacy Company as part of its work programme to deliver a sustainable physical and socio-economic legacy from the games for the Olympic park and surrounding areas.

Olympic Games 2012: Expenditure

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much had been spent on the Broxbourne white water canoe centre at the latest date for which figures are available; and what the estimated final cost of the centre is. [256592]

Tessa Jowell: The contractor that will build the Broxbourne white water centre has not yet been selected and so it is not appropriate to announce budget or cost details while the procurement process is continuing.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the reasons are for the potential increase in *(a)* taxation and interest and *(b)* programme delivery costs referred to in Table 2 in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games annual report, January 2009. [256369]

Tessa Jowell: The potential increase in taxation, as reported in Table 2 of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games annual report published January 2009, was the amount of corporation tax estimated to be payable on an anticipated receipt for the sale of the assets post-games. As a consequence of the decision, announced on 6 February 2009, to establish a dedicated 2012 Olympic Park Legacy Company, it is now more likely that the Company will benefit from that anticipated receipt and the corporation tax is now unlikely to be payable by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA).

The increase in programme delivery costs is a result of CLM (ODA's Delivery Partner—and incentivised to deliver to programme and against cost targets) achieving a higher level of key performance indicators than anticipated in the original budget leading to a consequential increase in performance related payments. This reflects good progress in respect of the delivery of the project—to time and within budget—and in the achievement of savings which are outlined in the 2009 annual report.

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what costs had been incurred on *(a)* the 2012 Media Centre and *(b)* the 2012 Olympic Village as at 1 February 2009; and if she will make a statement. [256370]

Tessa Jowell: Olympic Delivery Authority figures at the end of January 2009 show expenditure of £24.28 million on the International Business Centre/Main Press Centre project and expenditure of £71.6 million on the vertical build of the Olympic Village. Both these figures are in line with expected levels of expenditure.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics for what reason the £326 million recently released from the Olympic contingency fund for the athletes village was drawn from the funders; why the £135 million for the International Broadcast Centre/Main Press Centre was drawn from funders and contingency reserves; and if she will make a statement. [256483]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* The Funders Group contingency is principally for risks that fall outside of the control of the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA). The recent allocation of Funders Group contingency was to help fund the Olympic village and the international broadcast centre (IBC)/main press centre (MPC) projects, both of which had been affected by the global economic situation, particularly the downturn in the housing and banking markets. This downturn was outside of the ODA's control and therefore Funders' Group contingency is the appropriate source of funding.

A proportion of the funding for the IBC/MPC project (£67 million) was funded from programme contingency. This is because, as part of the restructure of the IBC/MPC project, elements of new scope—including to ensure that the buildings left in legacy have the flexibility to be adapted to a wide range of uses to maximise potential future employment opportunities—and additional project contingency were included.

Olympic Games 2012: Gun Sports

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many .22 pistols have been made available for use by the British Olympic pistol team out of public funds. [256871]

Tessa Jowell: UK Sport have advised that an award of £5,056,000 made by UK Sport to British Shooting for the period 2005-09 included an amount that the sport can set aside for the purchase of equipment. However, the nature of shooting is that athletes will usually buy their own equipment, specifically the guns used to train and compete, or these are provided by sponsors.

Individual athletes on the World Class Performance programme are awarded an athlete personal award (APA) which includes funding for living costs and sporting costs. The latter enables athletes to travel, attend training sessions and enter relevant competitions. Athletes in all sports are entitled to use this award to fund the purchase of equipment or as a contribution to the financing of equipment.

This expenditure is for the athlete themselves to decide and UK Sport and the governing body do not monitor this, preferring to focus solely on the outcomes that APAs provide. These outcomes include such things as full attendance at training and events, use of high performance services and the athlete's commitment to self improvement that ultimately leads to improved performance.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what representations she has received requesting that the London 2012 Olympics shooting events be staged at Bisley. [256872]

Tessa Jowell: I have received representations from hon. Members, the National Rifle Association, Southern Counties Shooting Ltd, various members of shooting groups and other members of the public requesting the shooting events for the 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games be staged at Bisley.

KPMG were commissioned by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) last year to test and challenge the plans for a number of 2012 temporary venues, including shooting, to ensure they remain viable venues for

competition in 2012 as well as offering the best possible value for money. In December the Olympic Board published the findings of the KPMG report. The Olympic Board agreed at the time of publication that further work to assess the venue for shooting would be carried out by the ODA and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic games and Paralympic games (LOCOG) in the new year. This work is ongoing, and includes an evaluation of Bisley which will be considered by the Olympic Board.

Olympic Games 2012: Haringey

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what existing sporting facilities in Haringey will be used for the London 2012 Olympic Games; and if she will make a statement. [257277]

Tessa Jowell: There are two routes by which the existing sporting facilities in Haringey could be used for the London 2012 Olympic Games. Firstly as a Pre-Games Training Camp venue; Haringey has one designated training facility in the LOCOG Pre-Games Training Camp Guide offering athletics training facilities at the White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre in Wood Green. A National Olympic Committee or National Paralympic Committee is yet to make arrangements to use this facility for this purpose.

Secondly, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has begun the process of identifying Games-time Training Venues and there is the possibility that this same facility could provide valuable training opportunities for athletes while competing at the London 2012 Games. The venue owner and operators have been asked to express their interest to LOCOG if they wish to be considered for this programme.

In addition, 371 businesses in Haringey have signed up for CompeteFor (London 2012's website for publishing Games related contract opportunities) and 14 Haringey schools are registered as part of Get Set (LOCOG's domestic education programme).

Paralympic Games 2012: Transport

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions her Office has had with transport providers serving the Olympic venue on access to their services by paralympians; and what funding is being made to these transport providers to ensure that paralympians can use these services to access the venue; and if she will make a statement. [257279]

Tessa Jowell: Provision of accessible transport was one of the major strengths in London's bid to host the Games—not just for athletes but also for spectators, with a fully-accessible network of buses, black cabs and the DLR to the heart of the Games in Stratford.

The Accessible Transport Strategy (appendix 2), published in June 2008, lists those organisations that worked with the ODA to produce this document, and who will help deliver our commitment to accessible transport provision.

The ODA is also making financial contributions, alongside existing TfL funding plans, to a wide range of transport upgrade works which include improved accessibility works. Five London underground stations have been identified as serving Olympic venues—Stratford, West Ham, Southfields, Baker Street, Green Park—and works are under way to make all of these accessible by the summer of 2012. Already, all DLR stations, buses (excluding heritage routes), and black cabs are accessible.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) will deliver accessible transport for athletes, officials and the Paralympic Family from their accommodation to competition venues in 2012. LOCOG is entering a phase of detailed operational planning, and has already started talking to specialist operators with experience in the provision of transport for disabled athletes.

JUSTICE

Approved Premises: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has to establish bail hostels in (*a*) Hemel Hempstead and (*b*) Hertfordshire. [256492]

Mr. Hanson: I take the hon. Gentleman to be referring to the accommodation and support service for bail and home detention curfew provided to NOMS by ClearSprings. The service does not provide hostels. There are no plans to have a property in Hemel Hempstead. There is one property in Cheshunt and one property is to be provided in Stevenage.

Civil Servants: Codes of Practice

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2632W, on trade unions, if he will place in the Library a copy of the section of his Department's staff handbook which outlines the rules for civil servants applying for (*a*) paid and (*b*) unpaid time off to engage in political activities; [250544]

(2) with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Chichester (Mr. Tyrie) of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1673W, on trades unions, if he will place in the Library a copy of the agreement with trades unions under which trades unions officers in his Department may take time off for trades' unions duties. [250100]

Mr. Straw: The rules for civil servants in the Ministry of Justice (Mo J) applying for (*a*) paid and (*b*) unpaid time off to engage in political activities is contained within the respective Special Leave policies for National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the MoJ.

The rules as to whether civil servants are allowed to take part in political activities is contained within the respective conduct policies for NOMS and the MoJ.

The agreements with the trade unions under which trade union officers may take time off for trade union duties is contained in a number of facility time agreements which are currently under review.

These documents have been placed in the Library of the House.

Civil Partnerships

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in respect of which countries are registers of *(a)* same-sex marriages and *(b)* legal partnerships recognised in the UK. [255825]

Maria Eagle: Overseas same sex legal partnerships can also be recognised as UK civil partnerships if they meet the 'general conditions' outlined in section 212 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004.

In addition:

(a) Same sex marriages from the following countries are 'automatically' recognised as civil partnerships in the UK:

Belgium
Canada
Netherlands
Spain
USA (Massachusetts)

(b) The following other kinds of overseas legal partnership are also 'automatically' recognised as civil partnerships:

Andorra: unió estable de parella
Australia (Tasmania): significant relationship
Belgium: cohabitation légale (statutory cohabitation)
Canada (Nova Scotia): domestic partnership
Canada (Quebec): civil union
Denmark: registreret partnerskab (registered partnership)
Finland: rekisteröity parisuhde (registered partnership)
France: pacte civile de solidarité (civil solidarity pact)
Germany: Lebenspartnerschaft (life partnership)
Iceland: stadfesta samvist (confirmed cohabitation)
Luxembourg: the relationship referred to as partenariat enregistré or eingetragene partnerschaft
Netherlands: geregistreerde partnerschap (registered partnership)
New Zealand: civil union
Norway: registrert partnerskap (registered partnership)
Sweden: registrerat partnerskap (registered partnership)
USA (California): domestic partnership
USA (Connecticut): civil union
USA (Maine): domestic partnership
USA (New Jersey): domestic partnership
USA (Vermont): civil union

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in which overseas countries civil partnerships entered into in the UK are recognised. [255826]

Maria Eagle: The Government do not hold definitive information on which overseas countries recognise UK civil partnerships, or under what terms. The laws of other countries are subject to change without notice, and in some cases can be ambiguous.

We are aware of the difficulties UK civil partners living in countries where their legal relationship status is not recognised can face, and where appropriate, we are working with those countries to achieve recognition.

Constituencies

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 150W, on constituencies, what progress has been made on the review of legislation on boundary rules; and what the timetable for consultation with political parties is. [258057]

Mr. Wills: It remains our intention that the current legislation in relation to the conduct of parliamentary boundary reviews will be the subject of an independent review. The arrangements for the conduct of the review are still under consideration. Consultation with interested bodies will be a matter for the review once it is established.

Coroners: Oxfordshire

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the *(a)* average and *(b)* longest time it took for a coroner to hold a treasure inquest once requested for finds from Oxfordshire in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [257254]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice collects statistics on the number of finds under the Treasure Act 1996 reported to coroners in England and Wales during each calendar year, the number of treasure inquests concluded during the year and, of these, the number of verdicts of treasure returned. Information is not collected on the time taken to conduct treasure inquests.

Informal figures are, however, collated by the British Museum, which records the time between the inquest being requested by the British Museum and a verdict being returned. These show that in 2007, the British Museum requested that the Oxfordshire coroner hold seven treasure inquests. The longest time between an inquest being requested and a verdict being returned was 525 days, while the other six ranged in duration from 77 days to 423 days. A statistical average based on such a small number of cases would be very volatile and heavily dependent on the particular circumstances of each case.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [256043]

Mr. Wills: Display energy certificates (DECs) and advisory reports issued for public buildings are not held centrally in respect of Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and all its agencies. To commission copies of *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports, to be placed in the Library for over 500 buildings, with the associated costs of copying, postage and staff time to complete the work could be done only at disproportionate cost. Accordingly, MOJ will not be placing these in the Library.

The DEC ratings for MOJ buildings completed as at October 2008 can be found in the OGC Sustainable Procurement and Operations on the Government Estate—Government Delivery Plan Update, published on 18 December 2008, a copy of which can be found at:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Delivery_Plan_Update_Dec08.pdf

Annex B of the plan provides the relevant information on MOJ DECs.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many members of staff have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for losing (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers and (iv) mobile telephones in each year since 1997. [247960]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry has taken decisive action to improve data handling including minimising the amount of data put on removable media, encryption programmes for data and mobile devices that carry personal protected data and the introduction of training and education programmes to improve staff awareness of information risks.

Government take data security very seriously, which is why a report into data handling procedures across Government was commissioned and new measures to improve and strengthen controls in the protection of personal data were introduced.

Under paragraph 2.8 of the Data Handling Report published in June 2008, all Departments are required to amend HR processes where necessary to make clear that failing to apply controls in handling personal data could amount to gross misconduct, and this has been reflected in the Ministry's revised Discipline Policy issued in July 2008.

In the Ministry of Justice, excluding the National Offender Management Service, details of the number of staff investigated for losing memory sticks, laptops, desktop computers and mobile telephones are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information on suspensions is not held to include the level of detail requested by this question. Central records only exist from 2003 and indicate that no members of staff have been dismissed for losing IT equipment. The central records from 2003 to 2005 do not include details of dismissals from the Magistrates Courts Committees, and these records are not held centrally.

In the Ministry of Justice National Offender Management Service, details of the numbers of staff investigated or suspended for losing memory sticks, laptops, desktop computers and mobile telephones are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information regarding the outcome of disciplinary proceedings shows that no members of staff have been dismissed since January 2005 for the aforementioned offences. However, formal disciplinary action was taken against one member of staff during 2005 following the loss of a laptop.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of maintaining the databases owned and managed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies was in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [256153]

Mr. Wills: The Department has more than 70 major database systems, as well as other smaller database systems supporting local business areas.

Responsibility for maintaining the accuracy of data held in individual databases rests with the appropriate business area. As this is not a centrally managed function, the information required to answer this question fully could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department were disciplined for *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment of colleagues in each of the last three years. [254079]

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department and its predecessors were disciplined for *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment of colleagues in each of the last three years. [257752]

Mr. Wills: Harassment is defined in the MOJ conduct policy as:

"unwanted behaviour which affects a person's dignity. It can relate to age, sex, race, disability, religion, nationality or any other personal characteristic of the individual and may be continuous or a one-off incident."

Bullying is not specifically defined by law, but may be seen as a form of harassment. Bullying could consist of:

offensive, intimidating, malicious or insulting behaviour;

persistent unwarranted criticism; and

exclusion and ostracising.

In the Ministry of Justice there are three levels of sanction in disciplinary cases. They are first written warning, final written warning and dismissal.

The Ministry of Justice, HMPS and NOMS do not hold the information centrally in the format requested and can be provided only at a disproportionate cost. However, validated records of dismissals for the MOJ (excluding HMPS and NOMS) are held centrally. The following table details the number of dismissals in the last three years.

	Bullying	*Harassment*
2008	2	2
2007	1	2
2006	0	0

Departmental Fixed Penalties

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what administrative financial penalties may be levied by his Department and its agencies. [253587]

Mr. Straw: Administrative financial penalties arise where a department has the authority to charge a financial penalty without the need to resort to court proceedings. They exclude interest charged on late payment of invoices.

The Legal Services Complaints Commissioner has the power under section 52 of the Access to Justice Act 1999 to levy a financial penalty on the Law Society.

All other penalties levied by the department or its agencies are through the courts.

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)*

non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [256205]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has an obligation under the civil service commissioners recruitment code to ensure its recruitment processes are operating under open and fair principles.

The Ministry of Justice only employs applicants who have the right to work in the UK, and an individual's nationality is verified before an offer of employment is made. Civil service rules enable EEA nationals and certain non-EEA family members to be employed as civil servants. The Ministry of Justice does not hold central data in respect of the number of EU foreign national employed and they could only be collected at disproportionate costs.

There is also a provision that, in exceptional circumstances, foreign nationals, other than EEA nationals and certain non-EEA family members, may be employed by means of an aliens' certificate under the Aliens' Employment Act 1955. This Act empowers the employing Department's Minister, with the approval of the Minister for the civil service, to issue a certificate of employment in certain circumstances. Information on the number of staff employed under the Aliens' Employment Act 1955 is collected. The Prison Service currently employs one person under the Act. This was approved by the then Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Bradford, South (Mr. Sutcliffe), with the consent of the Minister responsible for the civil service.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which ICT projects initiated by his Department were abandoned before completion in each year since 1997; what costs were incurred on each project; who the contractors were; what the date of *(a)* commencement and *(b)* abandonment was in each case; and if he will make a statement. [251139]

Maria Eagle: The Department was established in May 2007 and prior to that, responsibility for ICT rested with its predecessors.

The National Enforcement Tracker System (NETS) project was cancelled in August 2007 following a detailed review which highlighted that the cost and scope of the project no longer provided value for money or met current business requirements. Expenditure to closure of the project was £4.328 million, this sum was reported in accordance with HMT accounting rules. The contractors were Steria, followed by IBM.

In November 2008, following a review by Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) Board, the Electronic Filing and Document Management programme, which included plans for future investment in ICT, was cancelled. The review concluded that the Electronic Filing and Document Management programme was not affordable. The costs incurred by the programme from commencement of the programme in August 2005 to its closure in November 2008 were £5.922 million. The main contractors were PA Consulting (August 2005-December 2007); Logica and Atos Origin (February 2008-November 2008). The programme was formally closed and documented for future reference.

Available records have not identified further abandoned ICT projects initiated by the Department for this period.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the initial estimated *(a)* cost and *(b)* delivery date was of each ICT project initiated by his Department and its predecessors in each year since 1997; what the (i) outturn cost and (ii) completion date was of each such project subsequently completed; what estimate he has made of the (A) outturn cost and (B) completion date of each such project which is ongoing; which contractors were hired for each project; and how much has been paid to each contractor in respect of each project to date. [251373]

Maria Eagle: The Department was established in May 2007, and prior to that, responsibility for ICT was spread across the former Department for Constitutional Affairs, parts of the Home Office and the technology unit of the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. The information required to answer this question is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish a copy of his Department's website accessibility plan. [257221]

Mr. Wills: The Department's website accessibility plan is set out in the website accessibility policy published on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/accessibilityandhelp.htm

A copy of this web page has been placed in the Library of the House.

The objective is to ensure that the Ministry of Justice website continues to achieve the standard required for compliance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 1.0 level AA, using working practice recommended by the Guide to good practice in commissioning accessible websites (PAS 78), published by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, and Guidance for Government web teams issued by the Central Office of Information.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data his Department has lost in the last 12 months. [256279]

Mr. Straw: Reported equipment losses for the last full year 2007-08, from creation of the Ministry of Justice in May 2007, included 11 laptop computers, one memory stick and 15 mobile telephones. In addition to lost equipment 12 laptops, two desktop computers and 14 mobile phones were reported as stolen. Four of the 11 laptops reported lost were subsequently recovered. Another one of those lost went missing in delivery and was never used. Records of mobile telephone losses are not held centrally and the numbers reported here have been taken from available records.

The Ministry recorded nine significant personal data related incidents for 2007-08, of which three involved loss of laptops (one from within secure Government premises and two outside) and two involved electronic storage devices (discs). Details are published in the resource accounts, laid before the House on 21 July 2008.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many bonus payments were made in 2007-08 to *(a)* senior civil servants and *(b)* other staff working in (i) the Judicial Appointments Commission and (b) the Office of the Public Guardian; and how much was paid in such bonuses to people in each category. [254140]

Mr. Straw: The information is as follows:

(i) Judicial Appointments Commission

Three Senior Civil Servants (SCS) working in the Judicial Appointments Commission were awarded non-consolidated performance pay during the financial year 2007-08. The total paid was £22,000.

There were 43 'in year' payments of non consolidated performance pay to staff below the SCS working in the Judicial Appointments Commission during the financial year 2007-08 and the total amount paid was £19,650.

(ii) Office of the Public Guardian

No payments of non-consolidated performance pay were made to any members of the SCS at the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) during the financial year 2007-08.

In grades below the SCS, fifty-four staff working at the OPG were paid 'end of year' payments of non-consolidated performance pay and the amount paid was £21,600. Twenty six members of staff were paid 'in year' payments with a total value of £6,825.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department plans to spend on public relations in 2009-10. [252351]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice currently has no plans for spend on public relations in 2009-10.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff his Department recruited as *(a)* permanent, *(b)* temporary and *(c)* agency staff in each year since it was established. [257631]

Mr. Wills: The following table provides the information on the number of directly employed staff recruited since the formation of the Ministry of Justice.

The Ministry of Justice does not hold central data in respect of the number of agency staff recruited and therefore they could be collected only at disproportionate costs.

	9 May 2007 to 31 March 2008	*1 April 2008 to 31 January 2009*
Permanent	5,062	5,471
Fixed Term Contract	3,113	2,459

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which local authorities have initiated proceedings to fine households who have not submitted an electoral registration form in response to the annual canvass since the sanction was brought into force; [257465]

(2) when the sanctions in relation to voter non-registration will be brought into force; and if he will make a statement. [257547]

Mr. Wills: As my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, East (Bridget Prentice), Under-Secretary of State for Justice explained in her answer on 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 244W, to a similar question relating to which local authorities have initiated proceedings to levy fines on households failing to return the canvass form, this information is not collected centrally. Electoral registration officers (EROs) have a duty to compile and maintain an accurate register and they have a number of mechanisms available to them in achieving this. It is a decision for independent EROs whether they initiate proceedings for non-completion of the annual canvass form.

Sanctions have recently been brought into force to create a new offence of supplying false information of any kind to a registration officer in connection with electoral registration. This sanction came into force in time for the 2006 annual canvass and anyone found guilty of supplying false information at registration can now be fined up to £5,000 or sentenced to up to six months imprisonment.

Electoral Register: Ethnic Groups

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the percentage of *(a)* white, *(b)* African, *(c)* Bangladeshi, *(d)* Pakistani and *(e)* African-Caribbean people eligible to vote who are registered to vote. [257486]

Mr. Wills: As my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice) explained in answer to a similar question from the hon. Gentleman on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 900W, the Government have not made any estimate of the percentage of *(a)* White, *(b)* African, *(c)* Bangladeshi, *(d)* Pakistani and *(e)* African-Caribbean people registered to vote. In addition, it is not known what percentage of eligible people from these groups are registered to vote, as such information is not available.

The Electoral Commission found in their report, 'Understanding Electoral Registration', published in September 2005, that the groups least likely to be registered to vote included young people, those residing in private rented accommodation and those belonging to certain minority ethnic groups. Registration rates among White, Asian (those from Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities) and Black Caribbean groups were similar.

Section 9 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 placed a new duty on electoral registration officers (ERO) to take all necessary steps to register eligible electors. These steps include sending the annual canvass form more than once, making house to house enquiries and inspecting records that the ERO is permitted to inspect. The Government believe that these steps should help to tackle under-registration.

Freedom of Information

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department are employed on the management of freedom of information requests submitted to his Department. [257630]

Mr. Wills: All freedom of information requests made to my Department are handled by the Data Access and Compliance Unit. Of the 27 staff employed in the Unit, 17 deal with the management of freedom of information requests. The remainder are responsible for handling requests under the Data Protection Act 1998, or have administrative or managerial duties.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department *(a)* fulfilled and *(b)* refused in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [257753]

Mr. Wills: My Department has published annual reports containing statistical information on freedom of information requests received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) in 2006 and 2007.

These reports include statistics on the number of non-routine requests received by this Department and the initial outcomes of these requests.

The reports can be found at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

In addition, copies of each report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Friction Dynamex: Asbestos

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what account he took of the cost of remediation of asbestos contamination on the Dynamex Friction site, Caernarfon, when selecting it as the preferred location for a new prison in Wales. [257824]

Mr. Hanson: The Ministry of Justice was aware that there would be remediation contamination costs in selecting the Dynamex site at Caernarfon and when such costs are fully quantified they will be taken into account in negotiations with the owner.

Inspections: Public Service

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which organisations have the statutory right of access to Government Departments to inspect the delivery of a public service. [257584]

Mr. Malik: In the Ministry of Justice, the following organisations have a statutory right of access to inspect the delivery of a public service:

HM Inspectorate of Court Administration (HMICA) was created in 2005 by the Courts Act 2003. The Act gives HMICA the duty to inspect courts and HM Courts Service Board, and to report to the Lord Chancellor on the system that supports the carrying on of the business of the Crown, county and magistrates courts, and the services provided for those courts.

Independent Monitoring Boards have a right of access to monitor prisons under Section 6 of the Prison Act 1952. IMBs, legally known in this context as Visiting Committees, have a right of access to monitor immigration removal centres under Section 152 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

HM Inspectorate of Prisons staff have a right of access to Secure Training Centres for the purpose of inspection under Section 43 of the Secure Training Centre Rules 1998, when accompanying a person who is authorised under the Children's Act 1989 and has been charged by the Secretary of State to conduct an inspection.

Legal Opinion

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of external legal services provided to his Department in each of the last five years. [251352]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice was established on 9 May 2007 as a merger between the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and parts of the Home Office, namely the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR).

Some of the legacy systems inherited by the Department do not separately distinguish expenditure on external legal expenses from other types of legal expenditure. This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For activities relating to the former Department for Constitutional Affairs (comprising the core Department and its agencies, HM Courts Service, Tribunal Service and Office of the Public Guardian) accounting records indicate that expenditure over the last five years on external legal services was as follows:

	£
2004-05	1,827,261
2005-06	968,636
2006-07	1,914,155
2007-08	2,297,348
2008-09 (to 31 December)	1,537,176

Expenditure on external legal services includes all use of counsel and solicitors in private practice and excludes advice from in-house legal advisers or Treasury solicitors.

Offenders: Personal Records

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1536W, on offenders: personal records, what his Department plans to do with the data once it completes its analysis of the final cohort; [257003]

(2) how many offenders there were on the Offenders Index when it was last updated. [257160]

Mr. Hanson: There were about 8 million offenders on the Offenders Index database in December 2006. The Department no longer uses the Offender Index to provide routine data on reoffending and criminal history. We are currently analysing the final cohort of offenders extracted from the Offenders Index which are based on data up to December 2006. The Department has no plans for a further update but will retain the data after completion and publication of the analysis.

Since 2005, the Ministry of Justice has been using data extracted from its Police National Computer database to provide the published figures on reoffending.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1536W, on offenders: personal records,

whether his Department plans to delete any of the data which are not being used. [258229]

Mr. Hanson: The Department no longer uses the Offenders Index to provide routine data on reoffending and criminal history; we now use data extracted from the Police National Computer to provide the published figures on reoffending. We are currently analysing the final cohort of offenders extracted from the Offenders Index. Although we do not plan to use the Offenders Index in future we have no plans to delete any of the data as there is a range of possible future uses for them.

Open Prisons

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many places in semi-open prisons for adult women prisoners *(a)* there are in England and Wales and *(b)* there will be in England and Wales after 2 March 2009 following the re-designation of HM Prison/Young Offender Institution Drake Hall and HM Prison Morton Hall. [258091]

Mr. Hanson: Following the recent announcement from the National Offender Management Service to re-designate HM Prison and Young Offender Institution Drake Hall and HM Prison and Young Offender Institution Morton Hall, there will be no semi-open prisons for adult women in England and Wales after 2 March 2009.

Police Stations: Prison Accommodation

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many nights have been spent by prisoners in police cells in each police force under Operation Safeguard *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each month since April 2008; and if he will make a statement. [254948]

Mr. Hanson: Operation Safeguard was activated between 12 October and 22 December 2006 and again from 16 January 2007 to 31 October 2008. Police cells have not been used since 22 September 2008 and no police cells have been on stand by since the end of October 2008.

The following table details usage between 12 October 2006 and 22 September 2008 and gives the aggregate total of the number of prisoner nights in which a police cell was used. It is not possible to ascertain how many individual prisoners these totals cover.

	Number
Avon and Somerset	157
Bedfordshire	496
Cambridgeshire	1,888
Cheshire	6,098
Cleveland	4
Cumbria	680
Derbyshire	908
Devon and Cornwall	2,465
Dorset	560
Durham	1,645
Dyfed Powys	683
Essex	6,041
Gloucestershire	18
GMP	3,712
Gwent	962
Hampshire	2,095
Hertfordshire	1,651
Humberside	111
Kent	4,937
Lancashire	2,065
Leicestershire	3,693
Lincolnshire	1,230
Merseyside	859
MET	15,406
Norfolk	32
North Wales	2,252
North Yorkshire	59
Northamptonshire	1,494
Northumbria	1,242
Nottinghamshire	222
South Wales	2,197
South Yorkshire	1,209
Staffordshire	60
Suffolk	1,623
Surrey	116
Sussex	823
TVP	3,848
Warwickshire	2,177
West Mercia	64
West Midlands	5,868
West Yorkshire	4,665
Wiltshire	97
Totals	88,921

The following table details month by month usage since 1 April 2008 and again gives the aggregate total of the number of prisoner nights in which a police cell was used.

				2008			Number
	April	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*
Avon and Somerset							
Bedfordshire							
Cambridgeshire	19		21	61	41		
Cheshire		15	65	169	236		
Cleveland							
Court							
Cumbria							
Derbyshire				15	3		
Devon and Cornwall			15	46	65	11	
Dorset			1	17	14	3	

Number

	April	May	June	2008 July	August	September	October
Durham		14	—	51	42	—	—
Dyfed Powys							
Essex	10	4	23	92	68	10	—
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
GMP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hampshire	—	—	6	42	98	2	1
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	80	39	—	—
Humberside	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kent	74	4	—	—	—	—	—
Lancashire	—	—	—	36	53	—	—
Leicestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
MET	162	77	299	776	280	74	—
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Notts Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Wales	—	—	53	102	135	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	3	12	—	—
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	1	—	12	34	51	10	—
Surrey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex	—	—	—	63	60	11	—
TVP	24	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warwickshire	—	—	6	65	199	74	—
West Mercia	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
West Midlands	—	—	16	192	113	—	—
West Yorkshire	—	—	7	167	96	—	—
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Prisoners Release

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 552W, on prisoners: release, how long on average it took a prisoner eligible for jobseeker's allowance upon release to receive that benefit after release in the last 12 months. [251164]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how long on average it took a prisoner eligible for Jobseeker's Allowance upon release to receive that benefit after release in the last 12 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In answer to your specific question, I regret that this type of information is not routinely collected and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Whilst information about prisoners' claims is not collected specifically, they are included in the overall Jobseeker's Allowance claim processing target. At the end of December 2008, our Jobseeker's Allowance claims clearance rate was an average of 10.4 days, against a target of 11.5 days. Whilst January figures have not yet been confirmed, we expect them to be at a similar level.

All prisoners being released who wish to claim Jobseeker's Allowance are also able to use the Freshstart process. Freshstart involves pre-arranging a New Jobseeker Interview to claim Jobseeker's Allowance at the prisoner's home Jobcentre Plus office for as soon as possible after they are released. The customer normally has an appointment with a Jobcentre Plus Adviser within 3 days of leaving prison. The process helps to speed up the receipt of benefit and aims to ensure that the offender engages with the Jobcentre at the earliest opportunity to allow them to gain appropriate support.

In addition, those serving shorter term sentences can also take advantage of the Rapid Reclaim Process. This service is available if a prisoner reclaims benefits within 26 weeks of their last claim and their circumstances have not changed. There are simpler and shorter forms to complete and processing the benefit is eased.

Prisoners Transfers: Jamaica

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the prisoner transfer agreement signed with the Government of Jamaica in June 2007. [252839]

Mr. Hanson: The prisoner transfer agreement between the United Kingdom and Jamaica was signed in London on 26 June 2007. It will enter into force when ratified by

both the United Kingdom and Jamaica. Changes to Jamaican law are necessary before it can ratify the agreement. Once these changes have been made and Jamaica can proceed with ratification, the agreement will be laid before Parliament in accordance with the Ponsonby Rule in the normal way.

Prisoners: Elderly

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners aged 60 years or over there were on average in each of the last 10 years; [257569]

(2) how many prisoners aged 60 or over were serving a sentence for a sexual offence on average in each of the last 10 years. [257570]

Mr. Hanson: Figures showing the total number of prisoners aged 60 and over detained in all prison establishments in England and Wales and the total number of those within the same age group serving a sentence for a sexual offence from June 1998 to June 2007 (latest available) can be found in the table.

These figures are taken from tables within the publications "Prison statistics, England and Wales" and the "Offender Management Caseload Statistics", copies of which can be found in the House of Commons Library and which can also be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Population in prison establishments[1] under sentence, by age group and offence[2], England and Wales, June 1998 to June 2007

Age group and offence	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Aged 60 and over	908	1,073	1,154	1,235	1,383	1,441	1,528	1,623	1,765	2,027
Of which:										
Under sentence for sexual offences[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	840	867	925	974	1,114

n/a = Data not available

[1] Excludes police cells.

[3] Includes buggery and indecency between males, rape, gross indecency with children and other sexual offences.

Source:

1. Data for all prisoners aged 60 and over includes fine defaulters.

2. Data sources and quality: These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Females

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many (*a*) convicted, (*b*) unconvicted and (*c*) convicted but unsentenced (i) adult and (ii) 18 to 21 year old female foreign national prisoners are in custody in England and Wales; and how many such people are being held in custody beyond the end of their custodial sentences. [258092]

Mr. Hanson: Figures showing the numbers of female foreign national prisoners (*a*) untried, (*b*) convicted unsentenced and (*c*) sentenced, separately for (i) adults and (ii) young adults, detained in all prison establishments in England and Wales at 31 December 2008, can be found in the following table:

	Young adults	Adults
Untried	15	141
Convicted unsentenced	0	37
Sentenced	46	522

Young adults are those aged 18 to 20 and those 21-year-olds who were aged 20 or under at conviction who have not been reclassified as part of the adult population.

Information relating to the number of foreign national female prisoners who are detained beyond their custodial sentence is not available. The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly updated the Home Affairs Select Committee with all of the most robust and accurate information available on the deportation of foreign national prisoners. Copies of her letters to the Committee are available in the Library of the House. She will continue to update the Committee as required.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Construction

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any land has been acquired for the construction of Titan prisons. [257471]

Mr. Hanson: The work to identify suitable sites for prison clusters is currently under way, but we have yet to confirm or purchase any sites.

Prisons: Manpower

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of service was for (*a*) a prison guard and (*b*) other staff in (i) all prisons in England and Wales and (ii) HM Prison Winchester in each of the last five years. [258029]

Mr. Hanson: The average length of service for a prison officer and other staff in all public sector establishments in England and Wales and in HM Prison Winchester in each of the last five years are detailed in the tables. Information for public and private sector prisons are shown separately.

Public sector prisons contribution

Table 1: Average length of service for prison officers and other staff in all public sector establishments

	Public sector establishments[1]	
Average length of service[2] (years)	Prison officer	Other staff
2004	11.0	6.4
2005	11.1	6.7

Table 1: Average length of service for prison officers and other staff in all public sector establishments

	Public sector establishments	
Average length of service (years)	Prison officer	Other staff
2006	11.3	6.9
2007	11.3	7.0
2008	11.4	7.2

Table 2: Average length of service for prison officers and other staff in HMP Winchester

	HMP Winchester	
Average length of service (years)	Prison officer	Other staff
2004	11.6	6.9
2005	11.6	7.3
2006	11.6	7.8
2007	12.2	7.9
2008	11.3	9.0

Note:
Includes prison officers, senior officers, principal officers in public sector Prison Service.

Private prisons contribution

Information on staffing figures in the contracted estate is not collated centrally and has been requested from each contractor, derived from their own human resources databases. Information has been provided from each contractor Kalyx which manages Bronzefield, Forest Bank and Peterborough; G4S which manages Parc, Altcourse, Rye Hill and Wolds; and Serco which manages Ashfield, Doncaster, Dovegate and Lowdham Grange. Information in the following tables is provided for the contracted sector equivalent of Prison Service prison officers and other staff (non-operational). The data are provided for each year since 2004.

Table 3: Average length of service for prison officers in contracted prisons

Prison	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Altcourse	—	—	—	—	6
Ashfield	2.05	2.04	2.4	2.58	2.7
Bronzefield	0.5	1.1	1.11	2.5	2.8
Doncaster	7.39	6.94	6.52	5.48	4.46
Dovegate	—	—	—	—	—
Forest Bank	—	—	—	—	1.8
Lowdham Grange	—	—	—	—	—
Parc	—	—	—	—	2
Peterborough	—	1	1.11	2.5	3
Rye Hill	—	—	—	—	2.7
Wolds	—	—	—	—	8.8

Table 4: Average length of service for other staff in contracted prisons

Prison	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Altcourse	—	—	—	—	6.5
Ashfield	2.46	3.2	3.6	4.39	4.9
Bronzefield	0.5	1.25	1.5	2	2.5
Doncaster	2.61	2.76	2.46	2.2	2.07
Dovegate	—	—	—	—	—
Forest Bank	—	—	—	—	1.7
Lowdham Grange	—	—	—	—	—
Parc	—	—	—	—	2
Peterborough	—	0.1	1.5	2	2.25
Rye Hill	—	—	—	—	4.8
Wolds	—	—	—	—	6.1

Notes:
1. HM Prison Bronzefield did not open until June 2004.
2. HM Prison Peterborough did not open until March 2005.
3. Information before 2008 is not available for HM Prison Altcourse, HM Prison Rye Hill, HM Prison Wolds, HM Prison Parc and HM Prison Forest Bank due to archiving and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.
4. HM Prison Dovegate and HM Prison Lowdham Grange have not provided the information requested.

Prisons: Wind Power

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will commission research on the effect on *(a)* prison security, *(b)* the well-being and health of prisoners and *(c)* the safety and health of prison staff from (i) noise from, (ii) vibration from and (iii) movement of wind turbines sited close to prisons. [257075]

Mr. Hanson: As I said in my answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1403W, the Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, are responsible for Government policy on wind turbines and therefore for research about their impact on residential property and businesses in close proximity to them. The National Offender Management Service already reviews the security implications of wind turbines sited close to prisons and will conduct appropriate health and safety risk assessments on wind turbines that are already in place.

Welsh Language

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many members of staff at each grade in his Department identify themselves as Welsh speakers. [257794]

Mr. Malik: In an informal survey of 1,350 staff in Her Majesty's Courts Service in 2007, staff indicated a range of ability, from being able to meet and greet in Welsh to those who are fluent both verbally and in writing. This informal exercise did not ascertain proficiency levels on a grade basis; such analysis is not available.

Her Majesty's Courts Service has not carried out a subsequent survey and there has been no Ministry of Justice wide data gathering exercise in this regard.

All Tribunals Service staff at hearing centres in Wales are trained to meet and greet in Welsh, including answering the telephone. The Tribunals Service has not undertaken a formal survey of staff to indicate the range of ability from being able to meet and greet in Welsh to those who are fluent in the language, both verbally and in writing.

Information on which languages are spoken by staff in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is not held centrally. To collect the information would incur disproportionate cost. However, there was a voluntary survey undertaken in NOMS Cymru HQ and public sector prisons in Wales last year. Out of 1,035 surveyed, 247 responded on Welsh language of which 11 per cent. (27) indicated that they could speak Welsh and 4 per cent. (10) that it was their first language.

The two probation trusts in Wales each have their own Welsh Language scheme approved by the Welsh Language Board.

Winchester Prison: Drugs

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners at HM Prison Winchester were

serving sentences for drug-related offences in each of the last five years; and how many incidents of drug use in the prison were recorded in each of those years. [258031]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the numbers of sentenced drugs offenders in Winchester as at 30 June each year since 2004:

Number of prisoners serving sentences for drugs offences at Winchester prison 2004-08

	Number as at 30 June
2008	31
2007	44
2006	84
2005	49
2004	44

The increase in 2006 was as a result of a local police operation.

These numbers relate to specific drugs offences only (including the possession and supply of drugs) and not to other offences (such as those involving acquisitive crime) which may be related to drugs issues of the offender.

Drug misuse in prisons is measured by mandatory drug testing. The table details the number of positive random and targeted mandatory drug tests occurring at HMP Winchester in each of the last five complete financial years.

Mandatory drug tests at HMP Winchester

Financial year	Number of positive tests
2003-04	129
2004-05	132
2005-06	74
2006-07	55
2007-08	65

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Winchester Prison: Finance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget for Winchester Prison was in each of the last five years. [258028]

Mr. Hanson: The budgets for HM Prison Winchester for the last five years were:

	£
2004-05	15,905,573
2005-06	15,132,176
2006-07	15,020,041
2007-08	14,543,161
2008-09	14,891,331

The reduction in budgets for 2007-08 and 2008-09 reflects the fact that a wing was taken out of use for refurbishment during this time. The wing was brought back into use in November 2008.

Winchester Prison: Suicide

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners at HM Prison Winchester *(a)* committed suicide and *(b)* self-harmed in each of the last five years. [258030]

Mr. Hanson: The number of prisoner self-inflicted deaths and self harm at HM Prison Winchester are summarised in the table. To avoid any potential ambiguity both self harm incidents and numbers of individual self harmers are shown.

Self-inflicted deaths and self harm[1] at HMP Winchester

	Self-inflicted death[2]	Self harm incidents	Individual self harmers
2004	0	260	119
2005	1	153	102
2006	0	155	81
2007	0	83	38
2008	3	106	54

[1] Information on self harm is derived from a high volume administrative system. The numbers have limited accuracy and should be treated as approximate.
[2] One further self-inflicted has occurred at HM Prison Winchester so far in 2009.

Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the redesignation of HM Prison/Young Offender Institution (HMP/YOI) Drake Hall and HM Prison Morton Hall will have on *(a)* the distance from home, *(b)* resettlement programmes, *(c)* community links and *(d)* re-offending rates of those female prisoners held in (i) HMP/YOI Drake Hall who have been assessed as suitable for semi-open conditions, (ii) HM Prison Morton Hall who have been assessed as suitable for semi-open conditions, (iii) closed conditions in the female estate and (iv) open conditions in the female estate; and if he will make a statement. [258688]

Mr. Hanson: The re-designation of HM Prison and Young Offender Institution Drake Hall and HM Prison and Young Offender Institution Morton Hall as closed prisons will allow the Prison Service to more properly provide for the needs of women suitable for each of the prisons. The effect of the change will allow for greater flexibility in the use of the estate; improving closeness to home and families for some women, allowing appropriate lifer and indeterminate sentenced women to be placed so as to better meet their needs, and in general enable more women to access the resettlement regimes available at the two prisons. There are no plans to move any of the women out of Drake Hall and Morton Hall as a result of the change. The change is essentially an administrative one, both establishments will retain their current levels of internal and perimeter security and their current resettlement regimes, including their roles as specialist, foreign national centres. Women suitable for "open" or "closed" conditions will be able to go these prisons if such a move meets their resettlement needs.

The changes are compatible with Baroness Corston's recommendation.

Young Offender Institutions: Nationality

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders held in *(a)* HM Prison/Young Offender Institution Drake Hall and *(b)* HM Prison Morton Hall are (i) UK and (ii) foreign nationals. [258087]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the numbers of foreign national and British national prisoners held in Drake Hall and Morton Hall as at the end of December 2008.

	Establishment	
	Drake Hall	Morton Hall
Total population	224	332
Foreign nationals	45	225
British nationals	177	107
Nationality unrecorded	1	0

These figures have been taken from the Ministry of Justice published monthly briefing which can be accessed at the following website, where the foreign national prisoner statistics are updated quarterly:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

The population breakdowns by nationality have been scaled and also rounded to the nearest whole number; individual components may not sum to the totals.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Young People: Police Custody

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many juveniles were detained in police cells overnight in the last year for which figures are available. [256364]

Mr. Hanson: It is the Government's policy that young people should only be held overnight in police cells in the most exceptional circumstances. Our records indicate that in the last 12 months, seven young people under 18 were held overnight in police cells pending transfer to a secure establishment. That includes four young people who were accommodated in police cells on the night of 2 February 2009 owing to adverse weather conditions.

Young People: Remand in Custody

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of detaining juveniles *(a)* under court-ordered secure remand and *(b)* remanded in custody in the last year for which figures are available. [256363]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Justice Board have calculated that in 2007-08 the total cost of detaining young people under a court ordered secure remand was £19,218,653. This includes contributions from both local authorities and the Youth Justice Board.

In respect of those young people remanded into custody there is no distinction made in the Youth Justice Board's Service Level Agreement with the Prison Service between the cost of remands to custody and the cost of custodial sentences. However, based on the average costs of a bed in a young offenders institution and the average number of young people remanded to custody, the Youth Justice Board have estimated that the total cost of remands to custody in 2007-08 was £26,982,000.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Detainees

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the United States administration on allegations of torture at Guantanamo Bay. [250458]

Bill Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office maintains an active bilateral dialogue on a range of human rights and international legal issues with the US Government, including on the prohibition of the use of torture. We have raised with the US allegations of mistreatment put to us by our nationals or residents currently or formerly detained at Guantanamo Bay. In the last year we have asked the US Administration to investigate allegations of mistreatment raised by UK residents Omar Deghayes, Abdennour Sameur and Binyam Mohamed including in relation to periods of detention prior to their transfer to Guantanamo Bay.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to instigate quarterly reports to Parliament of *(a)* UK strategy and objectives in Afghanistan and *(b)* UK performance against those objectives. [256063]

David Miliband: The Government have no plans to establish a system of quarterly reports to Parliament on UK strategy and performance in Afghanistan. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister set out the UK's long-term and comprehensive framework for security, political, social and economic development for Afghanistan on 12 December 2007. Ministers will continue to provide frequent reports to the House on UK policy in Afghanistan and progress in pursuit of our objectives.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date the 2008 periodic review of British strategy in Afghanistan was completed. [256067]

David Miliband: An internal stock-take of progress in Afghanistan in the 12 months to November 2008 was completed in December 2008. During the Queen's Speech debate on 3 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 28, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister noted that the Government were conducting a review of Afghanistan policy. That review is ongoing, drawing on the findings of the stock take and discussions with partners. The implications and findings of the review will be communicated to Parliament.

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [248119]

Bill Rammell: Afghanistan remains one of the Government's top foreign policy priorities. Developments are kept under constant review. Since 2001 there has been considerable political progress in Afghanistan. Notable achievements include the first nationwide democratic presidential and parliamentary elections and ratification of a new constitution.

With international support, Afghan-led presidential, parliamentary, provincial and district council elections are due to take place this year and in 2010. Voter registration is well under way and the third phase of this has now been completed.

We and our international partners continue to provide development assistance and work with the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) to ensure the political space exists for Afghanistan to continue to develop democratically. Building capacity in the ANSF remains key for Afghanistan to take responsibility for its own security. In 2008 the Afghan National Army participated in 70 per cent. of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's International Security Assistance Force operations.

Africa: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the joint Rwanda-Democratic Republic of Congo initiative against FDLR forces. [256559]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* Long-term peace and stability in the Great Lakes region of Africa depends on good relations between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda. The presence of the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR) militia in eastern DRC is one of the fundamental causes of the conflict there. We support the decision of the two Governments to co-operate in efforts to disband the group, and urge that they involve UN peace keepers fully in any military planning, and that any action undertaken minimises the risks to the civilian population.

Anglo Leasing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Kenyan authorities on the Serious Fraud Office inquiry into the Anglo Leasing affair; and whether any future discussions are planned. [256221]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 11 February 2009]:* Officials at our high commission in Nairobi have made repeated representations to the Kenyan Attorney General, the Kenyan Anti-Corruption Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), to encourage co-operation with the inquiry into the Anglo Leasing matter. We will continue to raise this matter with the Kenyan Government and look forward to hearing how the Kenyan Government plans to progress the case. We welcome the assurance from the SFO that they are willing to look at reopening the case should evidence be received from Kenya.

Asia: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what terms of reference Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles has been given in relation to his role as Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan. [256611]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* The Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan will work closely with our ambassador in Kabul and our high commissioner in Islamabad, as well as co-ordinating with the other key Government Departments working on Afghanistan and Pakistan. He will focus on the cross-cutting issues facing both Governments, such as counter-extremism. He will work closely with his US counterpart, ambassador Richard Holbrooke, and will consult with other international partners to help build consensus and support for the Afghan and Pakistani Governments.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he had with the Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan on the appointment of a Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan before Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles was appointed to that post. [256612]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* Ministers and senior officials spoke to their Afghan and Pakistani counterparts to discuss the appointment of Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles on 6 and 7 February 2009. Our embassy in Kabul and high commission in Islamabad also discussed the appointment of the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan with their host Governments before its announcement on 9 February 2009.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what staff will be allocated from his Department to Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles to support him in his role as Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan. [256613]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* The Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan will have two members of staff allocated to support him. The Special Representative will also be able to draw on the expertise of Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff working on Afghanistan and Pakistan as well as several other Government Departments, and our missions in Kabul, Lashkar Gah, Islamabad, Karachi, and the wider region.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the post of Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan is additional to his Department's establishment; and whether the appointment has been made for a fixed period. [256615]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* The position of Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan comes from the reallocation of existing resources within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The appointment has no fixed term but will be kept under periodic review.

Australia: Foreign Relations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a presentation to the Britain-Australia Society on his policy for UK-Australian relations. [248353]

Gillian Merron: The UK's close relationship with Australia is extremely important. It is based on a shared history, common values and vibrant people-to-people links. We remain in close and regular contact with the Australian Government at all levels, as we continue to work together to address the global challenges that we both face.

Binyam Mohamed

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions officers of the UK security services have interviewed Mr. Binyam Mohamed since April 2002. [257001]

Bill Rammell: As stated in official evidence in the recent High Court proceedings, Mr. Binyam Mohamed was interviewed on one occasion only, in May 2002, by the Security Service.

Bosco Ntaganda

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on *(a)* Bosco Ntaganda's indictment by the International Criminal Court and *(b)* Bosco Ntaganda's recent dealings with the authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [256523]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* The warrant unsealed by the International Criminal Court in 2008 for the arrest of Bosco Ntaganda remains outstanding. Mr. Ntaganda has been the de facto leader of the rebel National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP) militia in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) since the arrest of Laurent Nkunda in January 2009. We understand the DRC Government is co-operating with Ntaganda as part of the process to integrate CNDP members into the Congolese armed forces.

Bosnia: Overseas Investment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage foreign direct investment in Bosnia and Herzegovina. [244537]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) have a small team, based at the British embassy in Sarajevo, providing tailored support to UK companies wishing to expand their operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina through international trade or investment.

UKTI also provides information and links to useful sources of information, on investing in Bosnia and Herzegovina via the UKTI website

www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk.

The Foreign Investment Promotion Agency (FIPA) of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a state agency whose aim is to attract and maximise foreign direct investment into Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to encourage existing foreign investors to expand and develop their business in the country.

The FIPA offer a range of services to foreign investors and the UKTI team are able to provide appropriate contacts in FIPA for UK companies interested in investing there.

The UK has also been supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress towards the EU. In June 2008 Bosnia and Herzegovina signed a stabilisation and association agreement, an important step on the path to EU accession. Its aim is to a process which promotes stability and transition to a market economy.

China: Arms Control

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many meetings of the UK-China Bilateral Group on arms control and disarmament have been held since its inception; what *(a)* matters have been discussed and *(b)* decisions have been taken by the group; and if he will publish (i) each paper discussed by the group and (ii) the minutes of each meeting on his Department's website. [255773]

Bill Rammell: There is no formal bilateral working group between the UK and China on arms control and disarmament. However, we maintain a high level dialogue between senior officials to discuss counter-proliferation issues. The most recent of these exchanges took place in September 2008 between the FCO Director-General for Defence and Intelligence and her Chinese counterpart. I recently raised matters of counter-proliferation with my Chinese counterpart during my visit to Beijing last month. In addition, embassy officials in Beijing regularly meet officials from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss these issues.

Climate Change: Developing Countries

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what activities the UK Climate Security Envoy for Vulnerable Countries has undertaken since his appointment. [255171]

Gillian Merron: Since his appointment in October 2008, the UK Climate Security Envoy has been working closely with Department for International Development (DFID) to devise an engagement strategy for the countries most vulnerable to climate change worldwide, which are often the poorest. The aim is to help their voice be heard more clearly by the major economies. This is being taken forward by direct contacts with the countries concerned, including by the envoy and through the network of Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts and DFID offices.

Conflict Resolution

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which dates the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Conflict Resolution Mechanisms met representatives of *(a)* the

United Nations, *(b)* the EU, *(c)* the African Union and *(d)* others; and where each meeting took place. [256826]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 February 2009]*: Jack McConnell MSP, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Conflict Resolution Mechanisms, is based in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He met officials from the European Council, European Commission and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation on 9-10 December 2008 in Brussels, and from the UN on 15-16 December 2008 in New York. Mr. McConnell also met EU officials on 2-3 February 2009 in Bosnia. He plans to meet officials from the African Union shortly.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what communications the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Conflict Resolution Mechanisms has had with *(a)* the United Nations, *(b)* the EU, *(c)* the African Union and *(d)* others, broken down by type of communication; and on which dates such communications took place. [256827]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 February 2009]*: Jack McConnell MSP, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Conflict Resolution Mechanisms, is based in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He met officials from the European Council, European Commission and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation on 9-10 December 2008 in Brussels, and from the UN on 15-16 December 2008 in New York. Mr. McConnell also met EU officials on 2-3 February 2009 in Bosnia. He plans to meet officials from the African Union shortly.

Defence: Expert Capability

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recommendations the Cabinet Office review of the UK's civilian expert capability made in relation to the operation of his Department; and what steps are being taken to implement them. [253957]

David Miliband: The Cabinet Office Review of the UK's civilian expert capacity, agreed by National Security, International Relations and Development Overseas and Defence sub-committee Ministers on 21 January 2009, recommended enhancing the role of the Cross-Departmental Stabilisation Unit jointly managed by the Department for International Development (DFID), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD), to allow it to become the primary Government delivery unit for deploying high quality civilian experts, as part of improving the overall effectiveness of our deployable civilian capability. An implementation team, drawn from the FCO, DFID and the MOD is being established to take forward the review's recommendations, including the proposal to transfer the management of secondments to multilateral missions, such as the EU and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, from the FCO to the Stabilisation Unit.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1519W, on armed conflict: reconstruction, if he will place a copy of the Cabinet Office review of the UK's civilian expert capability in the Library. [253964]

David Miliband: The recommendations of the Cabinet Office Review into Stabilisation and Civil Effect were presented to Ministers as a Cabinet Sub-Committee Paper. The Cabinet Office has advised that this paper should not be placed in the Library. Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees, including Cabinet Committee papers, is generally not disclosed as to do so could be prejudicial to the formulation of policy through full and frank discussion.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many letters received by his Department more than *(a)* one month and *(b)* three months ago have not been answered. [255495]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is as follows:

(a) 121

(b) 4

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost of maintaining the databases owned and managed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies was in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [256150]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) resource accounts record the following consolidated administration expenditure on all IT and communications in the past three financial years:

	£ million
2007-08	114.643
2006-07	78.959
2005-06	109.797

These figures include expenditure by the FCO's two agencies (FCO Services and Wilton Park), and covers all non-capital costs, including communications, incurred in the provision of data to staff worldwide.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to his Department of replying to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* January to July 2008 was. [255680]

Gillian Merron: A report prepared for the Ministry of Justice by Frontier Economics Ltd., in October 2006, entitled "Independent Review of the impact of the Freedom of Information Act" estimated a figure of £254 for a central Government body to deal with an initial freedom of information request. Based on this

figure, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has spent an estimated £805,434 since 2006.

The report is available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.foi.gov.uk/reference/foi-independent-review.pdf

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which websites are operated by his Department in addition to its main website; and what the operating budget for those websites is. [251405]

Caroline Flint: In addition to the main website

www.fco.gov.uk

the FCO operates the following websites on its corporate web platform:

Website	*Language*
britishembassyinIreland.fco.gov.uk	English
emedia-secure.fco.gov.uk	(best practice website for staff)
foi.fco.gov.uk	English
ukeu.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinafghanistan.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinalbania.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinalbania.fco.gov.uk	Albanian
ukinalgeria.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinalgeria.fco.gov.uk	French
ukinangola.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinangola.fco.gov.uk	Portuguese
ukinargentina.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinargentina.fco.gov.uk	Spanish
ukinarmenia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinarmenia.fco.gov.uk	Armenian
ukinaustralia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinaustria.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinazerbaijan.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinazerbaijan.fco.gov.uk	Azeri
ukinbahrain.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinbangladesh.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinbangladesh.fco.gov.uk	Bangla
ukinbarbados.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinbelaras.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinbelarus.fco.gov.uk	Belarussian
ukinbelgium.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinbelgium.fco.gov.uk	French
ukinbelgium.fco.gov.uk	Dutch
ukinbelize.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinbermuda.fco.gov.uk	(demo website)
ukinbih.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinbolivia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinbolivia.fco.gov.uk	Spanish
ukinbotswana.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinbrazil.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinbrazil.fco.gov.uk	Portuguese
ukinbrunei.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinbrunei.fco.gov.uk	Malay
ukinbulgaria.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinbulgaria.fco.gov.uk	Bulgarian
ukinburma.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinbvi.fco.gov.uk	English
ukincambodia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukincameroon.fco.gov.uk	English
ukincameroon.fco.gov.uk	French
ukincanada.fco.gov.uk	English
ukincanada.fco.gov.uk	French
ukincayman.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinchile.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinchile.fco.gov.uk	Spanish
ukinchina.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinchina.fco.gov.uk	Chinese
ukincolombia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukincolombia.fco.gov.uk	Spanish
ukincostarica.fco.gov.uk	English
ukincostarica.fco.gov.uk	Spanish
ukincroatia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukincuba.fco.gov.uk	English
ukincuba.fco.gov.uk	Spanish
ukincyprus.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinczechrepublic.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinczechrepublic.fco.gov.uk	Czech
ukindenmark.fco.gov.uk	English
ukindenmark.fco.gov.uk	Danish
ukindominicanrepublic.fco.gov.uk	English
ukindominicanrepublic.fco.gov.uk	Spanish
ukinecuador.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinecuador.fco.gov.uk	Spanish
ukinegypt.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinegypt.fco.gov.uk	Arabic
ukinestonia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinestonia.fco.gov.uk	Estonia
ukinethiopia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinfiji.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinfinland.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinfinland.fco.gov.uk	Finnish
ukinfinland.fco.gov.uk	Swedish
ukinfrance.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinfrance.fco.gov.uk	French
ukingambia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukingeorgia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukingermany.fco.gov.uk	English
ukingermany.fco.gov.uk	German
ukinghana.fco.gov.uk	English
ukingreece.fco.gov.uk	English
ukingreece.fco.gov.uk	Greek
ukinguatemala.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinguyana.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinholysee.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinhongkong.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinhongkong.fco.gov.uk	Chinese
ukinhungary.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinhungary.fco.gov.uk	Hungarian
ukiniceland.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinindia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinindonesia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukiniran.fco.gov.uk	English
ukiniran.fco.gov.uk	Farsi
ukiniraq.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinisrael.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinisrael.fco.gov.uk	Hebrew
ukinitaly.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinitaly.fco.gov.uk	Italian
ukinjamaica.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinjapan.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinjapan.fco.gov.uk	Japanese
ukinjerusalem.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinjerusalem.fco.gov.uk	Arabic
ukinjordan.fco.gov.uk	English

Website	*Language*
ukinjordan.fco.gov.uk	Arabic
ukinkenya.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinkorea.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinkorea.fco.gov.uk	Korean
ukinkosovo.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinkuwait.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinkz.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinkz.fco.gov.uk	Russian
ukinlatvia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinlatvia.fco.gov.uk	Latvian
ukinlebanon.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinlebanon.fco.gov.uk	Arabic
ukinlibya.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinlibya.fco.gov.uk	Arabic
ukinlithuania.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinlithuania.fco.gov.uk	Lithuanian
ukinluxembourg.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinmacedonia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinmalawi.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinmalaysia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinmalta.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinmauritius.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinmexico.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinmexico.fco.gov.uk	Spanish
ukinmoldova.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinmoldova.fco.gov.uk	Romanian
ukinmoldova.fco.gov.uk	Russian
ukinmongolia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinmontenegro.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinmorocco.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinmorocco.fco.gov.uk	French
ukinmozambique.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinmozambique.fco.gov.uk	Portuguese
ukinnamibia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinnepal.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinnewzealand.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinnigeria.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinnl.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinnorway.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinoman.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinoman.fco.gov.uk	Arabic
ukinpakistan.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinpakistan.fco.gov.uk	Urdu
ukinpanama.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinpanama.fco.gov.uk	Spanish
ukinperu.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinperu.fco.gov.uk	Spanish
ukinpng.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinpoland.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinpoland.fco.gov.uk	Polish
ukinportugal.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinportugal.fco.gov.uk	Portuguese
ukinqatar.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinqatar.fco.gov.uk	Arabic
ukinromania.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinromania.fco.gov.uk	Romanian
ukinrussia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinrussia.fco.gov.uk	Russian
ukinrwanda.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinsaudiarabia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinsaudiarabia.fco.gov.uk	Arabic
ukinsenegal.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinsenegal.fco.gov.uk	French
ukinserbia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinserbia.fco.gov.uk	Serbian
ukinseychelles.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinsierraleone.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinsingapore.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinslovakia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinslovenia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinsouthafrica.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinspain.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinspain.fco.gov.uk	Spanish
ukinsrilanka.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinsudan.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinsudan.fco.gov.uk	Arabic
ukinsweden.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinswitzerland.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinsyria.fco.gov.uk	English
ukintaiwan.fco.gov.uk	English
ukintaiwan.fco.gov.uk	Chinese
ukintajikistan.fco.gov.uk	English
ukintajikistan.fco.gov.uk	Russian
ukintanzania.fco.gov.uk	English
ukintanzania.fco.gov.uk	Swedish
ukinthailand.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinthailand.fco.gov.uk	Thai
ukinthephilippines.fco.gov.uk	English
ukintrinidadandtobago.fco.gov.uk	English
ukintunisia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukintunisia.fco.gov.uk	French
ukinturkey.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinturkey.fco.gov.uk	Turkish
ukinturkmenistan.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinturkmenistan.fco.gov.uk	Russian
ukinturkmenistan.fco.gov.uk	Turkmen
ukinuae.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinuganda.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinukraine.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinukraine.fco.gov.uk	Ukrainian
ukinun.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinuruguay.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinuruguay.fco.gov.uk	Spanish
ukinusa.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinuzbekistan.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinuzbekistan.fco.gov.uk	Russian
ukinvenezuela.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinvenezuela.fco.gov.uk	Spanish
ukinvietnam.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinvietnam.fco.gov.uk	Vietnamese
ukinyemen.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinyemen.fco.gov.uk	Arabic
ukinzambia.fco.gov.uk	English
ukinzimbabwe.fco.gov.uk	English
uknato.fco.gov.uk	English
ukoecd.fco.gov.uk	English
ukun.fco.gov.uk	English
ukunarmscontrol.fco.gov.uk	English
ukungeneva.fco.gov.uk	English
www.fco.gov.uk/ar	Arabic
www.fco.gov.uk/ur	Urdu
www.ukvisas.gov.uk	English
www.londonsummit.gov.uk	English

I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1043W, which gives details on the costs of maintaining these sites. The cost of maintaining our 232 departmental websites on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s previous web platform in 2007-08 was approximately £870,000. The cost of

maintaining the 240 departmental websites on the FCO's new web platform in 2008-09 is expected to be £1,386,000. These figures cover hosting and support costs, but are not directly comparable because of the extensive changes in the way the web platform is managed in 2008-09, compared to 2007-08. The costs do not include staff time spent updating the website.

Departmental Lobbying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Ministers in his Department received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [255229]

Gillian Merron: No.

Departmental Reorganisation

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1399W, on departmental reorganisation, what decisions have been made about the level of his Department's funding for science and innovation in financial years *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [246281]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills have agreed funding arrangements for the next two years on science and innovation work. This will see an increase from £9.85 million in 2008-09 to £10.15 million in 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Departmental Secondment

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1773-77W, on departmental secondment, how many officials are on secondment from his Department, broken down by *(a)* job title, *(b)* grade and *(c)* department or institution to which they are seconded. [257091]

Gillian Merron: As at 1 February 2009 there were 136 officials seconded from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to a wide range of other Government Departments, non-governmental organisations and the private sector. The 136 officials comprise 40 senior management level, 17 at D7, 34 at D6, 11 at C5, 15 at C4, 14 at B3 and five at A2 level. For security reasons it is not possible to provide a breakdown by job title and Department or institution.

These figures do not include FCO staff working for UK Trade & Investment or the UK Borders Agency.

EU Foreign Policy

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what foreign policy objectives the EU has established, ranked in order of priority assigned by the Council of Ministers; and if he will make a statement. [254456]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 5 February 2009]:* The European Council sets the direction for the EU through a process of negotiation between the 27 member states, and makes its decisions known through Council conclusions. Every six months the rotating EU presidency publishes a plan of action which is reported to the Council and contains a section on foreign policy. However, these papers do not rank foreign policy objectives in priority order.

The 2003 European Security Strategy (ESS) provides the framework for the EU's external action. In December 2008 the European Council endorsed the High Representatives Review of the implementation of the ESS. The ESS and the review suggest that Europe needs to be more active, more capable and more coherent in the external sphere and to work with partners in achieving its objectives. These include tackling distant threats such as terrorism and proliferation, with a focus on Iran and North Korea; building security in our neighbourhood including in the Balkans, the Middle East and the Mediterranean; and contributing to a well functioning international institutional system that is rule-based. The documents set out the need for the EU to tackle concerns over "frozen conflicts", to push towards a settlement in the Middle East and to focus on ensuring energy security, including greater diversification of energy sources and a more unified energy market within the EU.

The review makes clear the principle that states have a shared responsibility to protect populations, and that there is a link between security and development leading to the need for a comprehensive approach to conflict prevention and resolution combining all of the tools at the EU's disposal. The review also acknowledges the role that the EU has to play in conflicts further afield such as stabilising Afghanistan, and supporting UN objectives in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan/Darfur, Chad and Somalia. It also recognises the need for the EU to expand relationships with China and India and maintain close ties with Canada and Japan, and build on relations with Brazil and South Africa.

EU Satellite Centre

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of the funding of the European Union Satellite Centre in Torrejón, Spain came from the United Kingdom in 2008. [257067]

Caroline Flint: The UK paid 16.90 per cent. to the EU Satellite Centre's budgets last year, in accordance with the gross national income key rate for 2008. This represented £1.4 million towards the centre's budget.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to the public purse was of requests by the UK for information from the European Union Satellite Centre in Torrejón, Spain in 2008. [257068]

Caroline Flint: There was no additional cost to the public purse of requests by the UK for information from the EU Satellite Centre (EUSC) in Torrejón, Spain in 2008.

Although the UK did submit some tasks in 2008, these were assessed to be of interest to other member states as well, and were adopted as Council tasks. There was therefore no additional charge to the UK, beyond our mandatory annual contribution towards the costs of the EUSC.

The EUSC board approves a new budget annually, and the UK's annual contribution therefore changes each year according to the size of the uplift and any changes to the gross national income key rate applied. In 2008, the UK's contribution was £1.4 million.

Falkland Islands: Air Routes

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on the British Antarctic Survey of recent increases in fares on the Falkland Islands airbridge. [257812]

Gillian Merron: It is understood that the impact of recent fare increases remains manageable within the British Antarctic Survey budget.

Fines

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any administrative financial penalties may be levied by his Department and its agencies. [253594]

Gillian Merron: Neither the Foreign and Commonwealth Office nor its agencies can levy administrative financial penalties.

Guantanamo Bay

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the Government plans to provide the US administration in closing the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. [255561]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 10 February 2009]:* We welcome President Obama's Executive Order to close Guantanamo Bay within one year, and further Orders on detainee treatment and interrogation techniques. The UK has long called for the closure of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility and we recognise that the US Government will require help from its allies to achieve this. We have already secured the release and return of 13 UK nationals and residents from Guantanamo Bay. We will continue to share our experience in accepting the transfer of former Guantanamo detainees with our European partners and others to help support the closure of the detention facility.

Horn of Africa: Politics and Government

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the current political situation in *(a)* Somalia, *(b)* Ethiopia and *(c)* the surrounding region; and if he will make a statement. [254116]

Gillian Merron: The Somali Parliament expanded its number of seats by 275 during the latest round of talks in Djibouti in the last week of January. Over 150 new Members of Parliament (MPs) were sworn in. The MPs elected a new President, Sheikh Sharif Ahmed, on 31 January 2009, who will lead the Somali Government. It is too early to assess whether this development will help to produce the broad-based Government Somalia needs, although the expansion of Parliament is in itself a positive development.

We are working with the Ethiopian Government to ensure political space is maintained ahead of the Ethiopian national elections next year. Our current concerns focus around the passing of a law regulating non-governmental organisation social advocacy, and the re-arrest of the opposition politician Birtukan Midekssa.

We welcomed the completion of Ethiopia's mission in Somalia, and its withdrawal.

The UN Security Council (UNSC) recently passed a resolution condemning Eritrea for its incursion into Djibouti in June 2008. We will continue to monitor the dispute, paying particular attention to the deadline set by the UNSC for Eritrea to take action to engage on and resolve the dispute with Djibouti.

In relation to the Ethiopia-Eritrea border dispute, while there has been no recent fighting, a resolution of the underlying problem currently appears unlikely.

India: Terrorism

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Indian counterpart about international terrorism. [254683]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited India on 13-15 January 2009. During his visit he met his Indian counterpart, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, where they discussed the challenge that both the UK and India face from international terrorism, and the importance of strengthening bilateral counter terrorism co-operation.

Following his subsequent visit to Islamabad on 16-17 January 2009, the Foreign Secretary outlined in a letter to External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee the messages he gave to the government of Pakistan. He highlighted the need for Pakistan to take rapid, concrete action to bring the perpetrators of the Mumbai attacks to justice and to dismantle terror networks operating on Pakistani soil.

International Relations

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on the observance in the UK of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories pursuant to UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/63/110; and if he will make a statement. [254098]

Gillian Merron: No such representations have been received. The UK remains committed to modernising its relationship with the Overseas Territories, whilst taking fully into account the views of the peoples of the Territories.

Iran: International Relations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next expects the foreign ministers of the P5+1 to meet to discuss a new UN Security Council Resolution on Iran; and if he will make a statement. [253953]

David Miliband: Senior officials from the E3+3 met on 4 February 2009. They reaffirmed their commitment to achieving a diplomatic resolution to the Iran nuclear issue based on the dual track strategy embodied in a series of UN Security Council Resolutions. They agreed to consult on next steps. At present, a date has not been set for a meeting of E3+3 Foreign Ministers.

Iran: Proscribed Organisations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from the Government of Iran on the decision to de-proscribe the People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran as a terrorist organisation within the European Union; and if he will make a statement. [253954]

David Miliband: The status of the Mujaheddin-e-Khalq (MEK, also known as the People's Mujahedeen Organisation of Iran or PMOI) has been regularly discussed by Ministers and officials in meetings with their Iranian counterparts, most recently, on 7 February 2009, when the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Ali Larijani, raised the issue with me.

On 26 January 2009 the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council adopted a new list of proscribed organisations and individuals, which did not include the PMOI.

Iraq: Asylum

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to seek to ensure the recognition of international humanitarian requirements in respect of the inhabitants of Ashraf city. [256110]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 10 February 2009]:* Responsibility for the camp was handed to the Iraqi authorities from 1 January 2009 by the US. The US will retain a presence at the camp in an advisory/monitoring capacity. We understand that the International Committee of the Red Cross is following developments at the camp closely and that the Iraqi authorities have undertaken to continue to provide access to such bodies as well as to the US authorities.

The US received assurances from the Iraqi authorities making clear their commitment to the humane treatment and continued wellbeing of the camp residents. We understand the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights also visited the camp and delivered these assurances to a representative body of the residents.

We are naturally concerned that the rights of all those involved are observed and that they continue to be treated humanely and their human rights respected. We understand that the US remains satisfied that the Iraqi authorities are fully aware of their responsibilities with regard to Camp Ashraf and its residents.

Israel: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what occasions since January 2008 *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have discussed with their Israeli counterparts Israel's possession of nuclear weapons. [255772]

Bill Rammell: Ministers have had no discussions, since January 2008, with our Israeli counterparts regarding their possession of nuclear weapons.

We have on a number of occasions called on Israel to accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty as a non-nuclear weapon state and also to the Chemical Weapons Convention, and will continue to do so.

Kashmir

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in India and Pakistan on the situation in Kashmir; what steps his Department is taking in support of a bilateral resolution between India and Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [255558]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last discussed the situation in Kashmir with Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee on 14 January 2009 and with Pakistani Foreign Minister Qureshi on 26 November 2008. Our policy towards Kashmir has not changed—we continue to encourage both Pakistan and India to seek a lasting resolution to the issue of Kashmir, which takes into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Through the Conflict Prevention Programme, the Government fund a number of projects designed to support efforts to facilitate dialogue, address the causes and impact of conflict and create improvements in the quality of life experienced by Kashmiris. We are supporting capacity-building and skills training for non-governmental organisations on both sides of the Line of Control, funding media projects that bring Indian and Pakistani journalists together, and helping with curriculum design that promotes a modern approach to education.

Kosovo: Politics and Government

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [257509]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has written to Prime Minister Thaçi warmly congratulating him on the first anniversary of Kosovo's independence, and has made a statement to the press.

In its first year, Kosovo's leaders have made significant progress in demonstrating their commitment to implementing Ahtisaari's Comprehensive Settlement Proposal. Since the largely peaceful transition to independence last February, a new constitution has been brought into force, important legislation has been created to protect communities within Kosovo, the EU's Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), has deployed

across Kosovo and the Kosovo security force has been created. Throughout this, Kosovo's Government have tackled obstacles and worked constructively with international partners.

Prime Minister Thaçi has announced the Kosovo Government's priorities for 2009: creating opportunities for capital investment and jobs, modernising Kosovo's infrastructure, improving education and the health service and creating a cleaner environment. These are key goals, and there is other important work to do too: improving outreach to communities, for which a successful outcome of the programme to devolve competences to representative local government is important, and working together with EULEX to tackle rule of law issues.

Legal Opinion

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost was of external legal services provided to his Department in each of the last five years. [251350]

Gillian Merron: The amount spent by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) on legal fees in respect of counsel and solicitors in private practice by way of disbursements via the Treasury Solicitor (the bulk of our external legal costs) in each of the past five years is as follows:

	£
2003-04	237,273.32
2004-05	331,731.68
2005-06	350,693.31
2006-07	409,173.17
2007-08	223,028.63

The FCO does not hold information on aggregate amounts of other external fees.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports the Government has received on war crimes allegedly committed by Hamas during Operation Cast Lead; and if he will make a statement. [255107]

Bill Rammell: We know that Hamas deliberately targets Israeli civilians. We have repeatedly condemned such attacks and for years we have classed the military wing of Hamas as a terrorist group.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of civilians who were allegedly *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured (i) in booby-trapped houses and (ii) by bombs placed by Hamas in the Gaza Strip during the recent hostilities; and if he will make a statement. [255108]

Bill Rammell: According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health (as at 5 February 2009) between 27 December 2008 and 18 January 2009 1,440 Palestinians were killed during the recent conflict in Gaza, of whom 431 were children and 114 were women.

The number of injuries stands at 5,380, of whom 1,872 are children and 800 are women.

We are unable to verify these figures or who was responsible when these deaths or injuries occurred.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of *(a)* rockets and *(b)* mortar shells fired at Israel since 18 January 2009; and if he will make a statement. [255109]

Bill Rammell: As at 9 February 2009, according to the Israeli Foreign Ministry, over 30 rockets, mortar shells and Grad missiles have been fired at Israel since the 18 January 2009.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the presence in the Gaza Strip of Iranian-made weapons; what assessment he has made of such reports; and what assessment he has made of the extent of the *(a)* cognisance of and *(b)* involvement in such activity by the Iranian Government. [256062]

David Miliband: Due to the sensitive nature of the reporting concerned we are unable to comment on this matter in detail.

However, we have long had serious concerns about the support that Iran provides in the form of funding, training and arms supplies to groups which are undermining peace in the Middle East through violence, including Hamas. Such support is unacceptable and only serves to undermine regional security. We hope that Iran will instead give political and diplomatic support to the Palestinian Authority in its attempts to build institutions and improve security.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made a recent assessment of the references to Jewish people in the Hamas Charter in relation to the political situation in Gaza. [256156]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 10 February 2009]*: We have made no recent assessment of the Hamas Charter. We have long been clear that there are significant aspects of the Hamas Charter, its policy and its action which we completely deplore.

The Government condemn all acts of racism, anti-Semitism and religious intolerance. We are fully committed to tackling these manifestations of hatred. That is why we extended the scope of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to cover religiously as well as racially aggravated offences.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the grade and salary range was of each member of his Department's staff seconded to support the Quartet Middle East Envoy in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; how many such staff will each grade and salary range will be so seconded in 2009; how much his Department spent on such staff in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008; and if he will make a statement. [248749]

Bill Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has seconded: one higher executive officer equivalent (salary range £23,157 to £31,495); one Grade 7 equivalent (salary range £38,852 to £53,783); and one senior civil servant (salary range £57,300 to £116,000) to work in Tony Blair's office between 2007-08. This is not set to change in 2009. The FCO is funding their salaries.

A locally engaged secondee to the Office of the Quartet Representative in Jerusalem from October 2007 to August 2008 was also funded through the Conflict Prevention Pool at a cost of £30,874. The Department for International Development also funds a secondee to provide expert governance analysis.

Middle East: Women

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to promote the inclusion of women in conflict resolution and peace building in Israel and Palestine as provided for under UN Security Council Resolution 1325; and if he will make a statement. [257295]

Bill Rammell: In both international organisations and at local levels, the UK remains a leading supporter of women's roles in delivering sustainable peace and security. We led the call for the adoption of both UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and the follow on resolution UNSCR 1820 and continue to support the inclusion of language that reaffirms the importance of UNSCR 1325 in UN peacekeeping mandates.

In Israel and Palestine, we have supported organisations working to promote women's roles in political processes and their ability to influence public policy.

Pakistan: Foreign Relations

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Pakistan on the death of Major General Amir Faisal Alavi (Ret'd); and if he will make a statement. [252075]

Bill Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has received a letter dated 23 January 2009 from a member of Major General Alavi's family, asking the FCO to register an interest in this case with the Pakistani authorities. We are seeking further information and will follow up on that basis.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what safeguards are in place to ensure that financial aid provided by the Government to Gaza is not used by Hamas *(a)* to procure weapons and *(b)* for any other military purpose. [254267]

Bill Rammell: It is vital that aid reaches the people in Gaza who need it and we take any diversion of aid very seriously. There are well developed international mechanisms for the delivery of aid in Gaza, principally through the UN Relief and Works Agency and the World Food Programme. The UK ensures, when deciding which humanitarian agencies to fund, that robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks are in place and that the organisations have experience of operating in Gaza to minimise any misappropriation of aid.

Persian Gulf: Politics and Government

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the sovereignty of the three islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa in the Persian Gulf. [254482]

Bill Rammell: The UK regards this dispute as a matter for resolution between the countries concerned.

Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1208-09W, on redundancy, what estimate he has made of the annual payroll savings resulting from staff exit schemes in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09, excluding the cost of severance packages; and what estimate he has made of such savings to be accrued by his Department in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [254396]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 5 February 2009]:* The annual payroll savings resulting from departures under staff exit schemes in 2007-08 were £5.7 million and in 2008-09 £3.5 million. Complete records are not held centrally for 2005-06 or 2006-07 and to obtain them would incur disproportionate cost.

The figures given for severance commitments in my answer of 25 November 2008 represented the total cost to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (to be paid out over periods of up to 10 years following the departure date) of all the severance packages agreed each year.

Reliable estimates of the balance between cost and savings of these departures would require calculating the annual payments and foregone salary up to age 60 for each member of staff who left under the schemes between 2005 and 2009. This would incur disproportionate cost.

All severance packages authorised under our early retirement schemes were calculated in strict accordance with the Civil Service Compensation Scheme.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not plan any large-scale exit schemes for the years 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Somalia: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the security situation in the Somali capital in the light of reports that Islamist forces have entered the city. [253955]

David Miliband: Although still fragile, security in the Somali capital appears to have improved since Ethiopia withdrew its troops and some displaced people are returning to the city. Some of the forces now in Mogadishu

have been described as Islamist, but only a small number are extremist anti-Government fighters, some of whom are known as the Shabaab.

South Africa: Entry Clearances

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received from the South African Government on proposed visa requirements for South African citizens visiting the UK. [256673]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has received no representations from the South African Government on the proposed visa requirements for South African citizens visiting the UK. In response to the decision to impose a visa regime on South Africa, the South African Government have noted their respect for the UK's sovereign right to make this decision and its commitment to continued co-operation on migration issues of mutual concern.

Spain: Overseas Residence

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens were registered as resident in Spain in each of the last 10 years. [257699]

Caroline Flint: The following figures are official figures obtained from the Spanish National Institute of Statistics for the number of British nationals registered with their local council. A large number of British residents, both full-time and part-time, do not register with either their local consulate or with the Spanish authorities. However, we estimate that there are currently in the region of one million British nationals living in Spain for all or part of the year.

	Number
1998	69,818
1999	76,874
2000	86,043
2001	99,803
2002	119,859
2003	161,507
2004	174,810
2005	227,187
2006	274,722
2007	314,951

Sri Lanka

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other contacts he has had with representatives of the Sri Lankan Government in 2009. [254628]

Bill Rammell: On 30 January 2009, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary telephoned President Rajapakse to discuss the current situation in Sri Lanka and to reiterate his call for a humanitarian ceasefire. Officials from our High Commission hold regular talks with the Sri Lankan Government.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to his Sri Lankan counterpart regarding the reports of high civilian casualties in the ongoing operations in the north of the country. [253348]

David Miliband: I made it clear in my written ministerial statement of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 29WS, that the Government are deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in northern Sri Lanka and the growing number of internally displaced persons.

In that statement, and in subsequent discussions with the Sri Lankan President and Foreign Minister, I have urged repeatedly for the Sri Lankan Government to call an immediate humanitarian ceasefire so that civilians have the opportunity to move away from the conflict area and humanitarian assistance can be safely delivered.

Sri Lanka: Storms

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his UN Security Council counterparts on a full UN needs assessment of the Vanni area in Sri Lanka following Cyclone Nisha in November 2008; and if he will make a statement. [253349]

David Miliband: The UK supports a full independent needs assessment mission to northern Sri Lanka. We are pressing the Sri Lankan Government at the highest level to allow this. We also regularly discuss the situation in Sri Lanka with other members of the UN Security Council.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to monitor the political situation in the Nuba Mountains; and what steps his Department is taking to support the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in the region. [255534]

Gillian Merron: Our embassy in Khartoum monitors the situation in the Nuba Mountains through its contacts with the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), the Government of Sudan and both parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the National Congress Party and the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Movement, and other contacts within Sudan including the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC).

We are supporting implementation of the CPA in the region through active participation in the Three Areas Working Group of the AEC, which visited South Kordofan, including the Nuba Mountains, in November 2008. We and other donors are providing funding for community based peace building efforts in the region.

Tony Blair

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 893W, on Tony Blair, how much expenditure has been *(a)* incurred by and *(b)* reimbursed to the Quartet Representative in each year since his appointment. [255378]

Bill Rammell: We do not directly oversee or reimburse expenses incurred by the Quartet Representative.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has seconded: one higher executive officer equivalent (salary range £23,157 to £31, 495); one Grade 7 equivalent (salary range £38,852 to £53,783); and one senior civil servant (salary range £57,300 to £116,000) to work in Tony Blair's office between 2007-2008. This is not set to change in 2009. The FCO is funding their salaries.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent proposals the UK has put forward to resolve the political situation in Zimbabwe; and what plans he has to place the situation in Zimbabwe on the formal agenda of the UN Security Council. [253951]

David Miliband: On 30 January, the MDC announced the acceptance of the power sharing accord brokered at the SADC summit on 26 January. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary issued a statement in response on 30 January.

We have always said that we can not see how a Government who include Mugabe can work. But we have also been clear that it is up to Zimbabweans to decide their own future. Our hope is that the parties can make the agreed work. We will judge the new Government on their actions. In common with other members of the international community, we will be looking for the Government to demonstrate, through their actions, a commitment to reform.

We would expect, in the coming days and weeks, to see the release of political prisoners, an immediate end to political violence and intimidation, the repeal of repressive legislation, the appointment of a credible finance team, and a clear roadmap to the next national elections. Our formal engagement, including the provision of donor support and the continuation of our efforts to encourage increased UN engagement, will depend on how the Government meet these expectations.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the Government have had with the new unity government of Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [255651]

Gillian Merron: The new unity Government were sworn in on 13 February 2009. Our engagement with the new Government, including the provision of donor support, will be dependent on the how the new Government demonstrate, through their actions, a commitment to change and reform.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Death: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group in each region died from an alcohol-related illness in 2007. [255200]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) males and (b) females in each age group in each region died from an alcohol-related illness in 2007. (255200)

The table attached provides the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in each government office region in England, for (a) males and (b) females, by age group, in 2007.

Table 1: Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[1], government office regions in England,[2] sex and age group,[3] 2007[4]

Deaths

Sex	Area	15 to 34	35 to 54	55 to 74	75+	Total
Male	North East	12	136	125	19	292
	North West	36	395	361	54	846
	Yorkshire and the Humber	18	192	199	28	437
	East Midlands	8	128	149	33	318
	West Midlands	17	241	225	39	522
	East of England	12	149	161	37	360
	London	19	211	209	38	477
	South East	12	222	294	56	584
	South West	14	167	184	35	400
Female	North East	10	77	60	16	163
	North West	18	214	195	37	464
	Yorkshire and the Humber	8	84	113	33	238
	East Midlands	14	81	84	16	195
	West Midlands	11	102	142	32	287
	East of England	6	77	86	44	213
	London	7	97	96	27	227
	South East	3	113	138	55	309
	South West	10	62	105	32	209

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in box 1 following.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008.
[3] There were no deaths in the age group one to 14.
[4] All figures are for deaths registered in 2007.

Box 1: Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	ICD-10 code(s)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65

Box 1: Alcohol-related causes of death – International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	ICD-10 code(s)
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Death: Clostridium Difficile

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many deaths of *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group where clostridium difficile was recorded as a cause of death took place in each of the last five years. [257178]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths of *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group where Clostridium difficile was recorded as a cause of death took place in each of the last five years. (257178)

The attached tables provide the number of deaths where Clostridium difficile was mentioned on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause (table 7) or as a contributing factor, (table 2) for *(a)* males and *(b)* females, by age group for 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Deaths with an underlying cause of Clostridium difficile[1], by age group and sex, England and Wales[2], 2003-07[3]

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
Age	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<45	0	2	0	0	2	2	1	9	3	5
45-54	2	2	3	1	6	9	10	8	8	13
55-64	6	17	19	12	20	23	27	38	51	46
65-74	39	49	37	63	81	104	150	168	163	207
75-84	116	223	185	284	301	465	463	785	595	829
85+	135	377	189	436	265	785	519	1,312	609	1,527

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Office for National Statistics: Report: Deaths involving Clostridium difficile in England and Wales, 2001-2005. Health Statistics Quarterly 33, 71-75.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2: Deaths where Clostridium difficile was mentioned as a contributory factor[1], by age group and sex, England and Wales[2], 2003-07[3]

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
Age	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<45	1	6	1	3	4	4	3	21	10	12
45-54	7	4	9	6	11	19	22	18	27	35
55-64	12	27	29	27	49	41	86	84	157	134
65-74	93	86	97	118	168	190	339	333	442	457
75-84	261	410	348	534	594	851	1,001	1,446	1,338	1,742
85+	254	643	326	740	498	1,328	961	2,166	1,247	2,723

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Office for National Statistics: Report: Deaths involving Clostridium difficile: England and Wales, 2001-2005. Health Statistics Quarterly 33, 71-75.
[2] Figures presented in table 2 include those where Clostridium difficile was recorded as the underlying cause (table 1).
[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Death: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many death certificates were issued in respect of deceased *(a)* men and *(b)* women which cited healthcare-associated infections as the underlying cause of death in each year since 2003, broken down by (i) age group and (ii) type of infection. [257555]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many death certificates were issued in respect of deceased (a) men and (b) women which cited (i) healthcare-associated infections as the underlying cause of death in each year since 2003, broken down by (i) age group and (ii) type of infection. (257555)

There is currently no official definition of deaths from healthcare associated infection. The attached tables provide the number of deaths where *Clostridium difficile* (table 1) and Meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) (table 2), two specific types of healthcare associated infection, were mentioned on the death certificate as the underlying cause for (a) men and (b) women, by age group for 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Deaths with an underlying cause of Clostridium difficile[1] by age group and sex, England and Wales[2] 2003-07[3]

Deaths

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
Age	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<45	0	2	0	0	2	2	1	9	3	5
45-54	2	2	3	1	6	9	10	8	8	13
55-64	6	17	19	12	20	23	27	38	51	46
65-74	39	49	37	63	81	104	150	168	163	207
75-84	116	223	185	284	301	465	463	785	595	829

Table 1: Deaths with an underlying cause of Clostridium difficile,[1] by age group and sex, England and Wales,[2] 2003-07[3]

Deaths

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
Age	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
85+	135	377	189	436	265	785	519	1,312	609	1,527

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Office for National Statistics' Report: Deaths involving *Clostridium difficile* England and Wales, 2001-2005. "Health Statistics Quarterly" 33,71-75.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2: Deaths with an underlying cause of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA),[1] by age group and sex, England and Wales,[2] 2003-07[3]

Deaths

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
Age	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
<45	11	11	20	9	11	13	11	10	18	10
45-54	10	6	8	10	9	9	12	11	7	5
55-64	14	15	21	13	30	8	36	18	23	19
65-74	47	42	52	27	64	30	63	42	56	33
75-84	118	69	124	90	129	110	153	107	140	76
85+	73	75	82	91	111	118	139	105	131	112

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Office for National Statistics' Report: Deaths involving *MRSA*: England and Wales, 2001-2005. "Health Statistics Quarterly" 33,76-81.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Death: Weather

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many excess winter deaths occurred in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each of the last 10 years. [257087]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many excess winter deaths occurred in (a) Eastbourne and (b) East Sussex in each of the last 10 years. (257087)

Estimates of excess winter deaths are based on the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July). The table attached provides the number of excess winter deaths that occurred in (a) Eastbourne local authority district and (b) East Sussex county for the years 1997/98 to 2006/07 (the latest figures available).

Table 1: Excess winter deaths,[1] Eastbourne local authority district and East Sussex county,[2] 1997-98 to 2006-07[3]

Deaths (persons)

Winter	*Eastbourne*	*East Sussex*
1997-98	80	260
1998-99	90	410
1999-2000	180	740
2000-01	40	320
2001-02	70	300
2002-03	90	220
2003-04	80	480
2004-05	100	360
2005-06	70	480
2006-07	70	250

[1] The estimated number of excess winter deaths is the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July). Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008.
[3] Figures are based on deaths occurring in each month.

Debts

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much household debt there was in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency, *(b)* county and *(c)* Government office region in September (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008. [255852]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question on how much household debt there was in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency, *(b)* county and *(c)* Government region in September (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008. (255852)

In the UK National Accounts the most appropriate measure of household debt is the total financial liabilities of the Household and Non Profit Institutions Serving Households (NPISH) combined sector. It is not possible to split the sectors, NPISH includes for example, charities, trade unions and churches, their liabilities are small in relation to the total.

Data for the total financial liabilities of the Household and NPISH sector only exists at a UK national level. There is no breakdown available at a *(a)* parliamentary constituency, *(b)* county, or a *(c)* Government region level.

Total financial liabilities of the Household and NPISH sector

£ billion

September	
2005	1,232
2006	1,372
2007	1,503
2008	1,568

Sources:
United Kingdom Economic Accounts, Quarter 3 2008 www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1904

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports

for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by (i) the Cabinet Office and (ii) its agency. [256059]

Mr. Watson: Copies of the display energy certificate and advisory reports have been placed in the Library.

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed in No. 10 Downing Street; [256202]

(2) how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [256216]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office. Checks on nationality are carried out on recruitment to the Cabinet Office. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the initial estimated *(a)* cost and *(b)* delivery date was of each ICT project initiated by the Cabinet Office in each year since 1997; what the (i) outturn cost and (ii) completion date was of each such project subsequently completed; which contractors were hired for each project; and how much has been paid to each contractor in respect of each project to date. [251374]

Mr. Watson: The following table lists the major ICT projects that have been undertaken by my Department.

Project	*Start year*	*Estimated cost (£ million)*	*Estimated delivery date*	*Outturn cost (£ million)*	*Outturn delivery date*	*Main contractor*
Flex transformation	2007	3.16	July 2008	Not yet complete	Not yet complete	Fujitsu
HR/Finance/ Procurement Shared Services	2007	8.3	May 2009	Not yet complete	Not yet complete	DWP
Government Gateway, Release 2.2	2007	2.53	April 2008	2.53	May 2008	Atos Origin
Government Gateway, Release 2.3	2008	1.2	July 2008	1.2	July 2008	Atos Origin
Government Gateway, business continuity	2007	2.7	April 2008	2.7	April 2008	Atos Origin
Government Gateway Strategic Support	2006	4.3	April 2008	4.3	April 2008	Atos Origin
ISAAC	2005	2.9	June 2007	2.9	July 2007	Hedra
e-RM	2005	3.7	March 2008	3.7	March 2008	Meridio HP Services

On SCOPE, I refer you to the answer given to the hon. Member for Beaconsfield (Mr. Grieve) on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 360W.

We have only included major projects in our response whose value exceeds £1 million. There are many other smaller lower cost projects, for example, to cover software development, hardware updates, infrastructure changes, but to collect all the requisite data would be at disproportionate cost.

Responsibility for the Government Gateway was transferred to DWP with effect from 1 April 2008.

Prior to 2005, the information requested is not readily available from the Department's accounting systems. Also payment to individual contractors is not readily available from the Department's accounting systems. This information is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many equalities impact assessments his Department has undertaken in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such assessments. [255080]

Mr. Watson: EIAs are an integral part of the policy making process, not an additional or separate exercise and so the number of EIAs is not available. A cost estimate would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people the Cabinet Office employs. [255678]

Mr. Watson: Cabinet office staff numbers are published quarterly and can be found on the Office for National Statistics website here:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/Table6AllDepts.xls

The most recent quarterly publication has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 154W, on departmental telephones, how many Cabinet Office mobile telephones procured for official use through the Vodafone contracts have been replaced due to *(a)* loss, *(b)* theft or *(c)* damage in the last 18 months. [249941]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office has recorded that of the mobile phones procured for official use under the Vodafone contracts, 11 have been reported lost, two stolen and 14 damaged during the past 18 months.

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what planning applications the Cabinet Office has made in the last 18 months. [249906]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office to him on 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1186W.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how much his Department has spent on potted plants in each of the last three years; [254430]

(2) how much the Cabinet Office has spent on flowers in each of the last three years; [254871]

(3) how much has been spent on *(a)* pot plants and *(b)* cut flowers for No. 10 Downing Street in each of the last three years. [256171]

Kevin Brennan: The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) by my hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1131W and to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) on 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 324W.

Departmental Procurement

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his Department's *(a)* procurement and *(b)* tendering policy is in respect of social enterprises. [255693]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her by the then Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office (Phil Hope) on 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2483-84W.

Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* people born in the UK, *(c)* foreign nationals, *(d)* non-UK EU nationals, *(e)* EU A8 nationals and *(f)* non-EU nationals of working age in the UK were in employment in the fourth quarter of 2008. [254174]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 23 February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of (a) UK nationals, (b) people born in the UK, (c) foreign nationals, (d) non-UK EU nationals, (e) EU A8 nationals and (f) non-EU nationals of working age in the UK were in employment in the fourth quarter of 2008. (254174)

The information requested is shown in the attached table. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, or the migrant worker figures published every quarter, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Employment levels and rates for working age[1] people, by nationality and country of birth three months ending December 2008: United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousands and percentage

	UK nationals		*UK born*		*Non-UK nationals[2]*		*Non-UK EU nationals*		*EU A8 nationals[3]*		*Non-EU nationals*	
	No.	*Rate (%)*	*No.*	*Rate (%)*	*No.*	*Rate (%)*	*No.*	*Rate (%)*	*No.*	*Rate (%)*	*No.*	*Rate (%)*
2008 Q4[4]	*25,749	75	*24,372	75	*2,342	69	*1,052	*77	**470	81	*1,290	63

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[2] Excludes those whose nationality was not known.
[3] EU A8 comprises Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.
[4] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:
Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical robustness
* 0 = CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 = CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc).
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Mr. Byers: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* people born in the UK and *(b)* migrant workers who were in employment in each month of 2008. [257518]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate he has made of the number of (a) people born in the UK and (b) migrant workers who were in employment in each month of 2008. (257518)

The attached table provides estimated employment levels for UK born and non-UK born people, for each quarter in 2008. Monthly data is not available.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently the estimates are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, or the migrant workers figures published every quarter, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

People aged 16 and over in employment by country of birth, three-month period ending March, June, September and December 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

2008	*UK born*	*Non-UK born*	*Total*[1]
Q1	25,755	3,682	29,438
Q2	25,759	3,714	29,475
Q3	25,799	3,727	29,533
Q4[2]	*25,612	*3,823	*29,443

[1] Includes those whose country of birth was not known.

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Statistical robustness

* 0 = CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.

** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.

*** 10 = CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable.

**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Note:

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.).

Source:

Labour Force Survey.

Foreign Workers: EU Countries

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many migrant workers from each EU member state have *(a)* entered and *(b)* left the UK in each (i) month, (ii) quarter and (iii) year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [250931]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many migrant workers from each EU Member State have *(a)* entered and *(b)* left the UK in each (i) month, (ii) quarter and (in) year since 1997. (250931)

The International Passenger Survey (IPS) is the only source of information on people entering and leaving the UK. The sample size of the IPS means that we cannot provide the level of detail requested; however the attached table provides estimates of migration by EU citizens, which is stated as being for work purposes, for each year since 1997. Figures for A8 citizens are identified separately in the table.

Please note that the migration estimates provided only cover those visiting or leaving the UK for periods of twelve months or more. They do not include short-term migrants (i.e. those entering or leaving the UK for less than twelve months). Also note that not all those travelling for work related reasons will become migrant workers since they may not find work in the UK. Similarly, those who travel for other purposes may subsequently work and therefore become migrant workers.

Work related migration by EU citizens: United Kingdom

Thousand

		Citizenship					
		British		*EU15 (excluding British)*		*A8*	
	Reason for migration	*Estimate*	*Percentage*	*Estimate*	*Percentage*	*Estimate*	*Percentage*
Inflow							
1997	All reasons	90	8	62	15	–	–
	Work related	46	11	18	17	–	–
1998	All reasons	104	8	70	11	–	–
	Work related	54	11	33	17	–	–

Work related migration by EU citizens: United Kingdom

Thousand

		Citizenship					
		British		*EU15 (excluding British)*		*A8*	
	Reason for migration	*Estimate*	*Percentage*	*Estimate*	*Percentage*	*Estimate*	*Percentage*
1999	All reasons	114	8	59	14	—	—
	Work related	55	10	32	17	—	—
2000	All reasons	98	9	59	12	—	—
	Work related	57	11	27	18	—	—
2001	All reasons	110	8	53	15	—	—
	Work related	52	11	32	21	—	—
2002	All reasons	96	10	55	15	—	—
	Work related	58	14	23	19	—	—
2003	All reasons	99	9	61	15	—	—
	Work related	45	12	34	22	—	—
2004	All reasons	84	8	—	—	49	17
	Work related	37	11	—	37	20	27
2005	All reasons	91	10	—	—	68	14
	Work related	48	13	—	—	61	15
2006	All reasons	77	11	—	—	81	14
	Work related	31	14	—	—	63	15
2007	All reasons	71	10	—	—	—	—
	Work related	32	12	—	—	—	—
Outflow							
1997	All reasons	135	7	32	16	—	—
	Work related	66	11	16	22	—	—
1998	All reasons	114	8	26	16	—	—
	Work related	47	10	16	18	—	—
1999	All reasons	115	7	47	13	—	—
	Work related	54	10	24	16	—	—
2000	All reasons	141	7	46	14	—	—
	Work related	68	10	24	19	—	—
2001	All reasons	133	7	40	15	—	—
	Work related	61	11	26	19	—	—
2002	All reasons	164	7	42	15	—	—
	Work related	75	10	24	19	—	—
2003	All reasons	170	7	42	20	—	—
	Work related	64	10	15	24	—	—
2004	All reasons	184	6	—	—	2	63
	Work related	63	9	—	—	—	—
2005	All reasons	174	7	—	—	15	29
	Work related	71	9	—	—	5	58

Work related migration by EU citizens: United Kingdom

Thousand

		Citizenship					
		British		*EU15 (excluding British)*		*A8*	
	Reason for migration	*Estimate*	*Percentage*	*Estimate*	*Percentage*	*Estimate*	*Percentage*
2006	All reasons	196	7			22	25
	Work related	81	9			11	37
2007	All reasons	159	6				
	Work related	74	8				

Thousand

		Rest of EU25 (excluding British)		*A8*		*Rest of EU27 (excluding British)*	
	Reason for migration	*Estimate*	*Percentage*	*Estimate*	*Percentage*	*Estimate*	*Percentage*
Inflow							
1997	All reasons						
	Work related						
1998	All reasons						
	Work related						
1999	All reasons						
	Work related						
2000	All reasons						
	Work related						
2001	All reasons						
	Work related						
2002	All reasons						
	Work related						
2003	All reasons						
	Work related						
2004	All reasons	57	14				
	Work related	20					
2005	All reasons	51	14				
	Work related	25	18				
2006	All reasons	56	12				
	Work related	21	17				
2007	All reasons			103	12	69	13
	Work related			82	14	43	16
Outflow							
1997	All reasons						
	Work related						
1998	All reasons						
	Work related						
1999	All reasons						
	Work related						

Thousand

		Rest of EU25 (excluding British)		A8		Rest of EU27 (excluding British)	
	Reason for migration	Estimate	Percentage	Estimate	Percentage	Estimate	Percentage
2000	All reasons	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Work related	..	..	..	..	..	..
2001	All reasons	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Work related	..	..	..	..	..	..
2002	All reasons	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Work related	..	..	..	..	..	..
2003	All reasons	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Work related	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004	All reasons	32	15	..	..	..	..
	Work related	17	19	..	..	..	..
2005	All reasons	32	17	..	..	..	..
	Work related	16	20	..	..	..	..
2006	All reasons	37	16	..	..	..	..
	Work related	14	24	..	..	..	..
2007	All reasons	..	..	25	21	40	14
	Work related	..	..	12	30	22	19

Note:
Conditional formatting has been applied to the estimates and standard error percentages. A standard error of <20 per cent. has a white background, ≥20 per cent. but <25 per cent. has a white background but is in italics and >25 per cent. is in italics with a grey background. A migration figure with a standard error of >25 per cent. is not considered to be reliable.

$$\% = \frac{\text{standard error}}{\text{estimate}} \times 100$$

Government Departments: Disclosure of Information

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many unauthorised disclosures of information for each Government Department have been reported to the Cabinet Office in each of the last 10 years; in each case, *(a)* what the nature of the information disclosed was, *(b)* to whom the information was disclosed and *(c)* what the post was of the person who disclosed the information; and if he will make a statement. [249762]

Mr. Watson: The total number of leaks recorded by Cabinet Office each year since 2005, when a central record was begun, is as follows:

	Total number of leaks
2005	78
2006	98
2007	50

Information for 2008 is currently being assessed. These numbers do not necessarily capture all instances of unauthorised disclosure across Government.

It is for departmental permanent secretaries to take decisions on whether leak investigations into the unauthorised disclosure of information originating in their Departments should be carried out. It has been the policy of successive Administrations not to comment on security matters other than in exceptional circumstances when it is in the public interest to do so.

Government Information Services: Public Consultation

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the set-up costs of the website www.showusabetterway.co.uk were; what the *(a)* operating and *(b)* maintenance costs of the website were in the last 12 months; and how many hits the site received during the last 12 months. [257000]

Mr. Watson: The Show Us A Better Way competition sought ideas from the public on how to reuse public information to better deliver public services—the best ones would get developed 'to the next level'. It was hosted online through:

http://typepad.com

The platform supported both:

www.showusabetterway.com

and

www.buildingdemocracy.co.uk

www.showusabetterway.com

received 224,421 page views and

www.buildingdemocracy.co.uk

received 25,405 over their lifetime.

The overall cost for developing the backend and designing the two sites was £9,223.75 (including COI fees of £650 and VAT at 17.5 per cent.). Operation and maintenance is done by existing civil servants within existing budgets: it takes very little time due to the blog structure. A years hosting cost $149.50.

Senior Civil Servants: Retirement

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of members of the Senior Civil Service will reach standard retirement age in the next five years. [255041]

Mr. Watson: Of all SCS members in post as at 31 March 2008, 285 (6.8 per cent.) will reach the age of 65 (statutory retirement age) on or before 6 February 2014.

Job Vacancies

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his latest estimate is of the number of job vacancies in the economy; and what forecast he has made of the number of vacancies in the economy in October 2009. [258247]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the latest estimate is of the number of job vacancies in the British economy and what forecast has been made of the number of vacancies in the economy in October 2009. (258247)

The latest, seasonally adjusted estimate of the number of vacancies in the United Kingdom was 504,000, for the 3 month period November 2008 to January 2009. The Office for National Statistics estimates the number of vacancies from the UK Vacancy Survey. No forecasts are made of future vacancy levels.

New Businesses

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many new businesses were registered in *(a)* Braintree and *(b)* England in the last five years. [256845]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what estimate has been made of the number of new businesses registered in (a) Braintree and (b) England in the last five years (256845).

Annual statistics on births, deaths and survivals of businesses are available from the ONS release on Business Demography. The table below contains the latest annual estimates.

Business Births

	Braintree	*England*
2003	720	236,220
2004	810	248,450
2005	750	241,410
2006	700	225,120
2007	830	266,165

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many non-departmental public bodies there have been in each year since 1980. [255681]

Mr. Watson: This information is published in the annual Cabinet Office Public Bodies report. Copies are available from the Libraries of the House.

Non-profit Making Associations

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will update the "Think Smart: think voluntary sector" good practice guidance on procurement to include social enterprise. [257063]

Kevin Brennan: I have no plans to update the "Think Smart: Think Voluntary Sector" guidance. Although the title refers to the voluntary sector, the key messages embedded in the document of improving the participation of third sector organisations in public service contracting are relevant for all third sector organisations including social enterprises.

Public Sector: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 468W, on central government manpower, which public sector bodies which were classified as central government for the purpose of employee headcounts were not included within the Civil Service as of *(a)* April 1997 and *(b)* the most recent date for which data are available. [257012]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning which public sector bodies were classified as central government for the purpose of employee headcounts, but were not included within the Civil Service as of (a) April 1997 and (b) the most recent date for which data is available.

Detailed information about the public bodies surveyed as part of the 1997 data collection which were classified as central government for the purpose of employee headcounts, but not included within the Civil Service is not available.

The most recent date for which estimates are available is September 2008. A full breakdown of public sector bodies not included within the Civil Service employee headcount is attached at Annex A.

Annex A

Public Sector Bodies classified as Central Government (for the purpose of employee headcount) but not included within Civil Service.

September 2008

HM Forces
National Health Service—Scotland
National Health Service—Wales
National Health Service—England
Police—England and Wales
Central Government—Northern Ireland
Probation Service England and Wales

Other Central Government:

Academy of St. Francis of Assisi
ADT College
Advantage West Midlands
Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board
Arts and Humanities Research Council
Arts Council of England (including all English Regional offices of The Arts Boards)
Bacon College
Bank of England
Barrow Green Court
Bexley Business Academy Ltd
Big Lottery Fund (formerly New Opportunities Fund)
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
Bord Gaidhlig Naa H-Alba (The Gaelic Development Agency)
Botanics Trading Company Ltd
BPEX
BRB (Residuary) Limited
Brit School for Performing Arts and Technology
British Broadcasting Corporation including BBC Resources Ltd
British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA)
British Film institute
British Film institute (Big Screen) Ltd including Connoisseur Video Ltd
British Museum
British Potato Council
Brooke Weston Technology College
Bwrdd Yr iaith Gymraeg
Capital City Academy Trust
Care Council for Wales
Careers Scotland
Child and Family Court Advisory and Support Service
Children's Commissioner for Wales
Churches Conservation Trust
City Technology College Kinghurst
Coal Authority
Commission for Architecture and The Built Environment (GSCC)
Commission for Equality and Human Rights
Commission for Local Administration in Wales
Commission for Local Administration England
Commission for Rural Communities
Commission for Social Care inspection
Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Community Development Foundation
Competition Commission
Competition Service
Construction Industry Training Board
Consumer Council for Postal Services
Consumer Council for Water
Countryside Council for Wales
Criminal Cases Review Commission
Crofters Commission
Deer Commission for Scotland
Diplomatic Service
Dixon City Academy
Djanogly City Academy Nottingham
East Midlands Development Agency
East Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association
East of England Development Agency (EEDA)
EBLEX Ltd
Economic and Social Research Council
Electoral Commission
Emmanuel College
Engineering Construction industry Training Board
English Heritage
English Partnerships
Film Council Ltd
Food from Britain
Football Licensing Authority
Gangmasters Licensing Authority
Gas and Electricity Consumer Council
Geffrye Museum Trust Limited
General Social Care Council (GSCC)
Grace Academy
Greater Manchester Museum of Science and Industry
Greig City Academy
Haberdashers Askes Hatcham College
Harris Academy Merton
Harris City Technology College
Healthcare Commission
Higher Education Funding Council for England
Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
Highland RFC Association
Highlands and Islands Enterprise (including all Regions)
Home-Grown Cereals Authority
Horserace Betting Levy Board
House of Commons (Staff)
Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority
Imperial War Museum
Independent Housing Ombudsman
Independent Living Funds
Independent Police Complaints Commission
Independent Safeguarding Authority
Investors in People UK
John Cabot City Technology College
John Madejski Academy
Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Kings Academy
Landau Forte College
Learning and Skills Council
Learning and Teaching Scotland
Legal Services Commission
Leigh City Technical College
Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru
Local Boundary Commission for Scotland
Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales
London 2012 Ltd
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation
Macmillan City Technical College
Medical Research Council
Mossbourne Academy
National Army Museum
National Audit Office
National Biological Standards Board
National College for School Leadership
National Consumer Council including Ltd
National Endowment for Science Technology and The Arts

National Forest Company
National Galleries of Scotland
National Gallery
National Heritage Memorial Fund
National Institute of Adult Continuing Education
National Library of Scotland
National Lottery Commission
National Museums and Galleries of Wales
National Museums Liverpool
National Museums of Scotland
National Policing Improvement Agency
National Portrait Gallery
Natural England
New Assembly Parliamentary Service
NMSI Trading Ltd
North Liverpool Academy
North West Development Agency
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Office of The Immigration Services Commissioner
Office of The information Commissioner
Olympic Delivery Authority
One Northeast
Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council
Partnership for Schools
Passenger Focus
Pensions Regulator
Petchey Academy
Plymouth Marine Laboratory
Public Lending Right
Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
RBG Kew Enterprises Ltd
Reserve Forces and Cadet Association for East Anglia
Reserve Forces and Cadet Association for The New England and Isle of Man
Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Greater London
Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Wales
Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Yorkshire and the Humber
Royal Botanic Gardens
Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales
Royal Household
Royal Marines Museum
Royal Naval Museum
Royal Naval Submarine Museum
S4C Masnachol Cyf including S4C Rhyngwladol Cyf, S4C2 and The Nursery Channel
Scottish Children's Reporter Admin
Scottish Enterprise
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Scottish Funding Councils for Further and Higher Education
Scottish Legal Aid Board
Scottish Natural Heritage
Scottish Parliament Corporate Body
Scottish Police Services Authority
Scottish Public Services Ombudsman
Scottish Qualifications Authority
Scottish Social Services Council
Sea Fish industry Authority
Sector Skills Development Agency
Security Industry Authority
Serious Organised Crime Agency
Sir John Soane's Museum
South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)
South East Reserve Forces and Cadets Association
South West of England Regional Development Agency
sportscotland
St. Paul's Academy
Stockley Academy
Student Loans Company Limited
Teacher Training Agency
Technology Strategy Board
The Academy At Peckham
The Arts Council of Wales Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru
The Board of Science Museum
The British Library
The City Academy Bristol
The City of London Academy
The Design Council
The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
The English Sports Council including The English Sports Council
The Environment Agency (including all Regional Divisions)
The Forestry Commission including Forest Enterprise and Forest Research
The Gambling Commission
The Horniman Public Museum and Public Park Trust
The Housing Corporation
The London Academy
The Museums Libraries and Archives Council
The Natural Environment Research Council
The Natural History Museum (including The Natural History Museum Trading Co Ltd)
The Parole Board
The Royal Air Force Museum
The Royal Armouries
The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
The Royal Commission On The Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland
The Scottish Arts Council
The Scottish Commission for The Regulation of Care
The Skills Development Scotland
The Sports Council for Wales
The Standards Board for England
The Standards Commission for Scotland
The United Kingdom Sports Council
The Wallace Collection
The Water Industry Commissioner for Scotland
The Wessex Reserve forces and Cadets Association
Thomas Telford School
Tourism Quality Services Ltd
Trinity Academy
Trustees for National Maritime Museum including National Maritime Museum Enterprises Ltd
Trustees of the Tate Gallery
United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority
United Learning Trust Academies
Unity City Academy Trust
V and A Enterprises Ltd
Valuation Tribunal Service

Victoria and Albert Museum
VisitBritain
VisitScotland
Walsall City Academy Trust Ltd
Welsh Fourth Channel Authority
West London Academy Ltd
West Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadet Association
West Northamptonshire Development Corporations
Westminster Academy
Yorkshire Forward
Youth Justice Board for England and Wales

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 468-73W, on central government: manpower, what changes have been made to the methodology for calculating the Civil Service headcount since May 1997. [257013]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question concerning what changes have been made to the methodology for calculating the Civil Service headcount since May 1997.

Estimates for the home civil service from Q3 2004 onwards are taken from the Civil Service element of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES). Estimates prior to this date are based on results from the Civil Service Statistics publication (Mandate collection) available for 1 April and 1 October. A quarterly path back to 1991 was estimated by Office for National Statistics (ONS) using standard procedures.

In 2005, ONS, in collaboration with other departments and the devolved administrations, implemented major improvements to public sector employment estimates. Standard definitions for public sector employment across all departmental statistics were agreed and a single definitive set of quarterly public sector employment estimates introduced.

The following are changes in definition that were implemented as part of the transition to QPSES. To maintain consistency with Cabinet Office no revisions were made to previously published statistics.

Self-employed, contract workers and agency temporary workers should be excluded from estimates.

Workers who only work part of the year (for example, those on casual or annualised hours contracts) should be counted at the time they are being paid for — if they are not working but are still being paid they should be included. If they are not working and not being paid at the reference point they should be excluded from the statistics.

Employees on different types of leave should be treated in the following way in headcounts:

All those on paid maternity leave should be included.

All those on paid sick leave (being paid either in full or part) should be included.

All those on paid special leave should be included.

Those employees on short-term unpaid leave should be included if they are on leave for a period for less than their pay period — they should be included even if they are absent on the reference date. If they are off for a period longer than their pay period then they should be excluded (for example, someone on a career break).

Unemployed people aged 16-24, by region Quarter 3 1997 to 2008, all calendar quarters from quarter 4 2006 to quarter 4 2008 United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

		North East	*North West*	*Yorkshire and Humberside*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*Eastern*	*London*
1997	Q3	39	93	60	42	74	54	104
1998	Q3	34	87	67	44	61	46	105
1999	Q3	44	84	56	53	65	46	85
2000	Q3	45	74	61	44	63	55	99
2001	Q3	29	74	49	40	59	54	99
2002	Q3	26	69	63	40	73	47	97
2003	Q3	39	80	52	43	74	46	105
2004	Q3	36	76	60	40	80	46	110
2005	Q3	44	76	64	42	63	49	117
2006	Q3	42	95	61	62	66	59	122
2006	Q4	29	61	71	59	72	49	99
2007	Q1	33	70	67	61	68	51	93
2007	Q2	37	70	60	49	72	51	96
2007	Q3	40	106	66	66	95	72	104
2007	Q4	29	67	64	51	54	49	100
2008	Q1	30	62	52	56	66	54	95
2008	Q2	36	65	72	57	66	58	96
2008	Q3	50	120	95	69	82	63	116
2008	Q4	[1]42	[1]112	[1]72	[1]50	[1]80	[1]63	[1]110

Thousand

		South East	*South West*	*Wales*	*Scotland*	*Northern Ireland*	*Total*
1997	Q3	74	40	38	69	23	724
1998	Q3	74	47	45	72	19	690

		South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Thousand Total
1999	Q3	66	37	36	63	[illegible]	651
2000	Q3	58	38	39	64	[illegible]	631
2001	Q3	66	39	32	69	20	620
2002	Q3	74	41	30	72	17	619
2003	Q3	75	36	34	70	[illegible]	669
2004	Q3	69	40	36	62	[illegible]	681
2005	Q3	81	46	37	66	[illegible]	701
2006	Q3	68	49	38	60	[illegible]	797
2006	Q4	72	45	39	50	[illegible]	676
2007	Q1	73	51	33	51	[illegible]	669
2007	Q2	75	39	42	62	[illegible]	675
2007	Q3	88	53	38	60	[illegible]	806
2007	Q4	67	34	30	57	[illegible]	663
2008	Q1	70	40	28	56	[illegible]	642
2008	Q2	76	35	29	54	[illegible]	676
2008	Q3	98	52	49	55	[illegible]	864
2008	Q4	[illegible]67	***48	***49	***55	****	**793

[illegible] Sample size too small for reliable estimate.
[illegible] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below.
Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV — for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) [illegible] Statistical robustness
* 0 < CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 < CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 < CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV > 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes and have not been provided.
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc).
Source:
Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Suicide: Young People

Tim Loughton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people aged 16 years or under have committed suicide in each of the last 10 years. [252666]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people aged 16 or under have committed suicide in each of the last 10 years. (252666)

The table below provides the number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death for people aged 16 years and under, from 1998 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death[1], persons aged 16 years and under, England and Wales[2], 1998 to 2007[3]

	Number
1998	39
1999	26
2000	34
2001	23
2002	38
2003	30
2004	29
2005	32
2006	25
2007	39

[1] For persons aged 10 to 14 years, the cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959 for the years 1998 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 for the years 2001 to 2007. For persons aged 15 years and over, the definition of suicide also includes deaths caused through undetermined intent, defined using the ICD-9 codes E980 -E989 excluding E988.8 for the years 1998 to 2000, and the ICD-10 codes Y10-Y34 (excluding where the coroners verdict was pending) for the years 2001 to 2007. Verdicts of suicide are not returned for children under the age of 10 years.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Unemployment: Essex

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many unemployed people there were in (*a*) Braintree and (*b*) Essex in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent period for which figures are available. [256843]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 23 February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many unemployed people there were in (a) Braintree and (b) Essex in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent period for which figures are available. (256843)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 shows the number of people aged 16 and over, resident in (a) Braintree parliamentary constituency and (b) Essex who were unemployed in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2008.

Estimates are provided for the 12 months ending in February 1997, from annual LFS, which is the only period covered by the survey in 1997, and for the 12 months ending in June 2008, from APS. The July 2007 to June 2008 APS dataset is the most recent for which figures are available.

As the estimates for Essex are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. Reliable estimates for the Braintree parliamentary constituency are not available.

Table 1: Number of persons unemployed[1] resident in Braintree parliamentary constituency and county of Essex

Thousand

12 months ending	*Braintree*	*Essex*
February 1997	[4] —	47
June 2008[2]	****[3] —	***33

[1] Levels of unemployment are provided for persons aged 16 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007.
[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality as follows.
[3] Figures are disclosive or statistically unreliable.
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
Guide to Quality
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) / Statistical robustness
* 0 = CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 = CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.
Note:
Sample size too small to provide estimates for lone fathers.
Source:
Annual Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [256050]

Mr. Simon: The Department will place in the Libraries a copy of the display energy certificates and their associated advisory reports in respect of each property occupied by the Department and its agencies that is required to have them.

Departmental Consultants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost of his Department's contracts with management consultants has been since it was established. [251354]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created by machinery of government changes at the end of June 2007. Information on the cost of the Department's contracts with management consultants before that date is available from the predecessor departments of DIUS—the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

The Department does not identify management consultancy separately from other consultancy and to disaggregate this information would incur a disproportionate cost.

Departmental expenditure on total external consultancy is as follows:

	£ million
2007-08	5.069
2008-09	[1]2.521

[1] up to 31 December 2008
Sources:
2007-08 figures—Departmental Annual Report 2007-08
2008-09 figures—internal accounting systems

Departmental Lobbying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether Ministers in his Department received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [255231]

Mr. Simon: None of the Ministers in the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills received representations from Lord Moonie, Lord Taylor of Blackburn, Lord Snape or Lord Truscott in the last seven months.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on digital media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008; how many such training sessions were held in 2008; and how many staff in his Department attended at least one such training course. [252270]

Mr. Simon: There is an in-house programme of training and coaching staff in the uses of digital media to improve working methods and communicate more effectively. No training has to date been delivered through the Internet Advertising Bureau.

All internet advertising is commissioned and delivered through COI who are employed for their training and expertise in targeted internet advertising and government propriety issues.

Further Education: Health Education

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will take steps to encourage the dissemination of diet, lifestyle and health information through the further education sector. [256832]

Mr. Simon: The Further Education sector has a key role to play in improving the health and well-being of their learners, staff and their communities. In July 2008, we announced cross-government support for a new 'National Healthy FE' initiative. This is now being

taken forward through the development of a Healthy FE Framework by a sector-led Steering Group.

The Framework will provide a range of materials and guidance to support the sector in promoting all aspects of health and well-being, including guidance on healthy eating; physical activity; emotional well-being; sexual health; drugs, alcohol and tobacco. It will build upon what a number of colleges and providers have already been actively encouraging, by providing them with more tools and support.

We plan to have the Framework infrastructure in place by September 2009.

Further Education: Religious Practice

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to improve pastoral care in the further education sector. [256834]

Mr. Simon: We are helping the Further Education system deliver a more personalised learning experience for each learner, in ways that help learners acquire the skills and ability they need to succeed and thrive—personally and economically. That includes guidance titled 'Supporting Learners to Succeed' which is available through the Learning and Skills Improvement Service Excellence Gateway. The guidance helps providers develop their pastoral support systems and processes to improve the emotional, social and economic well-being of all learners.

In addition, the White Paper "Further Education: Raising Skills Improving Life Chances" (March 2006) recognised that when learners participate in decisions affecting their learning they are likely to play a more active part in improving the quality of provision. All providers are expected to have in place a Learner Involvement Strategy. The pastoral support guidance includes examples of how providers can encourage and motivate learners which in turn will help providers to further develop their strategies for engaging learners.

Graduates: Architecture

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the availability of jobs for UK graduates in architecture. [257341]

Mr. Lammy: Typically, architecture graduates have high employment rates with the latest available data from the 'Destination of Leavers from Higher Education 2006-07' showing 93 per cent. of those with degrees in 'architecture, building and planning' in employment or further study six months after graduating. However, we recognise that the graduate labour market will not be immune from the effects of the economic downturn. Although indications suggest that overall vacancies are likely to fall, there will still be growth areas. Graduates will need to consider a wide range of jobs; look for jobs earlier; and do research on potential employers to maximise their chances of success. We are also considering a number of ways to provide real help and support for new graduates including new opportunities for internships; promoting volunteering; the development of entrepreneurial skills; and increasing the availability over the next two years of Professional and Career Development Loans.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of *(a)* male and *(b)* female students attend a higher education institution to study on a (i) full-time and (ii) part-time course. [257613]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available figures are shown in the table. Comparable figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Enrolments[1] by Gender and mode of study English higher education institutions Academic year 2007-08

Gender	Mode of Study	Number	Percentage
Male	Full-time	553,435	67
	Part-time	271,100	33
	Total	824,540	100
Female	Full-time	665,365	61
	Part-time	432,185	39
	Total	1,097,550	100
Indeterminate[2]	Full-time	20	19
	Part-time	75	81
	Total	95	100
Total	Full-time	1,218,820	63
	Part-time	703,365	37
	Total	1,922,185	100

[1] Covers enrolments of all domiciles and levels of study.
[2] 'Indeterminate' gender means unable to be classified as either male or female and is not related in any way to trans-gender. This field was introduced to the HESA student record for this first time in 2007-08.

Note:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals. Percentages are based on unrounded figures.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Higher Education: Women

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many and what proportion of female students with children attending a higher education institution are part-time students; [257614]

(2) how many and what proportion of students attending a higher education institution are women with children. [257615]

Mr. Lammy: The information asked in both questions is not held centrally.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what research his Department has undertaken on women who wish to study for part-time degrees. [257616]

Mr. Lammy: The Department has not commissioned research which is focused solely on women who wish to study for part-time degrees. However, the Department has commissioned the following projects which contain substantial information on this group:

"University is Not Just for Young People: Working Adults' Perceptions of and Orientation to Higher Education", (DIUS Research Report 08 06), published in April 2008, which studied the attitudes and intentions towards HE of working adults (aged 22 to 55 with no university level qualification).

"Alternative Routes Into and Pathways Through HE", publication expected early spring, which studied people who had entered HE through routes other than direct entry from school with A levels, or who were studying in modes other than full-time for a first degree in an HE institution. This included a substantial number of women studying part-time for a degree.

Note:

"Futuretrack: Part-time Students", a project jointly funded with Higher Education Careers Service Unit (HECSU) which is a longitudinal study tracking people studying part-time. The work has also involved a literature review of part-time study and analysis of HESA records. The final report will not be published until 2011, though an interim report is expected in spring this year.

Post Study Work Scheme

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Post Study Work Scheme in achieving its objectives; and if he will make a statement. [254505]

Jacqui Smith: I have been asked to reply.

As with all new policy, the Tier 1 post-study route is subject to ongoing review and consideration. Any changes to be made as a result of that consideration will be set out in the usual way.

Postgraduate Education: Finance

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of increasing funding for research councils to provide financial support to postgraduates unable to secure funding in the current economic situation. [254956]

Mr. Lammy: Funding is allocated to the Research Councils for the duration of each spending review period. The Research Councils and the research community are best placed to decide how funding is distributed, in accordance with the Haldane Principle.

On 18 November 2008, Research Councils UK, with support from the Science Minister, announced a package of measures in response to the economic downturn. As part of this, the Economic and Social Research Council will bring forward funding for around 30 studentships. In addition, BBSRC will advance funding for an additional 20 four-year studentships in four key priority areas of ageing research, bioenergy, bioprocessing and environmental change.

Regent College, Leicester

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent progress has been made on his Department's plans to assist the modernisation of the buildings of Regent College, Leicester. [256593]

Mr. Simon: Since 1997, this Government have invested £2.4 billion in redeveloping and modernising further education colleges. In addition we have plans to invest a further £2.3 billion in the next three years.

In total, since the programme began, nearly 700 projects, at 330 colleges have been agreed.

But the pace of demand for capital funding has increased. Projects and the scale of Government funding that they require are becoming increasingly ambitious. In addition there are signs that the ability of colleges to raise their own funds for proposed projects is being affected by the downturn.

It is for this reason that over the last few weeks the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has been working closely with colleges that have submitted or are working on bids, to look at the individual current positions before making further funding decisions. As a result of this the consideration of a small number of applications that were due for decision—both in principle and in detail—has been deferred from December to March.

As your question relates to an operational matter for the LSC, Mark Haysom will write to my hon. Friend with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the Libraries.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to support clean energy research and development. [255173]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS is stepping up efforts on energy research and development through a range of commitments from Science and Innovation Budget investments through the Research Councils and Technology Strategy Board and, more recently with the establishment of the Energy Technologies Institute.

Research Council expenditure on energy related basic, strategic and applied research and postgraduate training is expected to approach £300 million during this CSR period, and the Technology Strategy Board currently has a portfolio of collaborative projects on emerging low carbon energy technologies worth £90 million, with further competitions planned for later this year. The Technology Strategy Board is also expanding its portfolio in areas relating to the low carbon agenda through a range of initiatives including innovation platforms—the one focused on low carbon vehicles is coordinating over £100 million of public sector support to accelerate the market introduction of ultra low carbon vehicles.

Research Councils

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent allocation letter to each research council. [254366]

Mr. Lammy: The Department has published a booklet entitled 'The Allocations of the Science Budget 2008/09 to 2010/11' in December 2007. This sets out in some detail the overall strategic priorities for the research base and the related funding decisions, together with the rationale behind them. This is available at:

www.dius.gov.uk/publications/URN07114.pdf

At the same time the seven research councils published their own delivery plans for the same period. These delivery plans set out each council's approach to research priorities, sustainability, economic impact, international

aspects, specific financial commitments and targets for efficiency and effectiveness. These are available at:

www.rcuk.ac.uk/aboutrcuk/deliveryplan

The Government explained in their response to the IUSS Select Committee in June 2008 that they did not intend to publish their specific interactions with councils on the allocations process, not least because these relate to commercially confidential negotiations with international partners and suppliers.

Research: Intellectual Property

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent representations he has received on the obligations placed on researchers supported by research council grants to enter into research collaboration agreements to incorporate their intellectual property with companies. [256839]

Mr. Lammy: I am not aware of any direct representations received by the Department. However, there may have been such representations to the Research Councils.

Research Councils have recently clarified their position on intellectual property through a revision to the common grant condition (GC21) on Exploitation and Impact (formerly Commercial Exploitation). This states that the ownership of intellectual property, and responsibility for its exploitation, rests with the organisation that generates it.

Skilled Workers: Nuclear Power

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department has a strategy for skills in the nuclear industry. [255943]

Mr. Simon: There will be real challenges in responding to the skill needs of the nuclear industry over the next few years. These include managing the decommissioning programme and balancing the potential requirements for a new civil nuclear power programme with defence skill requirements.

The National Skills Academy for Nuclear (NSAN) has a clear remit to develop and promote skills and career pathways within the UK nuclear industry and to ensure that the capacity exists to deliver skills to meet the different skill needs across the civil and defence programmes. It is employer-led, reflecting the breadth of its industry through its board and associate membership.

The NSAN and Cogent, the Sector Skills Council responsible for nuclear, are currently leading on a detailed review and analysis of the future skills challenges and issues facing the sector. This will inform the NSAN's five year plan. This will ensure that the NSAN is absolutely focused on addressing both current and future strategic skill needs across the nuclear sector and ensuring that there is capacity available to deliver it.

The Office for Nuclear Development (OND) located within the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) will work to build excellence in the UK's nuclear industry by working with skills bodies, industry employers, other government departments and academia which will ensure a strategic and effective approach to skills development alongside wider policy and decision making.

Students: Loans

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the *(a)* longest, *(b)* shortest and *(c)* average time taken to repay student loans by university graduates has been. [255022]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 10 February 2009]:* The two types of student loan have different repayment terms. Borrowers with income-contingent loans introduced in 1998 repay 9 per cent. of earnings above £15,000.

Repayments are usually collected through the tax system via employers, alongside income tax and national insurance contributions. Borrowers with the older mortgage-style loans repay instalments, usually by direct debit, when their annual income exceeds the repayment threshold, currently £25,936.

With both types of loan, repayment is due to start in the April after borrowers graduate or otherwise leave their course, if their income is above the relevant repayment threshold. This point is known as the Statutory Repayment Due Date (SRDD). Some borrowers fully repay before they are required to commence repayments.

The average time taken to fully repay mortgage-style loans is six years after SRDD, according to data at 31 March 2008. It is not yet possible to give a meaningful average time taken to repay income-contingent loans, because in terms of repayments the income-contingent loans scheme is still relatively young. The longest and shortest time taken to repay a loan cannot be disclosed as this could potentially identify an individual.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* average monthly repayment to the Student Loans Company has been for students graduating in (i) 2002 and (ii) 2008; [255023]

(2) what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* average amount owed to the Student Loans Company was by students graduating from UK universities in 2008. [255025]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 10 February 2009]:* Borrowers who graduated in 2002 with income-contingent loans would generally be included in the 2003 repayment cohort, i.e. those required to begin repaying loans from April 2003 if their income was high enough. The average annual repayment for this cohort was £600 in tax year 2006-07, equivalent to a monthly repayment of £50. Repayments are linked to income; borrowers repay 9 per cent. of earnings over £15,000.

Students who graduated in 2008 will generally be required to start repaying student loans from April 2009, if their income is above the £15,000 threshold.

Data are not yet available for the average amount owed by students who graduated in 2008. The average amount owed for the cohort of students who were liable to repay from April 2008 was £9,580.

The highest monthly repayment and highest amount owed cannot be disclosed as this could potentially identify an individual.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people earning *(a)* between £15,000 and £34,800 and *(b)* more than £34,800 are repaying their student loans. [257064]

Mr. Lammy: Borrowers repaying income-contingent loans via the tax system in tax year 2006-07 with known earnings are shown in the following table.

English domiciled borrowers

Earnings band	*Borrowers*
£15,000 to £34,799.99	356,200
£34,800 and over	26,900

Source:
Student Loans Company

In addition there may be other borrowers who have made repayments that have not yet been recorded at SLC. HMRC receive annual P14 returns from employers, setting out the deductions they have made in the past year. This information is passed to SLC to update borrowers' accounts. There will also be some whose earnings have fluctuated during the year and who have therefore made repayments in some months but have earnings below the threshold at the end of the financial year. Such borrowers may apply for a refund of their repayments if they wish to do so.

Borrowers are required to begin repaying their loans in the April after they graduate or otherwise leave their course, if their income is above the repayment threshold. Those below the threshold will include borrowers who have gone on to further study.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of the Student Loan Book has been sold in accordance with the provisions of the Sale of Student Loans Act 2008. [258056]

Mr. Lammy: To date, no sales of student loans have been made under the 2008 Act.

Trading Standards: Weights and Measures

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the timetable is for the next issue of revised guidance to local authority trading standards departments on weights and measures legislation. [258060]

Mr. Lammy: Weights and measures legislation is the responsibility of the Department for Innovation, Universities and skills, acting through its executive agency, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory.

Neither the Department nor NWML publish comprehensive guidance to local authority trading standards departments on weights and measures legislation. Rather, the practice is to publish draft guidance on any new or amended weights and measures legislation in advance of the legislation coming into force to ensure both business and local authority trading standards departments have an opportunity to familiarise themselves with any changes before they take effect. Final guidance is then normally published when the new or amended regulations come into effect.

Most recently, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory has published draft guidance on changes to specified quantities for pre-packages. Those changes are expected to come into effect in April. NWML will also shortly publish revised guidance on non-automatic weighing instruments.

The following list shows the changes to weights and measures legislation which are expected to be made over the next year, and which will be accompanied by corresponding guidance, with an estimate of the likely timescale:

(i) Changes to specified quantities for non pre-packaged alcohol and unwrapped bread in October 2009;

(ii) Changes to the Measuring Instruments (Intoxicating Liquor) Regulations to allow statistical testing of fixed capacity spirit measuring instruments in October 2009;

(iii) Changes to UK legislation to update it as a result of the changes to the Units of Measurement Directive 80/181/EEC as amended, by December 2009.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Young People

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what projects his Department funds to encourage participation in the arts by young people; and what the cost of those projects was in the last 12 months, broken down by region. [253080]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport provides financial support for the arts through Arts Council England, which makes funding decisions independently of Government. Children and young people are one of the four priorities Arts Council England will be focusing on over the next three years. Much of the support given by Arts Council England through its Grants for the Arts and Regularly Funded Organisation schemes will encourage participation in the arts by young people.

As well as these general grants, Arts Council England is currently involved with six specific projects and organisations which aim to encourage the participation of young people in the arts. The funding allocated for the last 12 months is set out as follows. A breakdown of funding by region is not possible for projects which are funded on a national basis.

Project/organisation	*Allocated funding in 2008-09 (£)*
Young People's Participatory Theatre	1,053,000
Take it Away	700,000
Artsmark	640,000
Find Your Talent	
East Midlands	505,000
London	425,000
North East	455,000
North West	1,000,154
South East	677,916
South West	359,000
West Midlands	385,000
Yorkshire	505,000
Arts Council central national budget	687,930
Arts Award	350,000
Youth Music	
East	480,000
East Midlands	813,000

Project/organisation	Allocated funding in 2008-09 (£)
North East	480,000
North West	1,021,000
London	672,000
South East	885,000
South West	1,009,000
West Midlands	903,000
Yorkshire	930,000
Open programme funds yet to be committed in 2008-09	547,000

[1] Divided equally across the nine English regions.

Broadband

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to ensure that consumers seeking to purchase home broadband services have the option of purchasing such services without voice services; and if he will make a statement. [253209]

Mr. McFadden: *[holding answer 2 February 2009]*: I have been asked to reply.

There are no regulatory barriers preventing the development of broadband services without a voice service ('naked DSL') and nothing therefore preventing a commercial operator offering the service, indeed Virgin Media offer a broadband only service ('naked cable').

While some ADSL broadband customers may not want a traditional voice telephone service, they may still require the telephone line to deliver their broadband. Although a subscriber may no longer require a traditional voice telephone service there remains a cost to be met for the provision, maintenance and operation of the line. The majority of the line rental charge covers these costs.

Ofcom reports that over the past five years several operators have considered offering a broadband-only service. However, such a service has never been launched. Given the level of competition in this market and the fact that several operators have considered offering a broadband-only service it would appear that no operator has identified a commercial case for such a product.

Crown Lands and Estates

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his policy is on the upkeep from the public purse of properties owned by the royal family. [248136]

Barbara Follett: Grant in aid is not provided by the Department for the upkeep of properties owned by members of the royal family in a private capacity. Grant in aid is provided to the royal household annually only to meet the costs of property maintenance, and of utilities telephones and related services at the Occupied Royal Palaces in England, as these are held in trust for the nation by the Queen as sovereign and are used in fulfilling the role and functions of the Head of State. The Occupied Royal Palaces are Buckingham Palace, St. James's Palace, Clarence House, Marlborough House Mews, the residential and office areas of Kensington Palace, the Royal Mews and Royal Paddocks at Hampton Court, and Windsor Castle and buildings in the Home and Great Parks at Windsor.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will publish a copy of his Department's website accessibility plan. [257237]

Andy Burnham: The Department has not produced a separate website accessibility plan. This has been incorporated into our Equality Scheme 2007-10 which is published on the Department website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/3596.aspx

In addition we have published an accessibility statement on our website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/4912.aspx

This specified our commitment to high standards of website accessibility and the methodology used to achieve our targets.

Digital Broadcasting: Elderly

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assistance his Department is giving to the elderly to help them with the digital television switchover; and if he will make a statement. [257079]

Andy Burnham: The Government and the BBC have set up a digital switchover help scheme. The scheme covers households where one person is aged 75 or over, or has a severe disability, or is registered blind or partially sighted and anyone who is normally resident in a care home.

The scheme provides easy-to-use equipment that suits a person's needs and help with installing the equipment, including where necessary a new dish or aerial and an easy-to-understand demonstration of how everything works. The scheme also ensures that there will be someone that people can call for help while they are getting used to digital television.

English Heritage: Grants

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much English Heritage has spent per capita for each region in each of the last five years. [255193]

Barbara Follett: English Heritage advises that approximately half its expenditure is allocated directly, to its regions. The following table sets out the spend per capita for regionally managed expenditure.

English Heritage per capita spend

£

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
East of England	1.54	1.57	1.41	1.70	2.00
East Midlands	1.34	1.81	1.55	2.18	1.26
London	1.91	2.03	2.14	1.94	1.90
North East	2.18	2.11	1.78	2.33	1.97
North West	0.78	0.80	0.86	0.85	0.93
South East	1.82	1.73	1.88	1.93	1.91
South West	2.89	3.04	3.00	2.77	2.90
West Midlands	1.37	1.65	1.53	1.84	1.71

English Heritage per capita spend

£

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Yorkshire and the Humber	1.74	1.67	1.84	2.02	1.99

Sources:
1. Spend: English Heritage.
2. Population: Office for National Statistics, mid-year population estimates, 2003-07.

These figures do not include centrally managed expenditure although a considerable proportion delivers activities in the regions, for example, education, outreach, the Property Investment Programme and some grants programmes. The proportion of centrally managed expenditure allocated to each region cannot be established without disproportionate cost. This is because many activities are categorised thematically rather than geographically, for example, research into seaside towns, aerial survey programmes or spend on interpretation at English Heritage properties.

Exercise

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* men, *(b)* women and *(c)* those over the age of 16 years who have participated in at least 30 minutes a day of moderate intensity physical activity on five or more days of the week in each of the last three years (i) in total and (ii) broken down by region. [256362]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The 'Taking Part' survey is a continuous household survey providing national data on participation in culture, leisure and sport.

The following table shows the percentage of men and women aged 16 and over who have participated in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity level sport on at least five separate days in the past week. The data are presented by region for each of the last three years. Data are also provided for the total adult population.

Participation in moderate intensity sport on at least five days in the past week, by adults aged 16 and over

	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
	Men	Women	All adults	Men	Women	All adults	Men	Women	All adults
North East	14	9	12	16	9	12	14	8	11
North West	12	8	10	13	9	10	17	10	13
Yorkshire and the Humber	14	12	13	18	9	13	18	10	14
East Midlands	14	8	11	15	9	12	16	9	12
West Midlands	11	9	10	13	9	11	14	9	12
East of England	15	12	13	13	13	13	15	10	12
London	12	10	11	12	9	10	15	9	12
South East	13	11	12	12	11	11	13	11	12
South West	14	11	13	15	10	12	17	12	15
England	13	10	12	14	10	12	15	10	13

Note:
These figures are survey estimates which will contain a margin of error. For further information about the methodology, a full definition of moderate intensity sport and the confidence intervals around these estimates, see the final assessment of SR04 PSA3 at http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5653.aspx

Fines

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether any administrative financial penalties may be levied by his Department and its agency. [253598]

Barbara Follett: I am not aware that there are any administrative financial penalties that may be levied by my Department or its agency, the Royal Parks.

Hotels: Fire Prevention

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) whether he has made an assessment of the effects of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 on the bed and breakfast industry; and if he will make a statement; [258179]

(2) whether he has made an assessment of the effects of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 on the tourism industry; and if he will make a statement. [258180]

Barbara Follett: Since the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 took effect in October 2006 there has been no specific assessment made of the impact on the sustainability of either bed and breakfast businesses or the tourism industry. However, Communities and Local Government (CLG), in consultation with both the industry and this Department, recently published a guide for small accommodation providers to help them comply with the new regulations. CLG will be monitoring the effects of the booklet and will be sharing this information with my Department in due course.

Legacy Trust UK: Grants

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1889W, on Legacy Trust UK, if he will place in the Library a copy of the list of the grants Legacy Trust UK has made to date. [257513]

Andy Burnham: I am arranging for copies of the list of grants Legacy Trust UK has made to date to be placed in the House Libraries.

Leisure: Urban Areas

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department is providing for recreational activity for inner-city children in 2008-09. [253120]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS channels its funding mainly via our family of non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs). NDPBs are tasked with delivery of our overall strategies, including delivery of many bespoke programmes and projects.

At headline level DCMS does not target inner-city areas for special funding arrangements although NDPBs occasionally do target similar demographics via particular programmes or work streams.

Some of the key DCMS initiatives schemes, aimed at providing access and opportunity for all, will have particular beneficial effects on inner-city children. This list is certainly not exhaustive and further details of individual work strands can be found on the website of the DCMS family at.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/about_us/our_sponsored_bodies/default.aspx

Sport

Through our PE and Sport Strategy for Young People, delivered jointly with DCSF, the Government are investing at least £783 million over 2008-11 to offer five hours of quality PE and sport to all pupils in England. This includes £22.8 million from my Department in 2008-09.

The strategy reaches into every maintained school, and so provides a wide range of recreational sporting opportunities for children living in inner-city areas.

Our key delivery partners, the Youth Sport Trust and Sport England, work with a wide range of national, regional and local partners including schools, sports clubs and youth and community organisations to attract more young people into sport across the country, including inner-city areas.

Sport England which is an NDPB and National Lottery distributor, focuses on ensuring quality sporting opportunities exist beyond the school gates, enabling children and young people to migrate from the school environment to community sport. Reaching out to diverse communities is a vital part of their work.

Free Swimming

Local authorities across the country have signed up to the Government's initiative to offer free swimming to both those aged 16 and under and over 60. The local authorities that have opted in to offer the scheme to both age groups have also received a share of a £10 million capital fund to spend on modernising or improving pool provision in time for the start of the two-year scheme in 2009. Those local authorities that will offer free swimming to both age groups also stand to benefit from a further £25 million capital challenge fund in both 2009-10 and 2010-11 to spend on improving pool provision. Many inner-city local authorities have taken up this opportunity. Details of participating authorities can be found at:

www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/freeswimming-finalallocations.pdf

Culture

Through Arts Council England DCMS provided funding of almost £8.5 million between January 2008 and December 2008. This provided recreational activity for inner city children aged 0-15 years in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield, Liverpool, Leeds, Bristol, Nottingham, and Portsmouth. These cities are top ten (by population) primary urban areas as defined by DCLG State of the Cities database 2007.

Find Your Talent

In February last year the Government announced the new £25 million Find Your Talent (FYT) Pathfinder programme to trial different ways of delivering a five hour cultural offer for children and young people aged 0-19. The Pathfinders, running for three years were launched in September last year.

Our ambition is to offer all children high quality cultural experiences no matter where they live or what their background and the Find Your Talent programme is part of the Government's drive to unlock the creative talent of all young people.

This is on top of the investment the Government already put into cultural education programme. This means we fund cultural opportunities on a national scale and these funds are distributed to regions and localities via our funded bodies who fund projects in inner city areas and beyond.

The ten Find Your Talent Pathfinder projects are listed and include inner-city areas:

Bolton Borough Council

The Creative Foundation (serving Shepway District and including Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh)

Customs House (North and South Tyneside)

Hampshire County Council

Leeds Children's Services

Leicestershire County Council

'Liverpool City Region' Partnership (serving three Merseyside neighbourhoods)

North Somerset

Telford and Wrekin Council

Tower Hamlets

Museums

In addition to the above initiatives and schemes, inner-city areas are well serviced by Museums offering free admission. A list of museums that form part of the DCMS family of NDPBs can be found at the above link. In 2007-08 there were eight million visits by children (aged 15 and under) to the DCMS sponsored museums.

Licensed Premises

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many alcohol licence applications have been rejected on grounds of *(a)* protection of children from harm, *(b)* public safety, *(c)* prevention of public nuisance and *(d)* prevention of crime and disorder since the Licensing Act 2003 came into force. [257986]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department's statistical data do not identify the reasons for rejected applications for premises licences and club premises certificates, nor do they show which of the rejected applications relate to the sale of alcohol. In some cases, applications will relate solely to the provision of regulated entertainment or late night refreshment. The first published statistical bulletin since the implementation of the Act, which covers the period April 2006 to March 2007, reported the number of Premises Licence and Club Premises Certificate applications that went to a committee hearing was 6,408 (based on 81 per cent. of Licensing Authority responses).

In the second published statistical bulletin since the implementation of the Act, which covers the period April 2007 to March 2008, there were 5,194 Premises Licence and Club Premises Certificate applications that went to a committee hearing (based on 95 per cent. of Licensing Authority responses). This statistical bulletin also reports reasons for completed reviews based upon each of the four licensing objectives, for this same period; these can be found in Tables 8a and 8b online:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/research/AE-Statistics-bulletin-2008.pdf

Dr. Blackman-Woods: *To ask the Secretary of State* for Culture, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the number of complaints received by local authorities from residents about noise and nuisance in areas *(a)* with and *(b)* without premises with late alcohol licences. [257993]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The requested information is not held centrally.

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what monitoring his Department is undertaking of the number of late alcohol licences granted in or near residential areas. [257994]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We do not centrally hold information on the proximity of licensed premises to residential areas. Parliament has delegated responsibility for licensing decisions to local authorities who are best placed to consider licensing issues in relation to residential and other areas.

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of alcohol licence applications were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused by local authorities in England in each year since 2000. [257996]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003, DCMS has been collecting alcohol, entertainment and late night refreshment statistics for England and Wales on an annual basis by financial year from licensing authorities. The first bulletin covers the period April 2006 to March 2007; the second bulletin covers the period April 2007 to March 2008.

For the period ending March 2008, 94 per cent. of new premises licence applications were granted, 2 per cent. were refused and 3 per cent. were unknown or undecided at the time the data were collected. For the same period, 95 per cent. of new club premises certificates were granted, 2 per cent. refused and 3 per cent. unknown or undecided (based on around 95 per cent. of Licensing Authority responses). We do not know how many of the rejected applications were for the sale of alcohol as licences and certificates also cover the provision of regulated entertainment and late night refreshment. However, generally we can say that 84 per cent. of premises licences and 98 per cent. of club premises certificates permitted the sale of alcohol.

For the period ending March 2007, 96 per cent. of new premises licences were granted, 1 per cent. were refused and 3 per cent. were unknown or undecided at the time the data were collected. For the same period, 92 per cent. of new club premises certificates were granted, 2 per cent. were refused and 6 per cent. were unknown or undecided (based on around 82 per cent. of Licensing Authority responses).

Prior to the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003, data on the number of alcohol licences revoked in England and Wales were collected by petty sessional division (magistrates court areas), on a triennial basis. In the year to 30 June 2004, 97 per cent. of new on- and off-licensed premises were granted, and 3 per cent. were refused/undecided. Also 79 per cent. of applications for registered clubs were granted with 21 per cent. refused/undecided.

In the year to 30 June 2001, 88 per cent. of new on- and off-licensed premises were granted, and 12 per cent. were refused/undecided. Also 93 per cent. of applications for registered clubs were granted with seven per cent. refused/undecided.

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many complaints his Department has received from *(a)* members of the public, *(b)* police authorities and *(c)* local authorities on the operation of the Licensing Act 2003. [257997]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department's first evaluation of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 in March 2008 showed that the police have welcomed their new powers and provided evidence that local people are much better engaged than they were under the old licensing regime. Also, information and case studies we gathered from scrutiny councils as part of the review suggested that initial benefits were developing into longer term trends and that the Act is having a real impact on key issues such as crime and disorder and sales of alcohol to children. The Department does receive a number of letters, mainly from the public, where concerns are raised but it is not possible to state categorically which of these could be classified as complaints. We have always maintained that licensing is not the only solution to problems related to crime and disorder and nuisance and we continue to liaise with local authority representatives, police representatives, and other Government Departments (notably, the Home Office and the Department of Health, which have overall responsibility for the Government's renewed alcohol strategy) to develop new measures for combating these social problems.

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many 24-hour late licences have been granted by local authorities in England and Wales since the Licensing Act 2003 came into force. [257998]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The latest Alcohol Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Bulletin reports that as of 31 March 2008 there were an estimated 6,700 premises licences with 24 hour alcohol permissions under the Licensing Act 2003. This figure is comprised of 700 pubs, bars and nightclubs; 1,300 supermarkets and stores; 4,100 hotel bars; and 600 other types of premises. Together they account for under 4 per cent. of all premises licensed for the sale of alcohol. Most 24 hour licences are held by hotels, making alcohol available to guests round the clock, which would have existed under the previous regime.

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many late licences to open until *(a)* midnight, *(b)* 1.00 am, *(c)* 2.00 am, *(d)* 3.00 am and *(e)* 4.00 am have been granted by local authorities in England and Wales since the Licensing Act 2003 came into force. [257999]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We do not hold the requested information centrally. It should be noted that the times on a licence do not show the actual opening hours which will often be less as the licence provides flexibility. However, we did commission work for the evaluation of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 (available from the House Library) which shows actual closing times on a Saturday night, provided by licensees. The summary shows, for example, that pub closures have increased by up to 27 minutes to a 11.30 pm average closing time and that bar closures are up 28 minutes to a midnight average closing time.

Music: Licensing

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to undertake a public consultation on exemptions from licensing requirements for low-risk live music performances. [256545]

Andy Burnham: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is currently exploring options to exempt low impact licensing activities, including small scale live music, from the scope of the Licensing Act 2003. No decision has yet been taken on timing of the consultation that would be necessary in respect of any proposals.

New Opportunities Physical Education and Sports Fund

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of the policy directions issued by his Department for the administration of the New Opportunities Physical Education and Sports Fund. [257795]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We understood that a copy of these policy directions had been deposited in the Library of the House on 25 April 2001, but I believe that the Library does not hold a copy of these directions. I shall arrange for a further copy to be redeposited in the Library of the House.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 57W, on non-departmental public bodies, what the 19 requests were received by his Department for approval to incur expenditure over the delegated limits set out in the financial memoranda of his Department's non-departmental public bodies; and whether each request was accepted. [254337]

Andy Burnham: The 19 requests mentioned in my reply of 26 January are listed as follows:

British Museum: request for approval of North-West Development project—currently under consideration;

English Heritage: request to make grant—currently under consideration;

English Heritage: request to grant compensation following a refusal of Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent—approved;

English Heritage: request to grant compensation following a refusal of Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent—approved;

English Heritage: request for approval of contract at Chiswick House—approved;

English Heritage: request for approval of a contract at Chapter House, Westminster Abbey—approved;

Sir John Soane's Museum: request for approval of Soane Masterplan project—approved;

Tate: request for approval of National Art Collections Centre project—currently under consideration;

Visit Britain: request for approval of a contract—currently under consideration.

In addition to these, my reply included 10 requests from the Olympic Delivery Authority to incur expenditure. These were made under the standard procedure whereby the Olympic Projects Review Group examines and makes recommendations on the budget of each Olympic project where the value is in excess of £20 million. These requests were as follows:

Security Project III—currently under consideration;

Landscape and Public Realm—approved;

Olympic Route Network—approved;

Olympic Village—approved;

Security Project II—approved;

International Broadcast Centre/Media Press Centre—approved;

Velodrome—approved;

Gas, Water and Duct Networks—approved;

Primary Sewer and Pumping Station—approved;

Security Project I—approved.

Ofcom: Public Appointments

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether Colette Bowe's role in the Westland affair was taken into account in the procedure for appointing her as Chair of Ofcom. [255996]

Andy Burnham: The appointment of Colette Bowe was made following a process regulated by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) and was also subject to pre-appointment scrutiny by a joint session of the Business and Culture Select Committees. All applicants were considered against published selection criteria which set out the qualities, skills and experience required for the position and the decision on who to appoint was based on merit. While it is not appropriate to comment on specific details of selection processes or individual applications, appointments are always made following proper consideration of matters such as conflict of interest and probity.

Olympic Games 2012

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had on the promotion of *(a)* handball and *(b)* boccia to coincide with the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [256575]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England have advised that they recently awarded £645,300 to the British Handball Association and £812,041 to CP Sport to develop the sport of boccia, during the period 2009-13. Sport England will shortly be holding discussions with the two bodies regarding how they will utilise this funding but will be looking to the sports to strengthen the governance arrangements (including the formation of a new English governing body for boccia), develop the club and coaching structures at grass roots level and to develop talent support systems to ensure more talented players can move on to elite programmes and achieve international success.

CP Sport is also in receipt of an award of £56,532 as part of the Playground to Podium programme to develop disability talent pathways in boccia for one year up to October 2009. Sport England will review further Playground to Podium funding to boccia following the formation of the new governing body.

Olympic Games 2012: Gun Sports

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had on the promotion of shooting as a sport to coincide with the London 2012 Olympic Games. [256576]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England have advised that they recently awarded £750,000 to the Great Britain Target Shooting Federation for the period 2009-13. Sport England will shortly be holding discussions with the federation regarding how it will utilise this funding but will be looking to the sport to develop a talent support system to ensure more talented shooters can move on to the sport's elite programmes and achieve international success.

Shooting will also be expected to further develop its club and coaching structure, as well as continuing its work forming a single, unified governing body for the sport.

Sport England is also providing £343,000 of funding for the English Target Shooting Federation over 2007-10 to support the English target shooting team's preparations for the Commonwealth Games to be held in Delhi, India, in October 2010.

Olympic Games 2012: Tourism

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department deal with tourism issues related to the Olympic legacy. [256879]

Barbara Follett: The Department currently employs 7.6 full-time equivalent (FTE) members of staff on these issues. This figure excludes staff in Press Office, Private Office, Corporate Services, Public Engagement and Communications.

Public Houses: Rural Areas

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will commission research into the number of rural public houses which are due to close; whether he has made an estimate of the number of rural public houses which closed in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [257307]

Andy Burnham: DCMS does not collect statistics specifically on public house closures. The Department's Statistical Bulletin on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment counts the number of premises authorising the sale or supply of alcohol by means of a premises licence or a club premises certificate. These figures apply not only to public houses, but also to other licensed premises such as hotels, off licences and convenience stores. Figures on closures of licensed premises relate to the specific exercise of powers under the Licensing Act 2003 and not to closures for other reasons.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will commission research into the social benefits provided by rural public houses. [257310]

Andy Burnham: There are currently no plans to undertake research into the social benefits provided by rural pubs. However the Government are fully aware of the valuable role pubs can play at the heart of rural communities and my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, announced on 5 February a number of new initiatives to support rural businesses, including pubs. These new schemes will complement existing initiatives such as 'Pub is the Hub' which was set up in 2001, through the Rural Action Programme of Business in the Community, to encourage breweries, pub owners, licensees and local communities to work together to help retain and enhance rural services in isolated rural areas.

Regional Cultural Consortia

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for South West Surrey of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1390-91W, on regional cultural consortia: finance, what assessment has been made of the extent to which regional cultural consortia have provided value for money since their establishment. [256468]

Barbara Follett: Since their establishment, the performance of the Regional Cultural Consortiums (RCCs) has been monitored on an ongoing basis through regular feedback to my officials, and reported on each year through their annual reports and accounts.

In early 2002, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport conducted a review of the consortiums to assess the effectiveness of their operations. The review found that the consortiums were performing a key role in the regions.

Following further consideration of the collaborative working of the Department's regional agencies, the Secretary of State decided in July 2008 that the consortiums should be replaced with new regional arrangements led jointly by Arts Council England, English Heritage, Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and Sport England.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for South West Surrey of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1391W, on regional cultural consortiums: finance, what the administrative cost of each consortium was in each year from its establishment to its dissolution. [256497]

Barbara Follett: My Department has provided the following grant in aid to each of the Regional Cultural Consortiums, in each financial year since 2003-04.

Regional cultural consortiums: culture

£000

	Outturn				
Regional Cultural Consortium	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Living East	180	209	233	215	230
Culture South East	205	209	224	215	260
Culture North East	197	210	221	215	220
Culture North West	208	209	223	215	230
Yorkshire Culture	209	209	221	215	230
Culture East Midlands	141	210	236	215	243
Culture South West	206	209	222	215	230
Culture West Midlands	223	209	261	215	223

We expect all the consortiums to be wound up by the end of 2008-09, at which point accounts for this period will be prepared.

Sports: Training

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* registered and *(b)* active sports coaches there were in each of the last five years. [258151]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Currently National Governing Bodies (NGBs) control their own sports coach data which are based on various recruitment measures. Collated NGB data could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, a report done in 2006 by sportscoach UK (scUK) indicated there were 1.7 million active coaches in the UK. We are currently working with scUK to look at how we can improve the routine collation of information in this area.

Swimming Teachers' Association

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will consult the Swimming Teachers Association when drawing up the new Whole Sport Plans; and if he will make a statement. [256192]

Andy Burnham: The Amateur Swimming Association (ASA), as the National Governing Body of swimming, has been responsible for drawing up a plan in the best interests of swimming as a whole. Sport England have worked in close conjunction with the ASA throughout this process to ensure the plan serves the whole sport.

My officials recently met the Swimming Teachers' Association to discuss future work and policy initiatives concerning the Free Swimming programme, and took this opportunity to discuss their role more widely.

Television

Mr. Elwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance his Department provides for television broadcasters on the use of bad language after the nine o'clock watershed. [255366]

Andy Burnham: Responsibility for what is broadcast on television and radio rests with the broadcasters and the organisations which regulate broadcasting—the Office of Communications (Ofcom), the BBC Trust and the Welsh Fourth Channel Authority (S4C)—within the overall framework set by the Communications Act 2003 and the BBC Charter and Agreement.

In relation to broadcasting, Parliament has charged Ofcom with maintaining standards, notably to protect children and to protect the general public from harmful and offensive material, including bad language. The Ofcom Broadcasting Code therefore sets out the rules with which broadcasters must comply. Ofcom also produces guidance notes to assist broadcasters in interpreting and applying the Broadcasting Code. In addition, the BBC's editorial guidelines, under the sovereignty of the BBC Trust, provide clear advice on the standards expected of all BBC content on television and radio. The S4C Compliance Guidelines also provide guidance on the standards expected of all content broadcast on S4C.

Within this framework, it is the broadcasters' job to make judgements about what individual programmes should contain and the time at which they are broadcast.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on arrangements to increase the consistency of regulation of content on television and on the internet; and if he will make a statement. [255478]

Andy Burnham: The Departments for Culture, Media and Sport and Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform considered the issue jointly when negotiating the Audio-Visual Media Services Directive, which maintains a distinction between the regulation of linear television and television on demand. I believe that such distinctions remain valid for the present, but we recognise that this may not always be the case and keep the matter under review.

Concerns about internet content were considered as part of Tanya Byron's review of Child Safety on the Internet and fall within the remit of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety which we have established and are also being considered as part of the Digital Britain Report.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of people *(a)* evading payment of the television licence fee and *(b)* discovered with a television but without a television licence in each of the last five years. [257026]

Andy Burnham: This is a matter for the BBC. I have, therefore, asked the BBC's Head of Revenue Management to consider the question raised by the hon. Member and to write to him direct. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Tourism

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1556W on tourism, when VisitBritain will provide the final submission on the wish list requested by his Department to assist British tourism during the economic downturn. [257021]

Barbara Follett: VisitBritain have provided their final submission on the wish list to assist British tourism during the economic downturn, the contents of which are being considered.

Tourism: Coastal Areas

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had discussions with (i) the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and (ii) Visit Britain on CABE's Sea Change programme. [255775]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 10 February 2009]*: The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment manages the Sea Change programme on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Ministers have had discussions with the Commission about the Sea Change programme on several occasions. Ministers have not directly discussed Sea Change with VisitBritain.

Tourism: EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1418W, on tourism: EU grants and loans, which regional development agencies have submitted a bid for *(a)* European Regional Development Fund Objective 2 for Tourism and *(b)* European Social Fund for Tourism funds in 2008-09; and how many did so in 2007-08. [256522]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 12 February 2009]*: Regional development agencies have advised that there were no bids submitted for *(a)* European Regional Development Fund Objective 2 for tourism and *(b)* European Social Fund for tourism funds in 2007-2008 or 2008-09.

Tourism: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 60W, on tourism: Olympic Games 2012, on what date VisitBritain was informed that he had no plans to provide additional funding for tourism in respect of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games in the present comprehensive spending round. [256161]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 10 February 2009]*: In respect of additional or special funding for the marketing of the 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games for tourism purposes, VisitBritain were first informed that nothing would be added to their baseline funding for the period 2008-11 in October 2007 on disclosure of the outcome of the current comprehensive spending review. We have subsequently informed VisitBritain that the matter cannot be reconsidered until the next spending round.

World Heritage Sites

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to submit progress reports to the World Heritage Committee for examination at its 2009 session on the world heritage sites of *(a)* the Palace of Westminster, *(b)* the Tower of London and *(c)* the Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City; and for what reasons they were not submitted in accordance with the originally planned timetable. [257798]

Barbara Follett: The State of Conservation report for Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City World Heritage Site was submitted to UNESCO on 9 February 2009; the report for the Tower of London World Heritage Site was submitted on 18 February 2009. The report for the Palace of Westminster World Heritage Site will be submitted by 28 February 2009.

UNESCO requests that State of Conservation reports are submitted by 1 February. However, in consultation with UNESCO we have negotiated an extension to the deadline to ensure that stakeholders can be properly consulted.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Advanced Extension Award

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were entered for advanced extension award examinations in *(a)* maintained schools and *(b)* independent schools in each of the last five years. [257168]

Jim Knight: Advanced extension awards were first introduced in 2002. However, the Department has only held comprehensive data on these qualifications since 2006.

The number of advanced extension awards taken in maintained and independent schools in each of the last three years is given as follows:

	Maintained schools	Independent schools
2007/08	4,985	3,515
2006/07	5,240	3,846
2005/06	4,955	3,807

Note:
These figures relate to 16-18 year olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31st August)

Apprentices

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many 16 to 19 year-olds have been recruited into apprenticeships in each of the last three years. [252902]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 2 February 2009]*: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts for 16 to 19-year-olds (based on age at start of course), in each of the last three academic years. This information was published in a statistical first release on 18 December 2008.

Table 1: Number of apprenticeship starts for 16 to 19-year-olds

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Age at start			
16	33,200	33,200	33,300
17	33,300	35,800	36,400
18	32,300	36,200	37,300
19	22,100	25,400	26,100
Total 16 to 19-year-old apprenticeship starts	121,000	128,500	133,100
All apprenticeship starts	175,000	198,600	224,500

Notes: 1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100. 2. Age is based on age at the start of the course.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps Partnerships for Schools is taking to support the Schools Capital programme in the current economic situation; and if he will make a statement. [255279]

Jim Knight: Partnerships for Schools is working closely with the Department and HM Treasury to ensure that the programme continues to deliver on time and on budget.

Despite what continue to be challenging economic conditions, 2009 has begun on a more positive note for BSF than anticipated, with a number of banks indicating they are in the market to finance senior debt in BSF schemes. In addition, companies from beyond the banking sector are showing an interest in entering the market. Discussions are also ongoing with the European Investment Bank.

PfS is also exploring with the Department and HM Treasury the option of accessing the shorter term debt market to support PFI schemes. This would involve refinancing schemes at seven or 10 years.

Against this backdrop, BSF continues to deliver. Deals have closed throughout the autumn and now into 2009, with the latest deal to close in Tameside, bringing the total to twenty-nine. Nearly a third of all secondary schools in England are now engaged in BSF, with the 50th school having now opened.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the budget for the Building Schools for the Future programme; and when he expects the budget for 2009-10 to be allocated. [256874]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: As an outcome of the comprehensive spending review 2007, the Department announced new capital resources of £9.3 billion, including £3.4 billion of PFI credits, for the Building Schools for the Future and Academies programmes for the current period 2008-09 to 2010-11. These resources, together with BSF resources of some £6 billion made available in the last spending period, are being allocated to BSF projects in the first six waves of the programme. This Government are committed to the continuation of these programmes to renew the secondary schools' estate to provide 21st century facilities for all of our young people, and we will continue to review future requirements in the light of the next spending review exercise for 2011-12 and beyond.

Children in Care

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been taken into care in each local authority area in each *(a)* month, *(b)* quarter and *(c)* year since 1 January 2003; and if he will make a statement. [256997]

Beverley Hughes: Figures on the number of children that have been taken into care in each local authority in each month and quarter for the years 2003-04, 2005-06 and 2007-08 has been placed in the Libraries. A full five-year time series from 2003-04 detailing how many children have been taken into care in that year has also been placed in the Libraries.

Only the first occasion where a child has been taken into care in each financial year has been counted in all of the analysis provided. Subsequent occasions where a child ceases to be looked after and then is taken into care again in another month or quarter in the same financial year have not been included. This analysis can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of children that have been taken into care in each month and quarter for the period 2004-05, 2006-07 and pre-April 2003 has not been provided due to disproportionate costs.

Children: Day Care

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average hourly cost of childcare in *(a)* London and *(b)* the rest of England was for different age groups of children in the latest period for which information is available. [256982]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents collects information on parents' use, views and experiences of child care and early years provision, including information on costs of child care. When reporting the costs of childcare, parents were asked to include payments made directly by the family and payments made by an external source, for example money paid by employers, the local authority, or an

ex-partner. Therefore the costs recorded in the survey are not costs that parents actually pay for child care as they include help that is available through tax credits, childcare vouchers and the free entitlement for three and four-year-olds.

Table 1 shows the figures from the 2007 survey on the hourly costs of child care by region. Regional data on the hourly cost, by the age of the child are not available due to small sub-sample sizes at the regional level.

Table 1: Hourly cost of child care (including subsidies), by region

	Mean hourly cost (£)
All children	2.58
North East	2.35
North West	2.05
Yorkshire and the Humber	1.95
East Midlands	1.96
West Midlands	2.48
East	2.51
London	3.50
South East	3.03
South West	2.27

Notes:
1. Based on all children paying for child care used in last week.
2. Figures include subsidies, eg money paid by employers, the local authority, or an ex-partner.

Table 2 shows the hourly costs of child care by the age of the child in 2007.

Table 2: Hourly cost of child care (including subsidies), by age of the child

	Mean hourly cost (£)
All children	2.58
Age of child	
0-2	3.23
3-4	2.13
5-7	2.50
8-11	2.50
12-14	2.31

Notes:
1. Based on all children paying for child care used in last week.
2. Figures include subsidies, eg money paid by employers, the local authority, or an ex-partner.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department has undertaken on *(a)* charging for extended school activities, *(b)* the number of parents claiming child care tax credit for help with funding out of school activities, *(c)* the percentage change in the number of parents paying for out of school childcare in the last three years and *(d)* the percentage change in the number of parents claiming child care tax credit for help with out of school activities in each of the last three years. [257385]

Beverley Hughes: The Department commissioned research from Ipsos MORI ("Extended Schools Survey of School, Pupils and Parents", 2009). Schools were asked how they fund activities and child care (multiple choices were possible). The report found that:

"Around three-quarters (73%) of schools that provide childcare, or activities used as childcare, say that users pay for services, although around three in ten (32%) say that the school itself provides funding to enable this service to run. Activities are also most commonly funded by the school (58%), although this is also more likely in secondary schools (74%) and schools in deprived areas (70%). In around two in five cases, the users pay for the service (43%)."

The report also found that:

"Among schools that charge users for childcare and activities, the majority provide help for families who struggle to pay the full fee. Schools most commonly do this by charging a lower fee or waiving payment altogether (53%), or by signposting families to other sources of support such as the Working Tax Credit (49%)."

Of those eligible to benefit from the child care element of tax credits—available for working parents to help with the cost of Ofsted-registered child care or activity-based provision—take up has increased from 14 per cent. in 2004-05 to 17 per cent. in 2006-07. The latest Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) snapshot data shows that 19 per cent. of families were receiving the child care element in December 2008, which equates to about 460,000 families.

The Department does not collect data on point *(c)* of the question.

HMRC published data do not record what types of provision a family is using.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many serious case reviews have been conducted into the deaths or serious injuries of children in each local authority area in each of the last five years; [240761]

(2) how many Part 8 reviews into child deaths occurred in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [240758]

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many serious case reviews have been conducted into the *(a)* deaths and *(b)* serious injuries of children in each of the last five years, broken down by local authority area. [241890]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* Data currently held by the Department for Children, Schools and Families indicate that, of all notifications received between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008 of serious child care incidents, 89 serious case reviews had been initiated where a child died and abuse or neglect was known or suspected to be a factor and 60 were initiated in other circumstances, including where a child sustained a potentially life-threatening injury or serious and permanent impairment of health and development through abuse or neglect. These figures are broken down by local authority in the table, a copy of which has been placed in the Libraries.

Data prior to 1 April 2007 are not available in this form. However, the Department commissions an academic biennial analysis of all serious case reviews to help ensure lessons are clearly identified and disseminated. The latest report for the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2005 indicates that of the 161 serious case reviews in that study, two thirds were commissioned after a child had died and a third after a child was seriously injured. Links to these reports are as follows:

Analysing Child Deaths and Serious Injury through Abuse: What can we Learn? A Biennial Analysis of Serious Case Reviews 2003-05 at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/RRP/u014591/index.shtml

Improving Safeguarding Practice—Study of Serious Case Reviews 2001-03 at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/RRP/u014711/index.shtml

Learning from Past Experience—A Review of Serious Case Reviews at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4003094

Information on the number of serious case reviews following the death of a child in each local authority area between 2000 and 2005 has been given in the reply on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 837-39W.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by his Department. [256041]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department will place in the Libraries a copy of the display energy certificates and their associated advisory reports in respect of each property occupied by the Department.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department and its predecessor were disciplined for *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment of colleagues in each of the last three years. [254092]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There have been no recorded cases of bullying or harassment of employees in the Department or the former Department for Education and Skills which resulted in staff being disciplined.

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [256215]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information could be obtained in the form requested only at disproportionate cost as once individuals are appointed to the Department, having cleared nationality, passport, proof of identity, reference and criminal records bureau checks, our human resource information systems does not distinguish between EU or non-EU nationality.

Departmental Lobbying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether Ministers in his Department received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [255227]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has no record of Ministers receiving representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to advise staff of pension options available to them in relation to added years or additional voluntary contributions. [253263]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of their pension on retirement if they continue in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement prompts the member to consider boosting their pension and provides details of the civil service pensions website (www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk) where staff can obtain further information, including options for making additional voluntary contributions and a calculator to work out costs for added pension (previously added years).

New entrants are informed of pension options in the employment offer and are provided with a pension information pack.

The Cabinet Office provides leaflets that explain added pension and additional voluntary contributions for members. The information is also available in scheme booklets. These are available on the civil service pensions website or on request from the member's pensions administrator.

The Department lists all pension scheme options for employees on its intranet including help and support and updates and links to the Cabinet Office pension website. This website can also be accessed via the Department's intranet.

Where an employee considers making changes to their pension arrangements based on updated information, the guidance on the intranet always advises that the individual seeks professional financial advice before taking action.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on flowers in each year since its establishment. [254872]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007.

There has been nil expenditure on flowers in the Department for Children, Schools and Families since this time.

Departmental Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions his Department has had with outside organisations to discuss policy on reducing the effect of the recession on matters within his Department's responsibility. [254059]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children Schools and Families has regular engagements with outside organisations including other relevant Government Departments on a range of issues relating to the economy.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which of the public appointments for which his Department is responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restriction, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records his Department keeps in respect of such appointments. [254232]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on appointments made by the Department for Children, Schools and Families is published in the Department's annual report on the Department's website at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/

and in press notices issued when individual appointments are made. More detailed information about individual appointments is set out in the relevant body's annual report and in the body's relevant legislation.

Vacancies may be advertised on the Cabinet Office Public Appointments website at

www.publicappointments.gov.uk.

Information on individual appointments is provided in the advert and the candidate's information pack. The process for making a public appointment, including guidance on when to appoint, political activity and eligibility criteria, follows the Cabinet Office publication "Making and Managing Public Appointments". For appointments regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the appointments process also complies with the "Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies". Copies are in the Libraries.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's capital spending *(a)* was in each year from 2001-02 to 2007-08 and *(b)* is planned to be in each year from 2008-09 to 2014-15 in 2005-06 prices; and if he will make a statement. [253462]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We are unable to provide capital spending figures prior to 2002 as they do not take into account Machinery of Government changes that took place in June 2007. Table 1 details the capital spending for the current Department, as published in the 2008 departmental report (DAR).

Table 1: DCSF capital spending 2002-08

Outturn	Capital spending (£ million)
2002-03	2,730
2003-04	3,469
2004-05	4,068
2005-06	4,411
2006-07	4,053
2007-08[1]	4,171

[1] Actual Outturn as DAR 2007-08 figure was provisional at time of publication

The Department operates on comprehensive spending review cycles which currently extend to 31 March 2011 only. Figures from 2011-15 are not available at the present time. Table 2 is the Department's planned capital expenditure from 2008-11 at 2005-06 prices. These figures are based on the estimated Spring Supplementary figures and the gross domestic product (GDP) deflators published by Treasury on 23 December 2008.

Table 2: DCSF planned capital spending

	Capital budget (£ million)
2008-09	5,499
2009-10	7,454
2010-11	6,180

Departmental Publications

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 9-10W, on departmental publications (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of answering the question, broken down by sub-category of expenditure; [248473]

(2) which documents were circulated to schools by his Department in exceptional circumstances in 2008. [248474]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The cost of preparing an answer to the question was considered likely to exceed the disproportionate cost threshold and, as a consequence, no estimate of likely expenditure was necessary. Similarly, to retrieve the information as to which documents the Department has circulated to schools in exceptional circumstances in 2008 can also be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental secondment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people have been seconded to his Department from the private sector in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [256903]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department was created on 28 June 2007. The number people seconded into the Department from the private sector is set out as follows:

	Secondees from the private sector
2007[1]	2
2008	2

[1] From 28 June 2007

Education: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what date his Department received from each local authority information which enabled National Challenge monies to be allocated; and if he will make a statement. [257389]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Following written submissions from local authorities in the summer, officials from the Department met with all local authorities in September and October. There was an ongoing exchange of information as plans were refined throughout the autumn before being approved by Ministers.

Extension Awards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils took advanced extension awards in *(a)* the state sector and *(b)* the independent sector in each year since 1997. [242005]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Advanced Extension Awards were first introduced in 2002, but the Department has only held comprehensive data on these qualifications since 2006.

The number of Advanced Extension Awards taken in maintained and independent schools in each of the last three years is provided in the following table:

	Maintained schools	*Independent schools*
2007-2008	4,965	3,515
2006-2007	5,243	3,846
2005-2006	4,695	3,807

Note:
These figures relate to 16-18 year olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August)

Foreign Languages: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1504W, on specialist schools: languages, how many and what percentage of pupils at *(a)* specialist language colleges, *(b)* schools which have languages as a second specialism and *(c)* schools which have languages combined with another specialism, achieved a modern languages GCSE at grades A* to C. [243450]

Jim Knight: The information requested is set out in the following table:

	Number of schools[1]	*Pupils achieving A*-C in one full MFL GCSE or equivalent, 2008*	
		Number	*Percentage*
Language colleges	217	22,478	52
Schools with languages as a second specialism	71	7,276	51
Language colleges (combined)	15	1,205	46

[1] Specialism defined at September 2007 (i.e. the beginning of the 2007/08 academic year to which the exam results relate)

GCE A-Level

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools entered one or more pupils for examination in *(a)* a modern language A level, *(b)* biology A level, *(c)* chemistry A level and *(d)* physics A level in the most recent year for which figures are available. [249885]

Jim Knight: Of those maintained schools published in the 2008 School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables, 1,493 entered one or more pupils for a modern language A-level, 1,628 entered one or more pupils for biology A-level, 1,560 entered one or more pupils for chemistry A-level and 1,499 entered one or more pupils for physics A level in 2007-08.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in schools of each type achieved three As at A-level excluding general studies in the last year for which data are available. [250365]

Jim Knight: The information is provided in the following table:

Candidates[1] aged 16 to 18[2] achieving 3 A grades at A level excluding General Studies by school type, 2008[3]

School type	*Number of candidates achieving 3 or more A grades[4] at GCE/VCE/Applied A Level and Double Awards excluding General Studies*
Comprehensive schools[5]	7,484
Selective schools	4,254
Modern schools	63
All maintained schools[6]	11,817
Independent schools[7]	10,156
All schools	21,973
Sixth form colleges	3,397
Other FE sector colleges	1,127
All FE sector colleges	4,524
All schools and FE sector colleges	26,497

[1] 16 to 18-year-old candidates entered for GCE/A/CE applied A levels and Double Awards in 2008
[2] Age at the start of the 2007/08 academic year i.e. 31 August 2007.
[3] Figures are based on amended data.
[4] A VCE/GCE Applied Double Award at grade AA counts as two grade As, an award at grade AB counts as one.
[5] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[6] Includes the results for community and foundation special schools, hospital schools and pupil referral units.
[7] Includes non-maintained special schools.

GCSE

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils at non-selective schools in selective areas have exceeded the national average of achieving five A* to C GCSEs in the last five years; and how many pupils at each such school achieved at least five GCSEs at A* to C grades in each year. [249538]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/

The information is also available in the Libraries.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many schools fewer than 50 per cent. of pupils achieved five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics in 2008. [251101]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is published in the 2008 achievement and attainment tables released on 15 January, which are available in the Libraries.

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 489W, on the

General Certificate of Secondary Education, (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* all pupils and *(b)* pupils eligible to receive free school meals did not attain any GCSE grades higher than an E in each year since 2002; [241879]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils eligible to receive free school meals attained one or more GCSEs at grade A in each year since 2002. [246086]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information available is provided in the following table:

Number and percentage of all pupils and pupils eligible to free school meals, at the end of KS4, who did attain GCSEs at grades A or above; Number and percentage of all pupils and pupils eligible to free school meals, at the end of KS4, who did not attain GCSEs at Grade E or above

	Total		FSM		Total		FSM	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
2008	213,191	35.7	12,151	16.3	37,680	6.3	11,771	15.8
2007	205,514	34.3	11,963	15.6	42,481	7.1	13,437	17.5
2006	199,787	33.6	11,818	15.1	45,046	7.6	14,390	18.4
2005	190,064	32.8	11,285	14.3	46,030	7.9	15,434	19.6
2004	187,242	31.6	11,065	13.5	55,271	9.3	17,686	21.6
2003	176,963	30.6	10,353	12.8	54,993	9.5	18,000	22.2

Source:
National Pupil Database

Comparable figures for 2002 are not available.

History: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether national strategies are intended to have policies in respect of *(a)* history and *(b)* geography in (i) primary schools and (ii) secondary schools. [257822]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The principal focus of the National Strategies is on supporting teaching and learning in the core subjects of literacy and numeracy in the early years and primary phases and English, mathematics and science in the secondary phase. Currently there are no plans to broaden the scope specifically to cover history and geography.

History: Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 181-3W, on history: education, which of the schools that did not enter any pupils for A level history entered one or more pupils for an A level in *(a)* sociology, *(b)* media studies and *(c)* communication and culture. [244905]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information required is given in the following table.

Only maintained mainstream schools that were published in the 2007 School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables have been presented.

Maintained Mainstream Schools that did not enter any pupils into GCE A level History in 2006-07 - entries in sociology, media/film/tv studies and communication studies

		Entered one or more pupils for A-level in			
		Sociology	Media/Film/TV Studies	Communication studies	Number of 16-18 year olds[1]
2024104	Haverstock School	Yes	Yes	No	255
2024652	Maria Fidelis Roman Catholic Convent School FCJ	Yes	Yes	No	141
2044686	The Skinners' Company's School for Girls	Yes	Yes	No	152
2084509	Charles Edward Brooke School	Yes	No	No	88
2085403	Archbishop Tenison's School	Yes	Yes	No	36
2106906	The Academy at Peckham	No	Yes	No	133
2114242	Mulberry School for Girls	Yes	Yes	No	356
2124329	Battersea Technology College	No	No	No	62
3036905	The Business Academy Bexley	No	No	No	90
3044006	Wembley High Technology College	Yes	Yes	No	180
3045408	John Kelly Boys' Technology College	Yes	No	No	134
3046905	Capital City Academy	No	Yes	No	140
3076905	West London Academy	No	No	No	112
3084041	Salisbury School	No	No	No	124
3084043	Highlands School	No	No	No	192
3094034	Woodside High School, a Business and Enterprise Specialist School	No	No	No	68
3094037	Park View Academy	Yes	Yes	No	64
3096905	Greig City Academy	Yes	Yes	No	114
3124654	Guru Nanak Sikh Voluntary Aided Secondary School	No	No	No	72
3134021	Hounslow Manor School	No	No	No	100
3145403	Coombe Boys' School	No	No	No	93

Maintained Mainstream Schools that did not enter any pupils into GCE A level History in 2006-07 - entries in sociology, media/film/tv studies and communication studies

		Entered one or more pupils for A-level in:			
		Sociology	*Media/Film/TV Studies*	*Communication studies*	*Number of 16-18 year olds*
3206905	Walthamstow Academy	No	No	No	2
3304084	Washwood Heath Technology College	No	No	No	113
3304207	Handsworth Wood Girls' Visual and Performing Arts Specialist College and Sixth Form Centre	No	No	No	51
3304227	Broadway School	Yes	No	No	143
3304245	Moseley School A Language College	Yes	No	No	141
3305412	George Dixon International School and Sixth Form Centre	No	No	No	185
3314030	Lyng Hall School	No	No	No	65
3335400	Manor Foundation Business and Sports College	No	No	No	74
3354017	Alumwell Business and Enterprise College	Yes	No	No	164
3354100	Darlaston Community Science College	Yes	No	No	114
3364115	Deansfield High School	No	No	No	96
3364131	Parkfield High School	Yes	No	No	108
3364139	Moreton Community School	No	No	No	110
3404609	All Saints Catholic High School	No	Yes	No	152
3414419	Shorefields School	No	No	No	53
3414420	Fazakerley High School	Yes	Yes	No	71
3414423	Croxteth Community Comprehensive School	Yes	No	No	91
3414425	Broadgreen High School a Technology College	No	No	No	164
3414788	St Benedict's College	No	No	No	114
3414796	Archbishop Beck Catholic Sports College	No	No	No	168
3416906	North Liverpool Academy	Yes	Yes	No	156
3524257	Whalley Range 11-18 High School and Business and Enterprise College	Yes	Yes	No	297
3714507	Rossington All Saints Church of England (VA) School - A Sports College	No	No	No	145
3804034	Rhodesway School	No	No	No	206
3804066	Greenhead High School	Yes	Yes	No	182
3804100	Carlton Bolling College	No	No	No	312
3804613	Feversham College	Yes	No	No	96
3804616	Immanuel College	Yes	No	No	122
3814036	The Ridings School	No	No	No	27
3824048	Batley Girls' High School	Yes	No	No	182
3834031	City of Leeds School	No	No	No	44
3834044	Primrose High School	No	No	No	52
3834045	John Smeaton Community High School	Yes	No	No	99
3834054	Intake High School Arts College	No	Yes	No	84
3834058	West Leeds High School	No	No	No	99
3834059	Parklands Girls' High School	Yes	No	No	90
3834851	South Leeds High School	No	No	No	73
3904605	Cardinal Hume Catholic School	No	No	No	93
3914500	All Saints College	No	Yes	No	91
8004108	Culverhay School	No	No	No	49
8014032	Brislington Enterprise College	Yes	Yes	No	62
8016905	The City Academy Bristol	Yes	No	No	304
8124063	Howden School and Technology College	No	No	No	12
8124086	The Lindsey School and Community Arts College	Yes	Yes	No	93
8154203	Ripon College	Yes	No	No	55
8254001	Highcrest Community School	Yes	No	No	76
8254036	Princes Risborough	No	Yes	No	124
8254072	Cressex Community School	No	No	No	73
8254074	Burnham Upper School	No	Yes	No	43
8254094	The Wye Valley School	No	Yes	No	134
8254095	Amersham School	Yes	Yes	No	156
8264085	Sir Frank Markham Community School	Yes	No	Yes	95
8315403	Merrill College	Yes	No	No	121
8364111	Rossmore Community College	No	Yes	No	62
8364112	Ashdown Technology College	No	No	No	32

Maintained Mainstream Schools that did not enter any pupils into GCE A level History in 2006-07 - entries in sociology, media/film/tv studies and communication studies

		Entered one or more pupils for A-level in:			
		Sociology	*Media/Film/TV Studies*	*Communication studies*	*Number of 16-18 year olds*
8374189	Oakmead College of Technology	Yes	No	No	135
8564005	New College Leicester	No	No	No	53
8604066	Norton Canes High School	No	Yes	No	37
8604084	Mary hill High School	Yes	Yes	No	73
8674030	The Brakenhale School	No	No	No	39
8714082	Baylis Court School	Yes	Yes	No	72
8715409	The Westgate School	Yes	No	No	67
8724041	Ryeish Green School	No	Yes	No	72
8754161	Ellesmere Port Specialist School of Performing Arts	Yes	No	No	90
8814735	St Peters College	No	Yes	No	81
8825414	The Eastwood School (11-18)	Yes	No	No	81
8864026	Dartford Technology College	Yes	Yes	No	88
8864031	Swanley Technology College	No	No	No	63
8864059	Swadelands School	No	Yes	No	85
8864065	Holmesdale Technology College	Yes	No	No	64
8864114	Archers Court Maths and Computing College	Yes	Yes	No	133
8864204	Wilmington Enterprise College	No	No	No	76
8864207	Castle Community College	No	No	No	52
8864219	Hextable School	Yes	Yes	No	91
8864242	The Abbey School	No	No	No	111
8865409	Wrotham School	Yes	Yes	No	93
8865410	Aylesford School - Sports College	Yes	No	No	89
8865455	The Hayesbrook School	No	No	No	109
8865456	Northfleet Technology College	No	No	No	79
8865466	Brockhill Park Performing Arts College	No	Yes	No	159
8884408	Fleetwood Sports College	No	No	No	2
8914008	Kirkby College	Yes	Yes	No	52
8925402	Greenwood Dale School	Yes	Yes	No	171
8926005	Djanogly City Academy Nottingham	Yes	No	No	226
9094301	Morton School	No	No	No	33
9094630	Newman Catholic School	Yes	Yes	No	77
9095405	North Cumbria Technology College	Yes	No	No	31
9164039	Vale of Berkeley College	No	No	No	7
9164040	Brockworth Enterprise School	No	No	No	87
9194117	The Sele School	Yes	No	No	61
9194154	Onslow St Audrey's School	No	No	No	54
9195427	Hockerill Anglo-European College	No	No	No	162
9254036	The City of Lincoln Community College	Yes	No	No	112
9254609	St Clements College	No	No	No	103
9255414	Joseph Ruston Technology College	No	No	No	11
9255423	The Giles School	No	No	No	136
9264048	Charles Burrell High School	Yes	No	No	77
9264067	Heartsease High School	Yes	Yes	No	43
9264068	Earlham High School	No	Yes	No	86
9265403	Costessey High School	No	Yes	No	130
9284103	Unity College	Yes	No	Yes	78
9314074	Peers School	No	No	No	47
9314145	St Gregory the Great VA Catholic Secondary School	Yes	Yes	No	131
9365405	Epsom and Ewell High School	Yes	No	No	123

Note:
Age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2006.

History: Secondary Education

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to encourage the study of history at GCSE and A-level. [253806]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: History is a statutory subject for all pupils to the end of key stage 3, normally age 14, and at key stage 4 students are entitled to follow a humanities course (comprising geography and history).

The review of statutory requirements for key stage 3 was completed in 2007 and new programmes of study are being implemented in the current academic year for children in year 7. The range and content of the key stage 3 programme of study set out the aspects of British, European and world history on which teachers

should draw when teaching the skills of historical enquiry, use of evidence and communicating about the past. The new programmes of study also allow for joint working on issues such as diversity and ethnicity; and there are strong links between citizenship education and the teaching of history. More detailed information can be found on the QCA website:

www.qca.org.uk/curriculum.

History remains popular at KS4 and beyond, with 202,753 pupils entered for GCSE in 2007 and 67 per cent. of pupils achieving grades A* - C. In the same year, 40,542 pupils entered for A-level history; 25 per cent. achieved a grade A and 27 per cent. a grade B.

Home Education: Public Consultation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps he has taken to ensure that people who do not have access to the internet are able to respond to his Department's consultation on home educators; [255910]

(2) what steps he has taken to inform home educators about his Department's consultations on home education; [255912]

(3) what representations he has received from local authorities about his Department's consultations on home education; and if he will make a statement. [255913]

Jim Knight: The team carrying out the independent review of home education has invited stakeholders including home educators and local authorities to offer evidence to inform the review. This call for evidence is not a public consultation.

The Department has notified a number of key stakeholders about the review. These include local authorities and all the representative groups from the home education community that the Department is aware of. Evidence can be supplied to the review team using an online form, through email or by writing to the review team.

All local authorities have been invited by the review team to complete a questionnaire and 48 responses have been received.

Information System for Parents and Providers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what information will be published from the Information System for Parents and Providers; [257020]

(2) what agreed suppliers there are in each local authority for the Information System and Parents for Providers; [257059]

(3) when each local authority will bring the Information System for Parents and Providers into operation. [257060]

Beverley Hughes: The Information System for Parents and Providers (ISPP) will provide a web-based comprehensive directory of information, advice and support services to parents, front line workers in local authorities and third sector services working with parents. The directory will include information collected by Ofsted and local authorities in England on childcare provision and other services which may be of benefit to parents, prospective parents, children and young people together with information provided by the Department on service providers who operate nationally. The system supports local authority delivery of their duty under section 12 of the Childcare Act 2006 to provide such service information to parents.

The ISPP, which will be publicly known as the Parent Know How directory, will significantly enhance parents' access to information on a far wider range of parenting and childcare topics than is currently available.

The Department has provided funding to local authorities to purchase their own information management systems according to local needs and so the choice of supplier is a matter for each local authority, based on guidance from the Department on requirements for these systems.

We expect each English local authority to implement their local information management system connected to the ISPP so that it can go live in September 2009.

International General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department plans to fund the International General Certificate of Secondary Education approved by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. [257024]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The iGCSE awarding organisations (Edexcel and Cambridge International) have not submitted any iGCSEs for accreditation by Ofqual.

Ofqual has recently accredited a number of Cambridge International Certificates, which have similarities to Cambridge International's iGCSEs. They have just been submitted for approval for funding purposes and we shall consider them in the normal way.

Music Standards Fund

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been allocated to the Music Standards Fund in each of the next three years. [256085]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: £82.56 million has been allocated to the Standards Fund Music Grant in each year of the current three year funding settlement, which runs from 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Music: Education

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish his response to the Ofsted report on Making More of Music. [256699]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We welcome this thorough analysis of music education which clearly shows what works in school music teaching and what does not. The report rightly illustrates how music can have much wider benefits to children and young people in terms of their engagement with education; their levels of self-esteem; and their progress across the whole of the national curriculum.

We will not be producing a written response to the report but will instead concentrate our efforts on continuing

with our programme of work to make the most of the unprecedented funding that we have committed for music education—£332 million to 2011—and we will work with members of the Music Programme Board to address the recommendations that Ofsted makes.

Music: Teachers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff were responsible for musical instrument teaching in *(a)* headcount and *(b)* full-time equivalent terms in maintained (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools in each year since 1997. [255921]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is not available.

The number of music teachers in maintained primary schools is not collected centrally; the number of teachers of music in maintained secondary schools in England is collected as part of the Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey. This is an occasional survey that does not provide a full time series.

The following table gives data from the 2002 and 2007 surveys, the most recent years available, for full-time and full-time equivalent teachers (headcounts are not available). Please note, much musical instrument teaching is likely to be carried out by local Music Service staff, who will not be included in these figures:

Number of music teachers in maintained secondary schools in England: 2002 and 2007

	Full-time[1]		*Full-time equivalent*[1]	
	2002	*2007*	*2002*	*2007*
Music	6,300	5,900	n/a	6,500

[1] Full-time teacher numbers are provided for 2002 and 2007; full-time equivalent teacher numbers (which includes part-time teachers) were only collected in 2007.

Note:
Teachers are counted once under each subject they teach. A teacher is included in the total if they teach at least one period per timetable rotation of Music.

Source:
Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey, 2002/07

National Curriculum Tests

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to implement online marking for Key Stage 2 national curriculum tests. [253697]

Jim Knight: In his report into the 2008 test delivery difficulties, Lord Sutherland recommended that the testing and assessment system should be modernised to include piloting on-screen marking. We accepted his recommendations in full and QCA is working with my officials to review the technological advances which would support test delivery from 2010 onwards.

QCA has already undertaken some trialling of on-screen marking of the December 2008 round of single level tests, part of the Making Good Progress pilot. QCA and DCSF are considering the evidence from this pilot and its implications for the National Curriculum tests.

Additionally, an Expert Group has been established by the Secretary of State to advise on proposed assessment arrangements and their delivery. The Group will take full account of Lord Sutherland's recommendations and will draw on a wide range of evidence—including that emerging from the pilot of Single Level Tests—in reaching its conclusions.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils who achieved a level 5 in English in their Key Stage 2 examinations in 2004-05 also achieved a level 7 or higher in English in their Key Stage 3 examinations in 2007-08; [257165]

(2) how many pupils who achieved a level 5 or higher in mathematics in their Key Stage 2 examinations in 2004-05 achieved a level 7 or higher in mathematics in their Key Stage 3 examinations in 2007-08; [257166]

(3) how many pupils who achieved a level 5 in science in their Key Stage 2 examinations in 2004-05 also achieved a level 7 or higher in science in their Key Stage 3 examinations in 2007-08. [257170]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: 2007/08 data are not available. Data for 2006/07 can be found in table 8 of the Statistical First Release: National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 3 in England, 2006/07 (Revised), which can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000776/index.shtml

Nursery Schools

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were in nursery education in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [256461]

Beverley Hughes: The number of part-time equivalent, free early education places, filled by three and four-year-olds can be found in table 4 of the Statistical First Release: "Provision for Children Under Five Years of Age in England: January 2008". This publication can be viewed on the Department for Children, Schools and Families website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000790/index.shtml

Pre-school Education

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department plans to undertake a regulatory impact assessment on the planned extension of the entitlement to free nursery care from 12.5 to 15 hours per week in 2010. [258194]

Beverley Hughes: Extending the highly popular free early education entitlement from 12.5 hours a week to 15 hours, delivered more flexibly, is important both to ensuring all children benefit from high quality early education and parents are supported in balancing their work and family life. As part of the process towards extending the free entitlement, we will be making changes to regulations under section 7 of the Childcare Act and consulting widely on a revised code of practice for local authorities. We will include an impact assessment as part of the process.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects free early learning to be available to all two-year-old children; and if he will make a statement. [256981]

Beverley Hughes: We will extend the offer of free early learning and child care to 15 per cent. of the most disadvantaged two-year-olds in every local authority as the priority in our long term vision of a universal offer for all two-year-olds.

This will reach around 23,000 children per year and cost around £57 million in total. Decisions regarding the pace of further rollout will need to be taken based on evidence gathered from the pilot and in light of wider fiscal considerations as part of the next spending review.

Pre-school Education: Arson and Vandalism

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* all childcare settings and *(b)* childcare settings in the (i) five per cent. most deprived, (ii) 10 per cent. most deprived, (iii) five per cent. least deprived and (iv) five per cent. most deprived areas have closed for a period of one day or more as a result of an act of arson in each year for which records are available; [257628]

(2) how many and what proportion of *(a)* all childcare settings and *(b)* settings in the (i) five per cent. most deprived, (ii) 10 per cent. most deprived, (iii) five per cent. least deprived and (iv) five per cent. most deprived areas have closed for a period of one day or more as a result of an act of vandalism in each year for which records are available. [257619]

Beverley Hughes: Data are not collected centrally on the temporary closure of child care settings.

Therefore, it is not possible to provide this information.

Pre-School Education: Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1498W, on pre-school education finance, when the Child Care Strategy will be published. [249641]

Beverley Hughes: The child care strategy document was published on 28 January 2009.

Primary Education: Admissions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children entered primary schools in each local education authority (LEA) in *(a)* 2000 and *(b)* 2005; what estimate he has made of the number of children who will enter primary schools in each LEA in (i) 2010, (ii) 2013, (iii) 2015, (iv) 2017 and (v) 2020; and what estimate he has made of the (A) number and (B) cost of primary school places required in each LEA in each of those years compared with 2009 requirements. [255716]

Jim Knight: A table showing the number of admissions to primary schools in 2000/01 and 2005/06 in each local authority area has been placed in the Libraries.

Pupil projections by individual age are available at national level. At a local authority level, the Department relies upon authorities to prepare their own pupil projections.

National pupil projections are available for each year to 2017. There is an increasing degree of uncertainty in projecting over longer time periods, influenced mainly by the underlying population trends. The following table shows the actual number of pupils in primary schools from 2003 to 2008, and projected figures for 2009 to 2017. Figures for pupils aged five, and rising fives, are separately shown (this is the nearest available information for new admissions to primary schools).

Local authority maintained primary schools: full-time equivalent number of pupils (1,000s)[1]. Position in January each year: 2003 to 2008 (actual); 2009 to 2011 (projection); England

	Pupils aged	
	Rising 5s[2]	5-years-old
Actual[3]		
2003	186	580
2004	186	565
2005	181	559
2006	178	544
2007	176	534
2008	181	530
Projection		
2009	189	552
2010	196	569
2011	196	580
2012	209	594
2013	209	620
2014	212	622
2015	214	632
2016	216	639
2017	217	645

[1] Includes dually registered pupils.
[2] Pupils who turn 5 between 1 September and 31 December of the relevant academic year.
[3] *Source*:
School Census

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) prepares population projections at a local level and advises that these are robust by quinary age band. A table showing the projected change in population aged five to 10 (primary ages) by local authority area has been placed in the Libraries.

Local authorities are responsible for ensuring sufficient school places are available for their area. The Department provides basic need capital funding to enable authorities to expand capacity where a growth in pupil numbers is anticipated.

Estimates of the cost of primary schools places are not available for the years in question. We can provide the amount of funds delegated to maintained primary schools (individual schools budget plus revenue grants) from the most recent Section 52 data returns, relating to 2008/09, for each local authority. This information has been placed in the Libraries.

Primary Education: Greater London

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimates he has made of the number of parents of reception-age pupils in each London borough who obtained *(a)* their

first preference, *(b)* their second preference, *(c)* their third preference and *(d)* none of their three preferences in respect of their child's primary school placement in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008; and if he will make a statement. [255707]

(2) how many reception pupils in each London borough had not been allocated a primary school place by September in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; and if he will make a statement. [255689]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not collect data on offers of primary school places or on the number of unplaced children. Local authorities are under a duty to make sure that every child of compulsory school age has a suitable school place.

Pupil Referral Units

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils who attended pupil referral units were *(a)* eligible for free school meals and *(b)* had statements of special educational needs in each year since 1997. [257660]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is provided in the following table.

Pupil referral units: schools meal arrangements and number of pupils with special needs with statements, position as at January 1997 to 2008, England

	Pupils known to be eligible for free school meals		*Pupils with special needs with statements*	
	Number[1]	*Percentage*	*Number*[2]	*Percentage*
1997	3,640	32.1	1,600	22.5
1998	2,720	22.8	1,800	23.2
1999	3,260	26.0	1,900	22.8
2000	3,200	24.5	1,770	20.8
2001	3,000	23.9	1,800	19.4
2002	1,650	23.1	1,840	18.5
2003	4,570	26.0	2,010	16.8
2004	5,330	26.2	2,300	17.6
2005	6,020	26.8	2,260	15.6
2006	6,130	25.9	2,290	15.0
2007	6,270	26.0	1,990	13.1
2008	6,790	26.8	1,950	12.1

[1] Includes dually registered pupils and boarding pupils.
[2] Excluding dually registered pupils. Includes pupils with other providers.

Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census.

Pupils: Internet

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent assessment of the level of access to broadband at home is for *(a)* all secondary school pupils and *(b)* secondary school pupils from lower income households. [250577]

Jim Knight: The most recent research[1] published by my Department found that 90 per cent. of parents of school-aged children in England reported that they had computer and internet access at home. Among parents of secondary age children the figure was 91 per cent. for parents of children in Key Stage 3, and 93 per cent. for children in Key Stage 4.

The research showed a variation in connectivity by social class. Among parents in social class E, 69 per cent. had a computer with internet access. The research did not distinguish broadband and dial-up connectivity. However Government statistics[2] show that most UK households with internet connectivity have a broadband connection: 65 per cent. of households had any internet access and 56 per cent. had broadband access.

[1] Peters et al. Parental Involvement in Children's Education, London, DCSF, 2007
www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR034.pdf

[2] National Statistics Omnibus Survey 2008
www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nugget.asp?ID=6

Schools: Catering

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of secondary schools allow all pupils to leave school premises at lunchtime; [256008]

(2) what proportion of maintained mainstream secondary schools have a lunchtime break of one hour or more. [256010]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We do not hold this information.

Regulations state that a school day should be split into two sessions with a break in the middle of the day between those two sessions. There is currently no legal requirement on the length of the midday break and it is for individual schools' governing bodies to determine this.

It is also for schools to determine their own policy on whether pupils are allowed to leave school premises at lunchtime.

Schools: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have Disability Equality Schemes in place; and if he will make a statement. [257256]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to my written answer of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1159W.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether he has plans to control the overall levels of school balances; [256359]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of local education authorities in preventing the accumulation of excessive school balances; [256360]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the level of school balances. [256361]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We will shortly be publishing final data on school balances for 2007-08, but provisional data available through local authorities' published section 52 returns suggests that the total level of school balances at year end 2007-08 is £1.9 billion.

We have not conducted a formal assessment of the progress that local authorities have made with their schools to reduce excess surplus balances. However, my officials have been working with local authorities to gather information about when they have been successful in retrieving surplus balances from schools; or when the authority has encountered considerable opposition from the schools and the public which has resulted in the local authority withdrawing their proposals to claw back balances.

We continue to monitor school balances. When the three year funding settlement was announced in November 2007, local authorities were informed that we expected to see them work with their schools to reduce the total amount of surplus, uncommitted balances held by schools. If we do not see a sizeable reduction of the total balances by the end of 2010-11, then we will seek other measures to reduce this total. We will conduct a wide consultation on a detailed proposition before the measure is implemented.

We have made it very clear that it unacceptable for schools to amass high levels of surplus, uncommitted balances and that their priority is to spend their funding to support the pupils of today.

Schools: Greater London

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of *(a)* primary schools for (i) infant and (ii) junior pupils and *(b)* secondary schools in each London borough were (A) community, (B) Church of England, (C) Roman Catholic and (D) other types of school at the last date for which figures are available. [255706]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The available information is shown in the table:

Primary and secondary schools[1]: percentage of schools by type of school, January 2008 (Final): London local authorities

	Primary schools[1]					*Secondary schools[1]*				
	Community schools	*Church of England[2]*	*Roman Catholic[2]*	*Other[3]*	*Total*	*Community schools*	*Church of England[2]*	*Roman Catholic[2]*	*Other[3]*	*Total*
Camden	48.8	31.7	19.5	0.0	41	55.6	0.0	22.2	22.2	9
City of London	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	1		0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Hackney	79.3	13.2	7.5	3.8	53	27.3	9.1	18.2	45.5	11
Hammersmith and Fulham	62.9	14.3	20.0	2.9	35	55.6	22.2	22.2	0.0	9
Haringey	68.7	13.9	17.5	0.0	63	66.7	8.3	8.3	16.7	12
Islington	67.9	16.2	15.9	0.0	44	60.0	10.0	20.0	10.0	10
Kensington and Chelsea	46.2	26.9	26.9	0.0	26	25.0	0.0	75.0	0.0	4
Lambeth	59.0	29.0	11.7	8.3	60	11.8	17.6	11.8	58.8	17
Lewisham	69.1	16.7	14.7	1.5	68	50.0	7.1	14.3	28.6	14
Newham	68.8	4.5	10.6	0.0	66	80.0	0.0	13.3	6.7	15
Southwark	80.6	10.9	16.9	5.6	71	6.7	13.3	26.7	53.3	15
Tower Hamlets	73.6	13.0	13.0	0.0	69	60.0	13.3	13.3	13.3	15
Wandsworth	87.1	16.1	16.1	10.7	56	18.2	9.1	18.2	54.5	11
Westminster	35.0	47.5	17.5	0.0	40	20.0	30.0	10.0	40.0	10
Inner London	63.6	18.5	15.2	2.7	693	42.9	11.6	18.4	27.2	147
Barking and Dagenham	81.7	8.1	10.2	0.0	49	88.9	0.0	11.1	0.0	9
Barnet	87.5	10.1	12.6	13.8	87	40.0	5.0	20.0	35.0	20
Bexley	75.2	10.9	11.9	5.1	59	41.2	5.9	23.5	29.4	17
Brent	80.5	6.9	18.6	13.6	59	0.0	0.0	21.4	78.6	14
Bromley	72.6	10.5	10.5	6.6	76	0.0	11.8	0.0	88.2	17
Croydon	76.6	7.9	12.4	3.4	89	26.1	8.7	21.7	43.5	23
Ealing	76.6	6.7	12.5	6.3	64	38.5	7.7	7.7	46.2	13
Enfield	75.2	14.2	7.6	3.0	66	55.6	5.6	11.1	27.8	18
Greenwich	72.3	10.8	15.4	1.5	65	64.3	7.1	21.4	7.1	14
Harrow	84.9	3.8	11.3	1.9	53	80.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	10
Havering	84.4	3.1	12.5	0.0	64	61.1	5.6	11.1	22.2	18
Hillingdon	81.5	9.2	9.2	13.8	65	5.6	5.6	5.6	83.3	18
Hounslow	80.6	3.6	10.2	0.0	59	64.3	7.1	21.4	7.1	14
Kingston upon Thames	70.5	29.6	11.5	0.0	34	40.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	10
Merton	74.6	11.6	14.0	0.0	43	37.5	12.5	25.0	25.0	8
Redbridge	82.7	3.9	11.5	3.8	52	64.7	0.0	17.6	17.5	17
Richmond upon Thames	63.4	22.0	14.6	0.0	41	87.5	12.5	0.0	0.0	8
Sutton	70.7	9.8	12.2	7.3	41	35.7	7.1	14.3	42.9	14
Waltham Forest	81.8	7.3	10.9	0.0	55	76.5	0.0	5.9	17.6	17

Primary and secondary schools[1, 2]: percentage of schools by type of school, January 2008 (Final), London local authorities

	Primary schools[1]					Secondary schools[2]				
	Community schools	Church of England[3]	Roman Catholic[4]	Other[5]	Total	Community schools	Church of England[3]	Roman Catholic[4]	Other[5]	Total
Outer London	73.5	9.7	12.0	4.7	1,121	44.8	5.7	14.7	34.8	279
London	69.7	13.1	13.2	4.0	1,814	44.1	7.7	16.0	32.2	426

[1] Includes middle deemed.
[2] Includes CTCs and academies.
[3] Includes voluntary aided schools, voluntary controlled schools and foundation where the denomination is Church of England.
[4] Includes voluntary aided schools, voluntary controlled schools and foundation where the denomination is Roman Catholic.
[5] Includes non-religious schools, schools of other faiths, multi-faith schools and multi-denominational schools. For secondary schools also includes CTCs.
Source:
School Census.

Schools: Hampshire

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects *(a)* St John's Primary School in Waltham Chase, *(b)* Bishops Waltham Primary School and *(c)* Curdridge Primary School to receive their Raise Online reports. [257355]

Beverley Hughes: This is a matter for Ofsted. The HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Full RAISEonline reports, containing contextual information and analysis based on 2008 Key Stage 1 data were made available to St Johns Primary School, Bishops Waltham Primary School and Curdridge Primary School on 24 November 2008. An updated report containing unvalidated Key Stage 2 data will be available in April 2009. The RAISEonline website will provide further details regarding the date of availability in March 2009.

A copy of this reply has been sent to right hon. Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Schools: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which maintained schools in Hemel Hempstead have broadband internet access. [256489]

Jim Knight: All maintained schools in the constituency of Hemel Hempstead have broadband internet access.

Schools: Music

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils in maintained schools received specialist instrumental and vocal tuition in each year since 2001. [259924]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to his question of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1489W.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to assess demand for specialist instrumental or vocal tuition amongst *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils in maintained schools on a continuous basis. [256066]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Local authorities are currently drawing up their local three year music action plans, and have the main responsibility for addressing the needs and demands of children in their schools.

The Standards Fund Music Grant is a major source of funding for local authorities to provide participation opportunities for its young people. The guidance to the grant states its purpose is spending on activities which enhance opportunities for pupils to access high quality music education, giving priority to instrumental and vocal opportunities at KS2. The guidance goes on to say that local authorities

"retain overall responsibility for monitoring the quality and value for money of the provision purchased, and for ensuring that access at KS2 is a priority."

Schools: Procurement

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has established the support team for the online procurement tool for schools to date. [247204]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The OPEN e-procurement system is managed by a team that has been established in DCSF. The team are responsible for managing the service on behalf of schools, provided by the OGC's contract with ProcServe who deliver a framework for provision of this e-procurement system. As part of the Department's support for schools it has established local educational procurement centres (EPCs) to provide on-the-ground support to schools on a regional basis, facilitating access to and support with the OPEN along with information and guidance to assist schools in understanding their procurement needs and maximise their budget.

Schools: Rural Areas

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many rural schools with unfilled teaching vacancies there are in each county. [256455]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested.

Information on the number of full-time vacancy numbers and rates in local authority maintained schools in England by phase, local authority and Government Office Region is available from table 21 published in the "Workforce Statistical First Release" and is available at the following link:-

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000813/SFR262008_Tables_LA20081021-2.xls

Schools: Transport

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in each local authority were eligible for free transport to school in each year since 1997. [256341]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not collect information on the number of children who are eligible for free transport to school.

Social Services

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average number of days of sickness absence in each children's social services department in each local authority was for the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [256841]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We do not hold any data centrally on sickness absence in local authorities.

Special Educational Needs

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children received statements of special educational needs in January 2008. [247235]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on the number of statements issued each month is not held centrally.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils with special educational needs obtained a BTEC qualification in each year since 1997. [253354]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested for 1997 to 2007 is not available. The information for 2008 is as follows:

In 2008[1], 18,883 pupils[2] with special educational needs obtained a BTEC qualification at the end of key stage 4.

[1] Figures are based on amended data.

[2] Pupils attending all maintained schools plus non-maintained special schools.

Source:

National Pupil Database

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils with *(a)* a statement of special educational needs and *(b)* unstatemented special educational needs who attended independent schools achieved five A* to C grades at GCSE (i) in all subjects and (ii) including English and mathematics in each year since 2003. [253437]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This information is not held centrally as pupil level information is not collected from independent schools.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils with statements of special educational needs attended *(a)* maintained and *(b)* non-maintained special schools in each year since 1997. [255709]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The number of pupils with statements of special educational needs at maintained and non-maintained special schools since 1997 is shown in the following table.

Pupils with statements of special educational need: England

	Maintained special schools	*Non-maintained special schools*
1997	87,330	5,030
1998	87,930	4,710
1999	87,350	4,390
2000	86,880	4,610
2001	87,400	4,500
2002	85,800	4,490
2003	85,860	4,840
2004	84,250	4,700
2005	83,290	4,740
2006	82,570	4,660
2007	82,490	4,610
2008	82,410	4,540

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils with non-statemented special educational needs attended *(a)* maintained and *(b)* non-maintained special schools in each year since 1997. [255710]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on non-statemented pupils with special educational needs was only collected from maintained special schools since 2002 and from non-maintained special schools since 2003. The available information is shown in the following table.

Non-statemented pupils with special educational needs: England

	Maintained special schools	*Non-maintained special schools*
2002	2,410	[1]
2003	1,890	40
2004	1,800	30
2005	1,750	40
2006	1,690	60
2007	1,690	30
2008	1,890	40

[1] — not available

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest 10
Source:
School Census

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which maintained special schools had boarders in 2008. [256441]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A table has been placed in the Libraries indicating which maintained special schools had places for boarders in 2008, including those which closed during that year. This has been drawn from Edubase, which contains information supplied by local authorities and schools.

The Department does not collect data on the number of boarders actually taking up places. In general, local authorities fund special schools on the basis of the number of pupils for which they are expected to cater, including boarders, whether or not the places are actually occupied. This enables a stable resource base to be maintained, while allowing for the admission of pupils whose needs are identified during the year.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained special schools had *(a)* between 100 and 200 pupils, *(b)* between 201 and 300 pupils, *(c)* between 301 and 400 pupils and *(d)* over 400 pupils in 2008. [256442]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is shown in the following table derived from the School Census returns made by schools to the Department.

Maintained special schools: number of schools by size[1], position as at January 2008, England

	Number of schools
Between 100 to 200 pupils	280
Between 201 to 300 pupils	22
Between 301 to 400 pupils	0
Over 400 pupils	1
Total	303

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils

Source:
School Census

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1730-31W, on special educational needs, what steps he is taking to ensure that school censuses do not undercount the number of looked-after children in schools. [256859]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department recognises that when the School Census began to identify looked-after children, it undercounted them, and it is possible that an element of undercounting remains. We are therefore exploring ways of obtaining this information via other means without placing additional burdens on local authorities.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1730-1W, on special educational needs, how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female pupils there were in each category in each year. [256861]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is provided in the table.

Maintained primary and secondary schools and all special schools[1]: number of pupils[2], position in January each year 2004 to 2008, England

	Number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals and have statemented special educational needs		Number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals and have non-statemented special educational needs		Number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals and were children in care		Number of pupils who had statemented special educational needs and were children in care		Number of pupils who had non-statemented special educational needs and were children in care		Number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals, had statemented special educational needs and were children in care		Number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals, had non-statemented special educational needs and were children in care	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2004	89,770	21,150	195,660	126,770	2,980	2,550	5,110	2,380	6,060	4,620	840	370	1,360	1,080
2005	86,750	19,540	195,140	126,780	3,070	2,690	5,230	2,290	6,370	4,970	830	340	1,430	1,160
2006	84,190	18,000	194,940	127,760	3,020	2,710	5,520	2,370	6,810	5,460	810	310	1,380	1,140
2007	82,340	17,070	196,170	130,140	2,970	2,630	6,040	2,550	7,410	6,220	810	310	1,330	1,180
2008	80,700	15,970	197,250	133,650	2,900	2,500	6,060	2,520	7,680	6,440	780	310	1,330	1,180

[1] Includes primary and secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies and all special schools (excludes general hospital schools).
[2] Includes dually registered pupils and boarding pupils.

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children with statements of special educational needs were taught in classes of *(a)* 21 to 30 pupils, *(b)* 31 to 40 pupils and *(c)* more than 40 pupils in each of the last five years. [256895]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal: Children in Care

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department plans to allow looked-after children the right to appeal to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal *(a)* in their own name and *(b)* through a third party other than a local authority. [251769]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to answer given on 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 930W.

Special Educational Needs: Private Sector

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2116-17W, on special educational needs: private sector, what the names are of the schools that opened between September 2005 and August 2008. [258047]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The 228 independent schools catering wholly or mainly for pupils with special educational needs which opened between 1 September 2005 and 31 August 2008 are listed.

The Education Act 2002 amended the definition of an independent school to include institutions providing full-time education for one or more pupils with a statement of special educational needs or a looked-after child.

This resulted in a number of children's homes which provide education on the premises registering as independent schools.

Acorn Cottage
Gable End
Midsummer House School
Arvon House[1]
The Birches
The Old Gables[1]
Lime Meadows
Sherant Education
The Ashbrook Centre
Chilworth House School
Hillcrest Kings Bromley
The Stubbs
Pennsylvania House
Flying High
The Shires At Stretton
Park View School
Peppercorn[1]
Norden Way
Pleasant Street
Bankfield
Hillcrest Norwood[1]
Hillgate Farm
Greenfields
Glendale House
David Banks School[1]
Rosedale Co Central Office
The Firs[1]
The Old Farmhouse
Castle Lodge School
Learning To Listen
Brook House Farm
Middlehey
Stubbs House Education Unit
Condover Horizon School[1]
The Linnet Independent Learning Centre
Alexandra House[1]
Moorgate
Dane House
Elmsfield
Primrose Cottage
Weston—Green Corns
Park Hill—Green Corns
Pilsworth—Green Corns
Thames—Green Corns
Bernard—Green Corns[1]
Fox—Green Corns[1]
Queens Park—Green Corns
Rooley Moor—Green Corns
Cronkeyshaw—Green Corns
Argyle—Green Corns[1]
Gloucester—Green Corns
Further Heights—Green Corns
Middleton Lodge
The Amicus School
Moorlands School
Lillesdon School
Continuum School Somerset
Staddons School
Hollyoaks[1]
Tadley Horizon
Blue Mountain Education
The Serendipity Centre
Althea Park Education Unit
Fair Holme
Trax Academy
Hobbit House
Oliver House School
Darwen School
Nookin Cottage[1]
The Croft
Three Castles College
The Close[1]
March House
High Trees
Park View
On Track Training Centre
Elland House School
Toadstool Cottage[1]
Victoria House
The Willows
Wilford Court
Farm Cottage
The Symbol Academy
Howard House
Trinity Lodge
Arundel House
Roughbank Farm
On Track Training Centre
Whitty Tree House
Newbridge House
Villa Real Farmhouse
Hillcrest London School
Ivy Cottage Residential School[1]
Barton School
The Cedars
Ark House
Hopewell School
Cornerstone School
Oracle
The Westside Independent School
Roselyn House School
Hurst Farm
Hillcrest—Hayling Island
Trade Based Training
My Choice School-Shopham Bridge Farmhouse[1]
My Choice School-Ocean Pearl
My Choice School-Kestral House
Pear Tree School
Farleigh College
Essex Fresh Start
Windsor House
Wilds Lodge School
Gloucester House the Tavistock Children's Day Unit

Jigsaw School
Eastgate House
Springboard Education Junior
Sycamore House
Haven House At Meadowcroft
Arnfield Independent School
Corporation Farmhouse[1]
Laurel Leaf School
The Annex School House
Meadowcroft School
Trinity College
Sketchley Horizon
The Meadows
The Daltons[1]
Demeter House
Broadlands Hall
Valley House
Willows
Birmingham Rathbone Society
Broadclough Lodge
Waypoint House[1]
The Evaglades
Boyd House[1]
Fletcher Street Greencorns
Hunt Close Greencorns[1]
Kingsway Greencorns
Booth Greencorns Independent School
Shellfield Green Corns
Summit Greencorns [1]
South Parade Green Corns[1]
Saxon Road Green Corns[1]
Greenway Green Corns
110 Peel House Lane Green Corns
Liverpool Green Corns
Halton View Green Corns
Southover Partnership School
Trent Lodge[1]
Highfields
Dove Adolescent Services
Dove Adolescent Services
Shelldene House School
York House
Ty Newydd
Hope House School
Rowan House
Whitebeam School—Green Corns[1]
Regent School—Green Corns
The Education Centre
Education and Youth Services (Herts) [1]
T Plus Centre (Taliesin Education)
Papillon House
Kirby Moor School
Unsted Park School
Hartlepool School Education and Vocational Training Centre
47 Lowerhouse Lane—Green Corns
62 Peelhouse—Green Corns
Merecroft School
The Cornerstone
Hope View School
Newfields School
Willoughby School
Lunts Heath—Greencorns
New Options (Higford) School
Granville Greencorns[1]
Waidshouse Greencorns Independent School[1]
The Barn Greencorns
Pumping Station School
The Island Project School
The Elms
The Farringdon Centre
The Gables
Provident House School
Alder Meadow Green Corns Independent School
Insights Education Centre
Shalom Place
Swan Lodge
Ferndearle
Halton House School
Oasis School
Horizon School
Bloomfield College
The Evolution Centre
Gryphon School
The Boulters Learning and Skills Centre
Cumberland School
Keyes Barn
Seameadows
Lovells Hall
Education and Youth Services Ltd, Carlisle
Warrington School
Worldshapers Academy
Thornton Heath College
Jemini Response
Banks Croft School
Blue Skies School
Kisimul School
Hazel House
Claybrook Cottage School
Yail (Gainsborough)
Pathfinders School
Pathfinders School
Education and Youth Services Ltd (4)
Snowflake School
Spring Vale School
Stone House School
Hill Farm College
Aim Habonim
Encompass Education
Fitzwalter Greencorns
Seaview Learning Centre
Great Howarth College
St. Anne's Independent PRU
The Tutorial Foundation
St. Nicholas Lodge (Broadstairs)
Aethelstan College

[1] These schools are no longer open.

Specialised Diplomas: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils attending schools in Suffolk have been entered for diploma qualifications to date. [256960]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The number of pupils starting the diploma this September 2008 in the Suffolk local authority is shown in the following table. There is only one consortium in Suffolk (North Suffolk Partnership) which is only offering the engineering diploma.

Sir John Leman High School, Leiston Community High School and Bungay High School are the three schools teaching the engineering diploma.

LA	Line	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Suffolk	Eng	16	15	9

Teachers: Pay

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the cost projections for the introduction of bonuses for teachers in deprived areas; [249119]

(2) what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on bonuses for teachers in deprived schools in each of the next five years; [249120]

(3) in what year the first bonus for teachers in deprived areas will be paid; [249122]

(4) from which funding stream golden handcuffs for teachers in deprived areas will be drawn; [249124]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The cost of the 'golden handcuff' element of the incentive package announced in the "New Opportunities" White Paper on 13 January will depend entirely on the decisions made by individual schools. Some may choose not to take part in the initiative and those that do will be able to select which new teachers they want to offer the incentives to.

Head teachers will be able to offer the 'golden handcuff' to teachers taking up new posts in around 540 eligible schools from September 2009.

We are currently considering the precise structure of the incentive payment, so detailed costing are not yet available. However, the overall cost of a scheme as set out in the White Paper, "New Opportunities", will be affordable within the overall schools budget in 2010/11. Future years fall outside the current spending review period, so it is not possible to identify allocations beyond 2010/11.

Teachers: Pensions

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps will be taken to ensure that recipients of teaching pensions who have been overpaid receive clear information explaining *(a)* the reasons for the past miscalculation and *(b)* the new pension payment figures. [255759]

Jim Knight: In December 2008 we arranged for Capita Teachers' Pensions (TP), our pensions administrator, to write to all those pensioners who were known to be affected by this issue. The content of the letter was agreed across the public service pension schemes and provided a detailed explanation of how the calculation of an element of their pension, known as the guaranteed minimum pension, caused the overpayment. This was supported with a dedicated telephone helpline, which has received approximately 1,000 calls to date. TP will be writing again to those pensioners before the end of February to advise them of the impact on their pensions. At that time they will be provided with further information on how their revised pension amount has been calculated. A dedicated telephone service will continue to be provided to further assist those pensioners to understand their pension calculation.

Truancy: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children in each decile of *(a)* area deprivation by pupil residence and *(b)* area deprivation by school residence have been recorded as having at least one unauthorised absence in the last year for which data are available. [257023]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Percentage of children in schools[1] recording an unauthorised absence[2] by IDACI decile[4] of pupil residence and school location, 2006/07

IDACI decile[4]	Percentage of pupils with at least one recorded unauthorised absence[3]	
	By pupil residency	By school location
0-10% most deprived areas	38.5	35.7
10-20%	35.2	32.7
20-30%	31.6	29.7
30-40%	28.0	28.5
40-50%	24.8	25.1
50-60%	22.2	24.1
60-70%	19.9	21.6
70-80%	18.2	21.7
80-90%	16.8	21.3
90-100% least deprived areas	15.4	20.3
Total	25.9	25.9

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed
[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[3] Pupil must have recorded at least one session missed due to unauthorised absence where a session is a half day.
[4] 2004 Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index at Super Output Area level.

Young Offenders

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of people detained in young offender institutions *(a)* are from care home backgrounds, (b) were children in care and *(c)* have been assessed as having special educational needs, broken down by type of special educational need. [241727]

Beverley Hughes: Of the 59,500 young people looked after by local authorities at 31 March 2008, 130 were placed in a young offender institution (YOI) or prison. Data on the number of young people in YOIs who may have been looked after by local authorities earlier in their childhoods are not collected centrally.

Data on the number of young people in YOIs assessed as having special educational needs are not collected centrally. The Learning and Skills Council collects information on the number of referrals of young people in YOIs to special educational needs co-ordinators (SENCOs). Returns from August 2007 to July 2008 indicate that 3,320 such referrals were made over the period.

Young People: Antisocial Behaviour

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1081-2W, on young people: antisocial behaviour, who will conduct the independent national evaluation; what procedure will be used to appoint the evaluator; and when the evaluation will be complete. [247863]

Beverley Hughes: The evaluation will be carried out by an independent contractor, chosen through a competitive tender. The Department plans to issue tenders in spring 2009, and the evaluation will complete after the projects finish in April 2011. Interim results will be available before then.

Young People: Sports

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with the Association for Physical Education (afPE) on the development of the Physical Education and Sport Strategy for Young People; and what plans he has to involve afPE in the future development of the strategy. [255720]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Ministers and officials from DCSF and DCMS meet afPE regularly to discuss PE and its place in the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People. Representatives from afPE are also part of a consortium which is currently delivering the professional development workstrand of the strategy. We value afPE's experience and expertise and we will continue to consult them on the development of the strategy.

Young People: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many 16 to 18-year-olds there were resident in Suffolk in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and what proportion of these were *(a)* in full-time work and *(b)* not in education, employment or training in each such year. [256957]

Beverley Hughes: The Department publishes annual estimates of the number of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England. These estimates cannot be disaggregated to local authority level.

However, we can use information collected by the Connexions Service to estimate the number and proportion of young people NEET at local authority level. The following table gives estimates of the number of 16 to 18-year-olds resident in Suffolk and the proportion who were in full-time employment and not in education, employment or training at the end of 2005, 2006 and 2007.

	Number of young people aged 16-18	*Proportion of young people aged 16-18 in full time employment (percentage)*	*Proportion of young people aged 16-18 NEET (percentage)*
2005	21,112	17.5	8.6
2006	21,206	18.7	8.4
2007	20,928	19.6	7.2

Youth Facilities: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government have taken to improve youth facilities in Coventry. [257704]

Beverley Hughes: The Government have allocated a total of £185,300 per annum over the period 2008-11 to the Youth Capital Fund (YCF) in Coventry local authority. YCF empowers young people by giving them control over funding decisions for new facilities in their area.

Coventry is also receiving an additional £452,000 in 2008-09 via the Youth Capital Fund Plus which will deliver a significant new facility in a neighbourhood with a high level of deprivation, crime and antisocial behaviour.

In December 2008 Coventry and Warwickshire YMCA received £1.5 million from the Youth Sector Development Fund to develop a programme aimed at engaging young people involved in gangs, antisocial behaviour and crime in positive activities.

In addition, since April 2008, all local areas have had the opportunity to bid for funding for world-class youth facilities through the Government's £202 million myplace programme.

Youth Inclusion Programme

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 717W, on crime prevention: young people, on which 110 estates the Youth Inclusion programme operates; and on what criteria those estates were selected. [256435]

Beverley Hughes: The specific names of the estates in which Youth Inclusion programmes (YIPs) run are not formally collected centrally by the Youth Justice Board. However, the information about each area that is available, which in many cases does include the names of relevant estate, is included in annex A.

The criteria upon which estates are selected are high scores for both deprivation and crime.

The number listed is over 110. This is due to local flexibilities which allow for youth offending teams to set up additional YIPs from their prevention budgets where they deem appropriate.

ANNEX A

Youth Inclusion programmes—February 2009

Barking and Dagenham (Abbey)
Barking and Dagenham (Gascoigne)
Barking and Dagenham (Goresbrook)
Barrow in Furness (Hindpool)
Bedford (Cauldwell)

Bedfordshire (Dunstable)
Birmingham (Shard End)
Birmingham (Sparkbrook)
Birmingham (Washwood Heath)
Birmingham (Kingstanding)
Birmingham (Lozells)
Blackburn (Mill Hill)
Blackburn (Whitebirk)
Bolton (Farnworth) New Bury Estate
Bournemouth and Poole (Boscombe East and West)
Bradford (Newlands)
Bracknell—Junior YIP
Brent (Church End and St. Raphaels)
Brighton and Hove (East—Moulsecoomb, Whitehawk)
Bristol (Barton Hill)
Bristol (Henbury)
Burnley (Trinity)
Calderdale (North Halifax)
Camden (Juniper Crescent, Clarence Way, Denton))
Cardiff (Ely and Llanrumney)
Ceredigion (Aberystwwyth West and Penparcau wards)
Coventry (Wood End) Bell Green
Conwy and Denbigshire—Rhyl
Derby (Osmaston)
Derby (Osmaston)
Derby (Mackworth)
Derby (Alvaston)
Derby (Derwent)
Derby (Derwent)
Devon (Gorwell and Frankmarsh)
Devon (Forches and Whiddon Valley)
Devon (Teignmouth)
Devon (Exwick)
Doncaster (North Area)
Durham
Easington (Whole Area)
East Riding (Goole)
Gateshead (Felling)
Greenwich (Eltham) Page
Hackney (North Hackney) Woodberry Down, Stamford Hill, Guiness Trust
Hackney (South YIP) Fellows Court, Holly St., Frampton Court, Blackstone
Hammersmith and Fulham (White City)
Haringey (Somerford Grove, Suffolk, Edgecott, Tiverton, Noel Park, Campsbourne)
Harrogate
Hartlepool
Houghton Regis and Dunstable (Parkside)
Hull (Preston Road)
Islington (Finsbury and Tollington wards)
Kensington and Chelsea (Delgarno)
Kirklees (Dewsbury Moor)
Knowsley—North Huyton (Page Moss Estate)
Lambeth (Moorlands, Loughborough, Angel Town)
Lancashire (Preston) See Preston
Leeds South (Middleton)
Leeds West (Bramley)
Leicester City (three Junior YIPs)
Liverpool (Kensington)
Liverpool (Anfield/Everton) Walton Estate
Luton (Farley and Dallow)
Manchester (East)
Manchester (North—Crime Concern)
Manchester (North)
Manchester (Wythenshawe)
Merthyr Tydfil (North) Gurnos Estate
Middlesbrough (East)
Neath Port Talbot (Sandfield)
Newcastle upon Tyne (Elswick, Wingrove)
Newham (Forest Gate, Canning Town)
North Lincolnshire (Riddings)
North Lincolnshire (Westcliffe)
Northumberland
Nottingham (Meadows)
Nottingham (Radford)
Nottingham
Nottingham
Oldham (Greenacres)
Peterborough (Gladstone/Central Ward/Millfield)
Plymouth (St. Budeau and Barne Barton)
Portsmouth (Portsea)
Preston Brookfield
Preston Ribbleton
Redcar and Cleveland
Rochdale—Kirkholt Estate, Middleton Spring Vale Estate, Heywood
Rotherham (Herringthorpe)
Salford (Weaste)
Sandwell
Scarborough
Scunthorpe (North Lines)
Sedgefield
Sefton—Bootle (Hornby Drive Estate)
Sheffield (Shire Green)
Skipton
Slough
Somerset (Shepton Mallet and Coleford)
South Tyneside (Whitelees, Biddick Hall)
Southampton (S014)
South Gloucestershire (Bradley Stoke)
Southwark (Rockingham, Heygate, Peckham, Bermondsey, Aylesbury and Walworth)
St Helens—Parr Estate
Staffordshire
Stockton-on-Tees—Ragworth, Wrensfield, Newtown
Stoke-on-Trent (Stanfields and Meir)
Sunderland (North Washington)
Swansea (Penderry, Mynydd Bach) Clase Estates
Swindon
Tameside Ashton-Under-Lyne
Torbay (Paignton) not ward based
Torbay (Brixham) not ward based
Torbay (Torquay) Pendennis, Ellercombe and Watcombe
Tower Hamlets—St. Dunstans, Stepney Green, Whitechapel, Weavers, Bethnal Green
Tower Hamlets—Mile End, Globe Town, Spitalfields, Banglatown
Tower Hamlets—St. Katharines, Wapping, Shadwell, Bow and Bromley-by-Bow

Wakefield
Walsall (WS3,WS10) Blakenall
Waltham Forest
Wandsworth (Roehampton) Tooting, Battersea, Roehampton
Wear Valley
Wiltshire (Adcroft and Drynham)
Wirral—Woodchurch, Lesowe, Wallasey, North Birkenhead, Central Birkenhead, Rockferry
Wolverhampton (Low Hill/Bushbury)
Wrexham—Caia Park
Wycombe, Bucks

TRANSPORT

Ashchurch Station

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many calls Cross Country Trains services are required to make at Ashchurch station *(a)* each day and *(b)* each week; what recent changes have been made to this requirement; whether any further changes are planned; and if he will make a statement. [257451]

Paul Clark: The service level commitment within its franchise agreement requires Cross Country to call at Ashchurch station on Mondays to Saturdays. Four services to Birmingham New Street and two services to Cardiff Central are required to be provided. The current service level commitment commenced on 14 December 2008. The previous service level commitment required Cross Country to operate two services calling at Ashchurch in the direction of Cardiff Central. There are no current plans to change this current level of service.

Aviation: Fares

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Eddisbury of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 955-56W, on aviation: fares, if he will provide details of the data referred to in note 3 to the table. [258061]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The domestic component of the average air fare referred to in note 3 of the table has been based on a sample of fares data compiled from air passenger interviews conducted by the CAA on 12 domestic routes, excluding passengers transferring to international flights.

Average domestic air fare, 1997 prices

	£
1997	143
1998	145
1999	143
2000	141
2001	135
2002	117
2003	112
2004	105
2005	104
2006	102

The sample of routes that this table is based on is as follows:

Gatwick—Glasgow
Gatwick—Newcastle
Heathrow—Aberdeen
Heathrow—Belfast International
Heathrow—Edinburgh
Heathrow—Manchester
Luton—Glasgow
Luton—Aberdeen
Manchester—Belfast International
Manchester—Edinburgh
Manchester—Southampton
Stansted—Prestwick

The domestic fare index is based only on routes from airports that are continuously surveyed by the CAA, as many domestic routes are between regional airports that are only intermittently surveyed. Fares at Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester airports were surveyed continuously over the whole period, but Luton and Stansted were surveyed continuously by the CAA only from 2000 onwards.

In addition, the index has been compiled only from domestic routes that have been operational throughout the time period under analysis.

Bus Services: Driving Instruction

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which bus companies operating in the Greater London area have delegated driving examiners. [257391]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Greater London bus companies that are approved to appoint delegated examiners are as follows:

Arriva London North
Arriva London South
Docklands Minibuses
East London Bus and Coach Co.
First London
London General Transport
London United Busways Ltd.
Metrobus Ltd.
Metroline Travel Ltd.
National Express London

The delegated examiners may conduct tests for sister companies both inside and outside the Greater London area.

Bus Services: Standards

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many bus drivers were examined under the driver quality monitoring scheme in each year since 2005; and how many were found to be *(a)* unacceptable with serious faults and *(b)* unacceptable with dangerous faults in each such year. [256233]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 11 February 2009]:* The Driving Standards Agency provides Driver Quality Monitoring (DQM) assessments to bus companies on a

commercial basis. The Agency has no powers to revoke a bus driver's licence based on the outcome of a DQM assessment.

The following table shows the number of DQM assessments conducted by the DSA.

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Total DQM assessments	9,059	9,089	8,177
Unacceptable serious faults	3,311	2,783	2,086
Unacceptable dangerous faults	136	113	77

A serious fault is defined as a significant deviation from the defined outcome with safety, control and/or legal requirements breached, such as moving off from a bus stop causing a car driver from the rear to brake.

A dangerous fault is defined as safety, control and/or legal requirement breached that would have caused actual danger, such as moving off from a bus stop into the path of a car from the rear causing the other driver to swerve to avoid a collision.

The data from the assessment are collated and reported back to the client on the next day, for potential remedial action. For those assessments recording dangerous faults the bus company is notified on the day of the assessment. In all cases the client is responsible for any further action. Some operators use these reports for disciplinary and reward purposes.

Bus companies use DQM assessments as part of their internal quality supervision arrangements. The Agency's records indicate that the proportion of assessments giving rise to serious and dangerous markings decreases year on year during the life of a DQM contract.

Bus Services: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much his Department has spent on supporting bus services in York in each year since the creation of the York unitary authority; [257834]

(2) how much his Department has spent on road improvements in City of York constituency in each year since the creation of the York unitary authority. [257835]

Paul Clark: Funding provided by the Department for Transport to local authorities is not generally ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities. Figures are not therefore available at constituency level.

The Department allocates integrated transport block funding to local transport authorities for general capital investment in transport. Figures are available from 1997-98 and are shown in £ millions in Table 1:

Table 1: Capital support for transport schemes in City of York council

£ million

	Integrated transport block	Total pre-LTP funding
2008-09	3.737	—
2007-08	4.141	—
2006-07	4.478	—
2005-06	4.900	—
2004-05	4.840	—
2003-04	4.700	—
2002-03	4.400	—
2001-02	4.900	—
2000-01	1.550	—
1999-2000	—	1.983
1998-99	—	1.127
1997-98	—	2.212

Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's Formula Grant.

Rural Bus Subsidy

The City of York council also receives grant funding to help support marginal bus services through the rural bus subsidy grant (RBSG) and rural bus challenge (RBC), as shown in Table 2:

Table 2: Bus subsidy for City of York since 1998-99

£

	RBSG	RBC
2008-09[1]	137,852	—
2007-08	134,466	—
2006-07	131,322	—
2005-06	128,178	[2]185,700
2004-05	123,342	—
2003-04	109,261	—
2002-03	107,008	—
2001-02	93,491	—
2000-01	73,216	235,858
1999-2000	73,216	—
1998-99	73,216	180,000

[1] Since April 2008, RBSG has been included in Area Based Grant allocations to local authorities.
[2] Part of the 2005 Kickstart bus funding competition.

Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG)

Local bus service and community transport operators receive bus service operators grant (BSOG) from this Department, amounting to over £400 million in 2008-09. Records are not kept of BSOG expenditure by local authority area.

Concessionary fares

Before 1 April 2008, funding for the statutory minimum bus concession was provided exclusively through the Formula Grant system, which is administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). The Department for Transport therefore provided no funding to City of York council for concessionary bus travel prior to this date.

The Department did however provide City of York council with £130,972 in 2007-08 for the cost of producing and issuing the new England-wide bus passes to all their eligible people. In 2008-09 DFT will provide City of York council with special grant funding of £1.1 million for the improvement to statutory concessionary travel; this is in addition to the existing formula grant funding from CLG.

The Department also provides block funding for road improvements and maintenance, as set out in Table 3:

Table 3: Funding for road improvements and maintenance in City of York council

	Highways Maintenance	Other funding[1]	Total
2008-09	1.379	1.217	2.596
2007-08	1.419	1.1.379	2.798
2006-07	1.386	0.887	2.273
2005-06	1.325	0.364	1.689
2004-05	1.462	0.633	2.095
2003-04	1.281	0.314	1.595
2002-03	1.155	—	1.155
2001-02	1.095	—	1.095
2000-01	0.712	—	0.712
1999-2000	—	—	—
1998-99	—	—	—
1997-98	—	—	0.977
1996-97	—	—	2.262

[1] Other funding covers capital and revenue funding for detrunking, and road safety capital funding.

In 1996-97 and 1997-98 the Department provided £3.239 million for the Peasholme Green bridge scheme.

Buses: Regulation

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to bus and coach operators of implementating the measures included in the proposed EU Regulation 2008/0237 on the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport. [256609]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* The Department for Transport will be consulting shortly on the European Commission's proposal for a regulation on bus and coach passenger rights including our initial assessment of its impact.

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effects on trends in the number of spurious claims of injury by bus and coach passengers of implementation of provisions in the proposed EU Regulation 2008/0237 on the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport. [256610]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* The European Commission's proposal for a new regulation on bus and coach passenger rights would make operators liable for loss or damage resulting from the death, personal injury or mental harm to passengers caused by an accident while the passengers were on, entering or leaving the vehicle. In certain circumstances the operator would not be able to contest damages, although they would not be liable if the accident was the fault of the passenger or caused by the passenger's negligence. No assessment has been made of the likely effect of these provisions on trends in the number of spurious injury claims made by passengers. The Department will shortly be consulting on the European Commission's proposal to help inform the Government's position.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls and Expenditure

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the gross annual revenue from the Dartford crossings was in the last year for which figures are available; [258072]

(2) what the costs of operating and maintaining the Dartford crossings were in the last year for which figures are available; [258073]

(3) what the cost of collecting tolls was for the Dartford crossings in the last year for which figures are available. [258074]

Paul Clark: The 2007-08 accounts were published on 29 January 2009 and show gross income of £67.3 million, managing agent costs of £15.8 million, which includes charge collection and general running costs, and other expenditure of £8.6 million which includes capital works. A copy of the Dartford-Thurrock Crossing Charging Scheme Account for 2007-08 has been placed in the House Library.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of maintaining the databases owned and managed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies was in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [256146]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Flowers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on cut flowers in each of the last three years. [256173]

Mr. Hoon: The requested information is provided in the following table.

£

DfT Organisational Unit	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
DfT (c)			
London HQ	0.00	0.00	0.00
Air Accidents Investigation Branch[1]	0.00	180.00	0.00
Marine Accident Investigation Branch	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rail Accident Investigation Branch	0.00	0.00	0.00
Driving Standards Agency	1,210.00	1,225.00	1,375.00
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency[2]	100.00	150.00	0.00
Government Car and Despatch Agency[3]	—	—	—
Highways Agency[3]	—	—	—
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	40.00	27.49	29.50
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency[3]	—	—	—

DfT Organisational Unit	2005-06	2006-07	£ 2007-08
Vehicle Certification Agency[5]	..	245.00	830.00
	1,350.00	1,827.49	2,054.50

[1] Relates to the Royal opening of a new wing of the Air Accidents Investigation Branch (Farnborough)
[2] The £100.00 spend in 2005-06 relates to the purchase of two flower arrangements for the Memorial Service of B. Ley (DVLA Director) in June 2005 and the hire of two flower stands.
The £150.00 spend in 2006-07 relates to the purchase of cut flowers for the victims of the letter bomb explosion at the Agency's mail room in February 2007.
[3] Requested information can only be provided at disproportionate cost.
[4] Relates to spend incurred during 2006-07 to 2008-09 (to date). Flowers are sent to staff following a serious, personal and often unexpected event. This would include a serious illness, major accident or bereavement.

This excludes spend by the Government Car and Despatch Agency, Highways Agency, and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency as the requested information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of those outside the Senior Civil Service in his Department received a bonus in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [252680]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* The Department for Transport comprises a central Department plus seven Executive agencies, each with its own pay and reward system. Information regarding non-consolidated performance pay has been collected from the central Department and all seven agencies and collated to one set of figures.

The percentage of staff outside the senior civil service structure in the Department for Transport who received non-consolidated performance pay in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008 is set out in the following table:

	Percentage of staff outside of SCS receiving non-consolidated performance pay	Non-consolidated performance pay as a percentage of pay bill
2005-06	71	1.47
2006-07	77	1.67
2007-08	72	1.56

The aforementioned figures exclude VOSA performance pay data for 2007-08 because this has not yet been paid.

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many new recruits his Department took on in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09; how many of these were taken on as (i) permanent, (ii) temporary and (iii) agency staff; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11. [254472]

Mr. Hoon: The number of new recruits taken on by the Department in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09 and how many of these were taken on as (i) permanent, (ii) temporary and (iii) agency staff is set out in the following table.

	Number of permanent staff taken on	Number of temporary staff taken on	Number of agency staff taken on
2005-06	2,234	680	845
2006-07	1,931	555	966
2007-08	1,415	82[1]	989

The data in the table are for the Department for Transport (Centre) and its agencies. The figures for 2008-09 are not available. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has a category of staff termed "casual staff" which have been recorded under temporary staff in the aforementioned table; the Vehicle Operator Services Agency does not record agency staff numbers centrally; and temporary/fixed term staff are recorded within the permanent category for the Department for Transport (Centre) for 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Estimates for the equivalent figures for (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11 are not available.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the number of inaccurate records on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's vehicle system software. [256070]

Jim Fitzpatrick: An accurate record is defined as one where the registered keeper of the vehicle or the driving licence holder can be traced from the details contained on the database.

The latest estimate of the accuracy of the vehicles record showed it was 96.9 per cent. accurate. This equates to 1,052,662 records that are inaccurate.

The latest estimate of the accuracy of the drivers record showed it was 81.5 per cent. accurate. This equates to 7,906,275 records that are inaccurate.

The responsibility for notifying the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA) of a change of address lies with the vehicle keeper or licence holder. So far as vehicle records are concerned there is an annual requirement to tax the vehicle and this transaction is a regular prompt to owners to fulfil the requirement to notify change of address. There is no equivalent annual driver transaction that prompts a notification.

DVLA is not complacent about accuracy. The task is to encourage and support drivers and vehicle keepers to meet their obligations and to that end a dedicated accuracy improvement team has been established to improve matters. Current initiatives in hand include checks of credit reference agency databases for current addresses and working with others in the cross-government Tell Us Once initiative to obtain early notification of the death of a licence holder.

Driving Instruction: Greater London

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Driving Standards Agency driving examiners conducting passenger service vehicle tests there were in the Greater London area in the last 12 months. [257390]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Twenty-one.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many delegated driving examiners in the Greater London area were quality assured in 2008. [257396]

Jim Fitzpatrick: 18.

Driving Tests: Greater London

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the pass rate was of tests taken with delegated driving examiners in the Greater London area in each year from 2005 to 2008. [257392]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The pass rates of tests taken with delegated driving examiners working for bus companies, in the Greater London area between 2005 and 2008 are as follows:

	Percentage pass rate
2005	52.7
2006	54.8
2007	53.1
2008[1]	57.3

[1] January to August 2008 only.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the pass rate was for passenger service vehicle driving tests taken by Driving Standards Agency examiners in the Greater London area in each year from 2005 to 2008. [257393]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Driving Standards Agency do not hold historical information on pass rates by calendar year. They do have this information by financial year as follows, along with the 2008 calendar year.

Greater London area

Period covered	*Percentage pass*
1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008	40.6
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	40.6
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	41.3
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	40.9

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what monitoring processes his Department and its agencies use to ensure equality of opportunity for members of ethnic minority groups (*a*) applying for provisional driving licences and (*b*) applying to take the driving test. [256536]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) does not monitor the ethnicity of applicants for a provisional driving licence.

The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) completed an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) on the processes for applying to take a driving test in January 2008. This confirmed they were not influenced by ethnicity or race.

DSA's driving test booking processes are validated annually via a 'mystery shopping' exercise. This ensures the assessment is undertaken anonymously and independently by independent researchers. This survey is undertaken to ensure that the processes validated by the EIA are performed correctly and fairly.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many driving licence change of address notifications were received by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in 2008. [258218]

Jim Fitzpatrick: 2,181,677.

Garages and petrol Stations

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to require all petrol stations to provide a free air service for tyre inflation. [257069]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department does not have any plans to require all petrol stations to offer a free tyre inflation service. However, correct tyre inflation is important from a CO_2 reduction perspective. This is why provision of tyre inflation equipment is included in a list of energy efficiency measures, on which the Department is seeking to establish a voluntary agreement with fuel suppliers. The Department is also promoting the importance of keeping tyres correctly inflated via the Act On CO_2 campaign.

Heathrow Airport

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what (*a*) primary and (*b*) secondary legislation would be required before a third runway at Heathrow could come into operation. [256764]

Jim Fitzpatrick: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport made clear on 15 January 2009 the Government's strong environment commitments in relation to expanding Heathrow. These are firm obligations. The precise mechanisms needed to deliver them—including any necessary legislation—are under consideration and will be announced in due course.

Heathrow Airport: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the effect of a third runway at Heathrow on levels of carbon dioxide emissions resulting from stacking by commercial aircraft awaiting clearance to land at Heathrow. [254681]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport's report, "Improving the Air Passenger Experience", provides appropriate estimates of aircraft stacking above Heathrow. This report is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/airports/improveairpassengerexp.pdf

Figure 27 on page 25 shows that in 2006-07, 56 per cent. of arriving aircraft were held in a stack and for those held, there was an average 8.5 minute hold. This equates to roughly 50,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emitted by aircraft stacking at Heathrow in 2006-07.

As the capacity constraint is reached at Heathrow, these delays and emissions are forecast to increase in future without additional capacity.

Although the effect on stacking of a third runway has not yet been quantified, it is anticipated that a third runway will reduce the need for aircraft to be held in stacks. It will also enable the airport to operate with greater flexibility for slot re-timing with potentially fewer delays for passengers.

High Speed Trains: Lancashire

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent discussions he has had with High Speed Two Ltd. on proposals to develop a high speed railway line between (*a*) London and Lancashire and (*b*) London and the centre of Birmingham; [257983]

(2) whether an assessment of proposals for a high speed railway line between London and Lancaster will be contained in the document to be produced by High Speed Two Ltd. by the end of 2009; [257984]

(3) whether he has commissioned research on the provision of a new high speed rail link to Scotland. [257985]

Paul Clark: A new company, High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd., has been formed to develop the case for high speed services between London and Scotland.

As a first stage, the company is expected to bring forward proposals for Britain's second new high speed line, between London and the west midlands, by the end of the year, and to consider the potential for new lines to serve the north of England and Scotland. This will need to include an appraisal of the environmental, planning, technological, capacity, value for money and funding issues.

High Speed Trains: North East Region

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to fund the development of high-speed rail links to and from the north-east in the next five years. [257544]

Paul Clark: A new company, High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd., has been formed to develop the case for high speed services between London and Scotland.

As a first stage, the company is expected to bring forward proposals for Britain's second new high speed line, between London and the west midlands, by the end of the year, and to consider the potential for new lines to serve the north of England and Scotland. This will need to include an appraisal of the environmental, planning, technological, capacity, value for money and funding issues.

Humber Bridge: Road Traffic

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of levels of traffic on the Humber Bridge in each of the next 10 years. [257399]

Paul Clark: The Humber Bridge Board is responsible for estimating levels of traffic on the Humber bridge.

Humber Bridge: Tolls

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made an assessment of the merits of a reduction of the Humber Bridge toll by £1 for a one-year period. [258037]

Paul Clark: It is for the Humber Bridge Board to make such an assessment and make an application to the Secretary of State.

No such application has been made.

Low Emission Zones: Ambulance Services

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on (*a*) the establishment of low emission zones by local authorities and (*b*) the charges which may be imposed on ambulances operated by St. John Ambulance entering these zones; and if he will make a statement. [256915]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None, although the Department continues to discuss with a number of stakeholders, including the Environmental Industries Commission, DEFRA and CENEX, the role of low emissions zones.

The establishment of a low emission zone is a matter for consideration by the relevant local authority, as are the criteria and standards for a scheme. That is, the criteria and standards, including which vehicles are affected and any exemptions, are determined by the relevant local authority as the scheme sponsor. This is most evident with the London low emission zone where Transport for London, directed by the London Mayor, administer and monitor the scheme.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicle excise duty (VED) licences were issued for domestic vehicles registered at addresses in City of York constituency in each VED band in each of the last five years. [257841]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of licensed cars registered to private keepers in the City of York parliamentary constituency at the end of each of the last five years were:

Vehicle excise duty band	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
A: Up to 100g/km CO_2	0	0	0	0	0
B: 101-120 g/km CO_2	16	18	35	76	159
C: 121-150 g/km CO_2	102	220	294	357	454
D: 151-165 g/km CO_2	71	158	282	404	549
E: 166-185 g/km CO_2	792	1,181	1,519	1,848	2,211
F: Over 185 g/km CO_2 - registered before 23 March 2006	1,572	2,427	3,142	3,725	4,182
G: Over 225 g/km CO_2 – registered on or after 23 March 2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	70	162
Licensed in the private and light goods vehicles class	29,941	30,057	29,628	28,991	28,096
Exempt from VED	905	779	697	679	631
Total number of licensed privately owned cars	33,399	34,840	35,597	36,150	36,444

Cars registered prior to 1 March 2001 are licensed in the private and light goods vehicles class and not in relation to their carbon dioxide emissions.

Statistics relating to the end of 2008 are not yet available, but are due to be published in April 2009.

Motor Vehicles: Licensing

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has of the current number of unlicensed *(a)* cars, *(b)* vans, *(c)* lorries and *(d)* motorcycles, broken down by make; and if he will make a statement. [256724]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Estimates of the number of unlicensed vehicles in use in Great Britain are available by taxation class. Estimates for 2008 (in thousands) were as follows:

Taxation class	*Estimated number of unlicensed vehicles (thousand)*	*Rate of unlicensed vehicles in active stock (percentage)*
Private and light goods	265	0.9
Goods	3	0.7
Motorcycle	44	3.6
Bus	1	0.6
Exempt	15	0.7
Other	2	1.8
All taxation classes	330	1.0

These estimates cannot be disaggregated by vehicle make.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many unlicensed *(a)* cars, *(b)* vans, *(c)* lorries and *(d)* motorcycles were (i) clamped and (ii) crushed in each of the last three years for which information is available, broken down by make; what legislation authorises the (A) clamping and (B) crushing of unlicensed vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [256725]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A breakdown of the total number of vehicles clamped and crushed under Department for Transport legislation for the last three years is given in the following table. The figure for each year includes cars, vans, lorries and motorcycles. The statistical data held by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency are not held in such a way to allow figures to be broken down by make.

Calendar year	*Vehicles clamped*	*Vehicles crushed*
2006	89,941	38,309
2007	128,691	45,892
2008	157,977	59,489

The legislation that enables both the clamping and crushing of unlicensed vehicles is the Vehicle Excise Duty (Immobilisation, Removal and Disposal of Vehicles) Regulations 1997, as amended.

Motorways: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Government have taken to improve the motorway infrastructure in the west midlands. [256815]

Paul Clark: Over the last three years 19 major maintenance schemes, each costing between £1 million and £5 million, have been completed; and one major project costing more than £5 million is under construction. These include resurfacing of carriageways and substantial repairs to the structures of the elevated sections of motorway within Birmingham and the Black Country.

The following improvement schemes have also been introduced to tackle particular areas of congestion, improve safety and increase capacity:

- Active traffic management on the M42 east of Birmingham, which is now being extended northwards and introduced on the M40 and M6, with hard shoulder running on the M6 between junction 4 and 5, and junction 8 and 10a;
- Four lengths of MIDAS (motorway incident detection and automated signalling) on the M6 and M42;
- Increased capacity at the junction of the M42 and M6 toll road by adding an additional lane; and
- Traffic light signalisation of several junctions on the M5 and M6 to smooth flow during peak periods.

In the Secretary of State's announcement 'Britain's Transport Infrastructure Motorway and Major Trunk Roads' on 15 January 2009, the following schemes that benefit the west midlands were identified as being expected to enter construction by 2015:

- Hard shoulder running on the M6 from junction 5 to 8 around Birmingham
- Hard shoulder running on the M6 from junction 10a to 13 north of Birmingham
- Improvement of M1 junction 19, the key intersection of the M6, M1 andA14.

In addition, as part of our longer term plans to roll out hard shoulder running across the core motorway network over the next 10 to 15 years, this innovative technique is planned to be implemented on the following parts of the motorway network relevant to the west midlands:

- M6 from junction 2 to 4, between Coventry and Birmingham
- M6 from junction 13 to 19 in Staffordshire
- M5 from junction 4a to 6, south of Birmingham
- M1 junction 13 to 19, south of Rugby.

National Express East Anglia

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he next plans to meet the management of National Express to discuss the *(a)* level of their fares, *(b)* quality of their service and *(c)* morale of their staff. [257163]

Paul Clark: In addition to regular general meetings with the Association of Train Operating Companies and representatives of the train operators, Department for Transport Ministers meet senior representatives of all GB train operators every four weeks specifically to discuss rail industry operational performance.

In addition, Departmental officials meet all franchise train operators every four weeks to discuss the delivery of franchise agreements and obligations.

Newhaven Marine Railway Station

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1135W, on Newhaven Marine railway station, on what date the passenger train service was last delivered by rail. [257002]

Paul Clark: Further to my answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1135W Newhaven Marine station has not been safe for passengers since August 2006.

Official Cars: Snow and Ice

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many sets of snow chains the Government Car and Despatch Agency held for use on the Government car fleet on 2 February 2009; [256912]

(2) how many ministerial cars were in use on 2 February 2009; and how many were fitted with snow chains. [256913]

Jim Fitzpatrick: On 2 February 2009 ministerial transport movements were kept to a minimum, in line with advice given by the emergency services and the Highways Agency. The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) was able to fulfil all its essential ministerial transport obligations on that day.

GCDA does not fit snow chains to its car fleet.

Park and Ride Schemes: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many park and ride locations there were in York in each year since 1997. [257837]

Paul Clark: Since 1997 two park and ride locations have opened in York, at the Designer Outlet in 2000 and at Monks Cross in 2004. These are in addition to those opened at Askham Bar in 1990, Grimston Bar in 1994 and Rawcliffe Bar in 1996. Two new park and ride faculties planned on A59 and at Clifton Moor with openings anticipated in 2011-12.

Public Transport

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Government have taken to encourage people to use public transport. [256816]

Paul Clark: The Local Transport Act 2008, which secured Royal Assent in November 2008, will give local authorities enhanced powers to deliver better bus services and a more integrated transport system tailored to local needs.

We are also investing heavily in improving both bus and rail services. Local and central Government now provide £2.5 billion in supporting the local bus network, double the level of spending a decade ago. This includes £1 billion for free off-peak bus travel anywhere in England for older and eligible disabled people and £57 million through the Rural Bus Subsidy Grant.

We have also launched a new Kickstart bus funding competition which offers local transport authorities the chance to bid for a share of £25 million to pump-prime new or enhanced bus services in partnership with bus operators.

The Government are putting record investment in rail as part of their strategy to give people an alternative to travelling by road and meet our environmental obligations on CO_2 emissions. Over £10 billion will be invested in enhancing capacity between 2009 and 2014, with overall Government support for the railway totalling £15 billion.

Public Transport: Elderly

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Government have taken to make public transport more affordable for older citizens. [256817]

Paul Clark: The Government introduced the statutory minimum bus concession in England in 2001 giving half fare local bus travel at off-peak times to older and eligible disabled residents. In April 2006 this was improved to give free off-peak bus travel in a resident's local area.

From 1 April 2008, this was extended England-wide so that 11 million older and eligible disabled people are entitled to free off-peak bus travel anywhere in England.

The Government are providing around £1 billion each year to support the England-wide concession. An extra £212 million has been made available to local authorities from 2008-09, through a special grant, to fund the increased cost of the new statutory minimum bus concession. The funding allocation was approved following debate in the House on 25 March 2008.

Railway Stations: Opening Hours

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria his Department set for determining whether South West Trains be allowed to close ticket offices within the terms of its franchise agreement; and what criteria will be applied in decisions on First Capital Connect's proposed closures of ticket offices. [255995]

Paul Clark: South West Trains (SWT) submitted its proposals as a major change" under the procedures of the Ticketing and Settlement Agreement (TSA—the approved industry process for such matters), which sets the procedures that operators use to change ticket office hours.

The major change procedure permits operators to make reductions in the opening hours of their ticket offices as long as the appropriate criteria are met. These are that:

> the change represents an improvement on current arrangements in terms of quality of service and/or cost-effectiveness; and
>
> that members of the public will continue to enjoy widespread and easy access to the purchase of rail products

Following the required consultation period Passenger Focus (PF) and London TravelWatch (LTW) raised objections to the SWT proposal and the Secretary of State was required to arbitrate.

The Secretary of State reviewed the proposal against the criteria set out in the Ticketing and Settlement Agreement, taking into account the views of Passenger Focus, London TravelWatch and SWT. No SWT ticket offices were closed completely.

First Capital Connect's proposals are currently under consultation. It would therefore be inappropriate for me to make any comment on them at present as that may fetter the discretion of the Secretary of State if the proposals are referred by the operator for arbitration. However, should this arise the same criteria will be applied.

Railways: Accidents

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* injuries and *(b)* deaths have occurred in accidents on railway crossings in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire in each year since 1998. [255644]

Paul Clark: There are no level crossings in the Hemel Hempstead area.

The following data, relating to Hertfordshire, are based on incidents reported to the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR 95). Figures for 2008 are provisional and may change with the receipt of coroners' findings for inquests that are currently outstanding.

Level crossing accidents in Hertfordshire 1998 to 2008[1]

	Fatalities	Injuries	Total
1998	1	0	1
1999	0	1	1
2000	1	1	2
2001	1	0	1
2002	2	1	3
2003	2	0	2
2004	0	0	0
2005	1	0	1
2006	1	0	1
2007	0	1	1
2008[1]	1	0	1
Total	10	4	14

[1] Provisional figures.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* injuries there have been on the railways in (i) Greater London, (ii) Sutton and Cheam constituency and (iii) nationwide in each year since 1998. [256662]

Paul Clark: Fatality and injury data by constituency can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the other information requested on fatalities and injuries on the railways in Greater London and nationwide in each year since 1998 is shown in the following tables.

Table 1: Railway fatalities and injuries Great Britain 1998-08[1]

	Fatalities	Injuries
1998	298	4,565
1999	349	5,407
2000	319	5,523
2001	308	5,239
2002	316	5,197
2003	286	5,125
2004	280	5,129
2005	314	5,266
2006	343	4,529
2007	309	4,547
2008[1]	309	3,998

[1] Provisional figures.

Table 2: Railway fatalities and injuries Greater London area only 1998-08[1]

	Fatalities	Injuries
1998	73	2,303
1999	90	2,485
2000	63	2,366
2001	84	2,319
2002	75	2,434
2003	73	2,558
2004	59	2,565
2005	78	2,805
2006	81	2,481
2007	75	2,461
2008[1]	81	2,074

[1] Provisional figures.

The data are based on incidents reported to the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR 95). The majority of fatality figures relate to incidents of trespass and suicide.

Data for 2008 are provisional and subject to change.

Railways: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Government have taken to improve rail services to and from Coventry. [256814]

Paul Clark: The Government have specified an increase in the number of inter-city trains from two to three each way per hour between London, Coventry and Birmingham, and the additional services were introduced in December 2008. The Government have also specified an increase in the number of trains between Northampton, Coventry and Birmingham from one to two each way per hour throughout the day, and these too were introduced in December 2008.

Railways: East Midlands

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1305W, on railways: overcrowding, whether East Midlands Trains Class 158 trains will be providing a service during rush hour periods. [258135]

Paul Clark: Yes. East Midlands Trains is under an obligation to deploy all its available fleet during peak hours, which includes Class 158 units.

Railways: Fares

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1137W, on railways: fares, what reasons underlie the Government's policy on the provision of additional railcard schemes; and if he will make a statement. [256823]

Paul Clark: Railcards offer a discount against the full price of travel. They are designed to encourage travel by groups of people who might otherwise be unable to use rail and to encourage social inclusion. In general, railcards are for off-peak travel where there is spare train capacity.

All franchised train operators must accept the Senior Railcard, Young Persons Railcard and Disabled Persons' Railcard. Other railcards are offered commercially by train operators.

Factors in considering any additional railcard would include whether it was likely to reduce the revenue to the railway, and whether it would benefit those on a high income as well as those on a lower income. Fares revenue and subsidy together have to cover the costs of providing the service. We could require operators to offer more railcards but only if Government paid higher subsidies to offset the reduction in revenue. This would reduce the funds available for other things, including investment in train services.

Railways: Franchises

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria his Department uses to assign red light status to a rail franchise in its assessment of the financial position of train operating companies. [257008]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport uses a number of criteria in its routine reviews of the operational and financial performance of train operating companies. These include an examination of forecast costs and revenues going forward, as well as an analysis of wider economic forecasts that might have an impact on the franchise in question.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the value was of the bond deposited by each of the train operating companies awarded a rail franchise. [257010]

Paul Clark: The value of bonds deposited by train operating companies are based on a formula relating to the assessed costs of the franchise in question. As such the values of the bonds are commercially confidential.

Railways: Greater Manchester

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department plans to increase the carrying capacity of rail services in Greater Manchester; and if he will make a statement. [257582]

Paul Clark: In the White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway" of July 2007 the Government announced their intention to meet extra demand for rail travel into Manchester by 2013-14, namely an additional 2,200 passengers in the morning high-peak hour, and 4,100 passengers in the morning peak three hours. We are currently in discussion with relevant train operating companies on measures to meet this demand and will make announcements in due course.

Railways: Northern Region

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to increase rail capacity between Durham and Newcastle. [257991]

Paul Clark: In the White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway" of July 2007 the Government announced their intention to meet extra demand for rail travel into "other urban areas" (including Newcastle) by 2013-14; in total, 2,000 passengers in the morning high-peak hour, and 3,600 passengers in the morning peak three hours for all such areas. The Government are currently in discussion with relevant train operating companies on measures to meet this demand, and will make announcements in due course.

Railways: Standards

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he next plans to meet UK train operators to discuss the *(a)* level of fares, *(b)* train punctuality, *(c)* quality of rolling stock and *(d)* level and quality of refreshment services on board trains. [257162]

Paul Clark: In addition to regular general meetings with the Association of Train Operating Companies and representatives of the train operators, Department for Transport Ministers meet senior representatives of all GB train operators every four weeks specifically to discuss rail industry operational performance.

In addition, departmental officials meet all franchise train operators every four weeks to discuss the delivery of franchise agreements and obligations.

Railways: Wales

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assign the line from Bidston to Wrexham to Merseyrail; and if he will make a statement. [257007]

Paul Clark: This is a matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the GB national rail infrastructure. The Welsh Assembly Government are responsible for the specification and funding of the franchised passenger services operated by Arriva Trains Wales between Bidston and Wrexham.

Railways: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on railway infrastructure serving the *(a)* City of York and *(b)* east coast main line in each of the last 15 years. [257838]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold the information in the form requested.

The majority of capital investment on the railway is undertaken by Network Rail which is funded through a combination of direct grants from Government and track access charges levied on train operators. Details of total historic Government spending on the railway are published by the Office of Rail Regulation in National Rail Trends. Copies of this are available in the Library of the House and on the ORR's website at

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1863.

Roads: Lighting

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effects on *(a)* levels of road safety and *(b)* numbers of road accidents of reducing the hours during which (i) street and (ii) motorway lighting is used; and if he will make a statement. [255612]

Paul Clark: Street lighting service levels on local roads are a matter for individual highway authorities.

The effects of reducing lighting levels or turning lights off will vary from case to case. Any reduction in energy use would have to be balanced against potential adverse effects, for example on accidents. The UK Lighting Board in conjunction with the Institution of Lighting Engineers has published "Invest to Save" which provides guidance to local authorities considering reducing lighting levels. The document can be found at the Institution of Lighting Engineers' website at:

www.ile.org.uk

In respect of motorways, the Highways Agency provides and renews lighting by conducting a cost-benefit appraisal based on the historic accident rates for individual locations. This aims to deliver improvements to road safety and reduced night time accidents, where they would have the most effect.

Consideration is being given to switching off lighting on sections of motorway where there is a good safety record, traffic flows are low between midnight and 5 am, and have been subject to the completion of a thorough safety risk assessment.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse was of maintaining each *(a)* motorway, *(b)* trunk road and *(c)* other road for which the Highways Agency was responsible in each year since 1997-98, broken down by road. [257398]

Paul Clark: The cost to the public purse of maintaining the motorways, trunk roads and other roads for which the Highways Agency was responsible in each year since 1997-98 is as follows:

	£millions
2007-08	879
2006-07	850
2005-06	852
2004-05	732
2003-04	726
2002-03	760
2001-02	711
2000-01	736
1999-2000	726
1998-99	638
1997-98	499

The expenditure figures are for maintenance on the strategic road network managed and maintained by the Highways Agency. This includes renewal of the road surface and repairs to structures, as well as routine maintenance such as gully clearing, white lining, cleaning and winter maintenance. Costs excluded are those associated with our PFI contracts and our traffic and incident management service. To provide the aggregate of this information by individual road/route would require a significant amount of additional analysis, and as such could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Expenditure figures have been adjusted to account for spend relating to roads trunked or detrunked in the financial year.

Spend figures prior to 2000-01 are based on cash accounting; the later years are based on resource accounting.

Roads: Safety

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding his Department has provided for road safety schemes in *(a)* Eastbourne constituency and *(b)* East Sussex in 2008-09. [257082]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport provided East Sussex county council with a specific road safety capital grant of £181,269 for 2008-09. It also provided £814,713 of resource funding on the basis of an assessment of road safety issues for the area based grant for East Sussex county council. The area based grant is paid to the local authority by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

In addition the Department for Transport has provided £4.504 million of capital funding in 2008-09 for integrated transport improvements, including for road safety. It is for East Sussex county council to decide how much of this to allocate to road safety related projects according to its local policies and priorities.

The distribution of all this funding between the Eastbourne constituency and the rest of the county council's area is a matter for the county council.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* adequacy and *(b)* security of the supply of salt and other road gritting agents. [255840]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 10 February 2009]:* The Department for Transport is working with the Cabinet Office, other Government Departments, the Local Government Association, individual local authorities and the Highways Agency to identify the current capacity of the main suppliers of road salt nationally and to work with those suppliers to enable salt supplies to get to those highway authorities with the most urgent needs.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Highways Agency has spent on grit in each of the last 10 years. [256226]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency does not use grit. The mineral used for the treatment of its network is road salt.

The Highways Agency's routine and winter service is undertaken by its service providers. The procurement of road salt used for the treatment of the network is a part of the lump-sum activity of these service providers. The specific amount spent on road salt is not discernable from the contracts with our service providers.

Salt usage for the strategic road network varies between 300,000-400,000 tonnes per annum and the current cost for road salt is approximately £25 per tonne.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Highways Agency and *(b)* Salt Union on the distribution of salt to (i) Highways Agency depots and (ii) local authorities since 1 January 2009. [256618]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* The Government, Highways Agency, the Local Government Agency and individual local authorities have been working

closely together to help prioritise the distribution of new supplies of road salt both to the Highways Agency for the strategic road network and to local highway authorities for local roads. As a consequence of this, since the onset of the adverse weather conditions, the Department for Transport has been in regular contact with Salt Union on their delivery plans and priorities.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department has issued to the Highways Agency on minimum salt reserves; what level of salt stocks the Highways Agency held in each week since 1 January 2009; and if he will make a statement. [256620]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* The Highways Agency requires its service providers to hold a contractual minimum salting capability of four to six days (depending on the contract). This is based on heavy salting conditions, typically snow conditions. This requirement has been eased in recent days to reflect the adverse weather conditions.

Given the recent severe weather and pressures on road salt supplies nationwide, the Secretary of State agreed that the Highways Agency should maintain an average salting capability for the strategic road network of at least three days based on heavy salting conditions.

The following table shows the stocks held in capability days for the last seven weeks.

	HA average salting capability (days)
W/C 29 December 2008 average	9.60
W/C 5 January 2009 average	8.37
W/C 12 January 2009 average	8.60
W/C 19 January 2009 average	8.77
W/C 26 January 2009 average	7.83
W/C 2 February 2009 average	4.90
W/C 9 February 2009 average	3.67

Roads: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children died on the roads in York in each of the last 15 years. [257836]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children fatalities resulting from reported personal injury road accidents in the City of York each year since 1996 is given in the table:

	Number of fatalities		
	Adults	*Children*[1]	*Total*
1996	3	1	4
1997	8	0	8
1998	4	0	4
1999	9	0	9
2000	11	1	12
2001	7	0	7
2002	11	0	11
2003	8	0	8
2004	7	0	7
2005	11	0	11
2006	6	2	8
2007	4	0	4

[1] Children aged 0-15

Information is given only from year 1996 onwards due to the change in local authority boundaries. The City of York became a unitary authority in 1996.

Rolling Stock

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of kilometres travelled by an average rail carriage in each year since 1995. [258085]

Paul Clark: Information on the number of kilometres travelled by an average rail carriage is not held by the Department for Transport. Statistics on the number of kilometres travelled by rail are published by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in the National Rail Trends Yearbook, which is available in the House Library, or from the ORR website:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk.

Rolling Stock: Greater Manchester

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether relevant passenger transport executives will be involved in decisions regarding the redeployment of railway rolling stock released through Greater Manchester's spending on the Rochdale and Oldham Metrolink extension; and if he will make a statement. [256885]

Paul Clark: In accordance with the Northern Rail franchise agreement, consultations regarding the future redeployment of this rolling stock will be held with the relevant passenger transport executives (PTEs).

The following PTEs are co-signatories to the Northern franchise agreement:

West Yorkshire PTE
South Yorkshire PTE
Greater Manchester PTE
Tyne and Wear PTE
Merseytravel PTE.

Trains

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the safety of *(a)* the type of trains chosen to replace high speed trains and *(b)* Pendolino trains. [257954]

Paul Clark: Under the Railways (Interoperability) Regulations 2006 any new train to be operated on Great Britain's network must be authorised by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR). The authorisation involves confirmation that essential requirements, including safety, have been met.

Pendolino trains were subject to earlier interoperability regulations and authorised to be placed into service by the Office of Rail Regulation. The design chosen to replace high speed trains will also be subject to interoperability regulations.

Trains: Safety Measures

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on the weight of trains in relation to safety loads. [257955]

Paul Clark: All trains are designed to meet appropriate safety standards. The reduced weight of the new Super Express trains is being achieved through careful design and lightweight materials and will in no way compromise safety.

The Department for Transport intentionally set challenging targets to reverse the trend of increasing train weight and so deliver significant energy and performance benefits as well as reducing track damage.

TransPennine Express: Franchises

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of First TransPennine Express's performance in operating their franchise. [257989]

Paul Clark: First TransPennine Express has been a successful franchise to date, delivering all obligations contained within its franchise agreement that commenced on 1 February 2004. This includes:

management of the build and delivery into service of a fleet of 51 new diesel trains, together with construction and implementation of dedicated maintenance facilities including new depots in Manchester and York.

Completion of a £12.2 million expenditure plan delivering improvements and enhancement to the 30 stations for which they are responsible.

Improvements in train operating performance year on year, meeting public performance measure targets.

Introduction of additional routes and services, between Manchester airport and Blackpool and Scottish destinations.

Transport: Planning

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effects of planning delays on major transport infrastructure projects since 1997. [258156]

Paul Clark: The White Paper 'Planning for a Sustainable Future' published in May 2007, which took account of Sir Rod Eddington's advice to Government on the links between transport and the economy, set out the Government's assessment that the then planning system for nationally significant transport (and other) infrastructure was too slow and complicated. The impact assessment for the Planning Bill, now the Planning Act 2008, estimated net benefits worth some £23 million per annum for the aviation sector alone from the reformed system provided for by the Act.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will provide a breakdown of the figures in table A1.36 of the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency's Effectiveness Report 2007-08 to show how many drivers were *(a)* employed and *(b)* self-employed. [256973]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operators Services Agency does not record encounters in such a way that would allow identification of how many drivers were employed or self-employed.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 24 February 2009

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Prime Minister how much has been spent by his Office on staff reward and recognition schemes in each of the last three years. [248720]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) today.

Departmental Responsibilities

Greg Clark: To ask the Prime Minister when he expects the Transfer of Functions Order establishing the Department for Energy and Climate Change to enter into force. [255931]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to "The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Order 2009" laid before Parliament on 12 February. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

Intelligence and Security Committee

Colin Challen: To ask the Prime Minister when the Intelligence and Security Committee last visited RAF Menwith Hill; with whom the Committee had discussions during that visit; and which other military bases with a United States personnel presence in the UK the Committee has visited in 2007 and 2008. [255604]

The Prime Minister: The Intelligence and Security Committee does not comment on its work programme. Where appropriate it publishes information on visits it has undertaken in its annual reports.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Gaza

9. **Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Gaza. [257922]

Gillian Merron: The political situation is undoubtedly complex. Our first priority is to ensure the Gaza population receives humanitarian aid and reconstruction materials, and so we have made available £26.8 million for the relief operation and are pressing Israel to open the crossings more fully. The Egyptian efforts to embed the ceasefire and to bridge the divide in Palestinian politics are at the heart of improving the political situation. We strongly support their efforts. I am travelling to Cairo today to discuss Gaza—as well as other issues—with Egypt.

UK-Canada Relations

11. **Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Canadian counterpart on UK-Canada relations. [257924]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary wrote to his Canadian counterpart, Lawrence Cannon, last November to congratulate him on his appointment as Foreign Minister following federal elections. This emphasised our commitment to working in effective partnership with Canada on a range of international issues, including Afghanistan and the world financial crisis. On 16 February 2009, the Foreign Secretary met with Peter MacKay, Canada's Minister of National Defence and Chair of its Cabinet Foreign Affairs Committee.

UK-India Relations

12. **Mr. Mark Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of UK-India relations. [257925]

22. **Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of UK-India relations. [257936]

23. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of UK relations with India; and if he will make a statement. [257937]

Bill Rammell: The UK continues to enjoy a close and constructive relationship with the Indian Government and the Indian people. India is a key partner for the UK in tackling the full range of global challenges facing us today and we co-operate in promoting regional security, trade, development, culture, science and education.

UK-China Relations

13. **Dr. Desmond Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the expected effects on UK-China relations of the new framework for engagement between the UK and China. [257926]

Bill Rammell: The Chinese Government have welcomed the new framework. We believe it provides a coherent basis for delivering UK interests in China and for strengthening co-operation between our two countries to address global challenges.

Sri Lanka

14. **Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to seek to ensure a long-term ceasefire in Sri Lanka. [257927]

Bill Rammell: We are extremely concerned about the situation in Sri Lanka. On 29 January 2009, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. We have made it clear to the Government of Sri Lanka that a political solution that addresses the legitimate concerns of all communities in Sri Lanka is the only way to bring a sustainable end to the conflict.

16. **Ms Barlow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the political situation in Sri Lanka. [257929]

Bill Rammell: The recent military advances of the Sri Lankan Government and the subsequent humanitarian crisis make a sustained drive for a lasting political solution to the conflict all the more urgent. We have made it clear to the Government of Sri Lanka that a political solution that addresses the legitimate concerns of all communities in Sri Lanka is the only way to bring a sustainable end to the conflict.

18. **Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to seek to ensure a lasting ceasefire in Sri Lanka. [257932]

Bill Rammell: We are extremely concerned about the situation in Sri Lanka. On 29 January, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. We have made it clear to the Government of Sri Lanka that a political solution that addresses the legitimate concerns of all communities in Sri Lanka is the only way to bring a sustainable end to the conflict.

Prohibited Individuals: Zimbabwe

17. **Nigel Griffiths** (Edinburgh South): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how many people associated with the Zimbabwean government are on the UK's list of individuals prohibited from entering the UK. [257931]

Gillian Merron: Two hundred and three individuals associated with the Zimbabwean Government, as constituted prior to the inauguration of Prime Minister Tsvangirai, are subject to an EU-wide travel ban and an assets freeze. This includes 27 people added to the list by the EU on 26 January 2009.

UN Counter-racism Strategies

19. **John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the international effectiveness of strategies to counter racism adopted by the United Nations and its agencies. [257933]

Gillian Merron: The Government have not made a formal assessment of the effectiveness of the strategies to counter racism adopted by the UN and its agencies. We do however believe that some of the UN's mechanisms related to combating racism are making a real contribution to that goal. In particular, we attach importance to the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and the work of its Committee. We remain concerned that some other UN processes created to address racism—notably the follow-up mechanisms of the Durban World Conference against Racism—are currently proving less effective.

Afghanistan

20. **Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of progress against the objectives of UK foreign policy in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [257934]

Bill Rammell: Much has been achieved across Afghanistan since 2001, including in the south. For example, all the major towns in Helmand are now under the Government of Afghanistan's control and the insurgency has been pushed out of its traditional heartland.

Mumbai: Terrorist Attacks

21. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterpart in Pakistan on steps that country could take with India to prosecute all those involved in the terrorist attacks on Mumbai. [257935]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last discussed the Mumbai attacks with Pakistani Foreign Minister Qureshi on 7 February 2009. The recent steps Pakistan has taken towards prosecution of those responsible are welcome. The UK will continue to press the Government of Pakistan for faster and further progress, and for effective action to break up the terrorist networks operating within its borders.

Common Foreign and Security Policy

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Czech counterpart on the Czech Presidency's priorities for the EU's common foreign and security policy. [257928]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has spoken to Czech Foreign Minister Schwarzenberg about the Presidency's priority foreign policy issues on a number of occasions, including by phone on 4 January 2009, and in person ahead of the General Affairs and External Relations Council meeting on 26 January 2009 in Brussels. He also took part in a plenary discussion of the Czech Presidency priorities at that same meeting.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of EU disbursements for *(a)* operations and *(b)* other commitments in Afghanistan is met from UK contributions. [253204]

Bill Rammell: The UK's contribution to spending on the EU's commitments in Afghanistan (the office of the European Union Special Representative, the European Commission Delegation and common costs of the European Union Police Mission (EUPOL Afghanistan)) is approximately 17 per cent. This is the assessed contribution rate that the UK pays for all such EU missions. In financial year 2008-09, the UK is spending an additional £3.18 million to fund the deployment of UK police officers and experts to EUPOL.

British Nationality: Detainees

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1183W, on British nationality: detainees, and with reference to the Minister of State's letter of 10 December 2008 to the hon. Member for Chichester, in how many of the four cases *(a)* the British nationals complained of mistreatment, *(b)* consular access was requested, *(c)* consular access was granted and *(d)* the detainees were visited by other British officials. [245488]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* Two of the four British nationals alleged that they were ill-treated at the time of their release. However, we have no record of them pursuing the matter with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Consular access was requested in all four cases.

Consular access was granted to the two individuals detained in Bangladesh. Consular access was granted only to the two individuals detained in Syria at the end of their periods of detention, immediately prior to their deportation.

We can neither confirm nor deny whether other UK officials met any of these individuals to discuss non-consular matters.

Croatia: Slovenia

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to assist in the resolution of the boundary disputes between Croatia and Slovenia. [253751]

Caroline Flint: We continue to encourage the two countries to resolve this issue bilaterally. We do not believe that this issue should hold up progress of accession negotiations between the EU and Croatia.

I raised the issue with the Government of Croatia during my visit to Zagreb on 6-7 November 2008.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister raised the issue with Slovenian Prime Minister Pahor on 5 February 2009.

We welcome the recent initiative from Commissioner Rehn to set up a group of wise men to facilitate dialogue between the two sides.

Cyprus: Cultural Heritage

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the prospects for the Europa Nostra initiative for the restoration of Famagusta/Varosha; and if he will make a statement. [245192]

Caroline Flint: Under the aegis of Europa Nostra, on 4 April 2008 agreement was reached by Greek and Turkish Cypriots to join forces to restore Famagusta. We welcome all such bi-communal initiatives to protect cultural heritage. We hope that early progress can be made.

European Union

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent steps the Government have taken to promote better links with its EU neighbours. [248110]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* We work hard to maintain and build links with our neighbours within the EU, both on a bilateral basis and through European Union institutions. The websites of our embassies to European neighbours such as Ireland, Germany and France detail recent developments on bilateral co-operation. Furthermore, through the EU we regularly meet with EU members at Prime Ministerial, ministerial and official level. The EU today is a unique partnership in which countries work closely together for the benefit of all their citizens, where collective and co-ordinated initiatives can be more effective than individual state action.

India: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department provides funding to India Aid. [248349]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not provide funding to India Aid. The Department for International Development has allocated £270 million for India in the financial year 2008-09, which includes assistance to other Indian non-governmental organisations, but not to India Aid.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Argyll and Bute of 21 November 2008 and 22 December 2008 on correspondence from a constituent about Israel and Palestine. [256106]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 10 February 2009]:* I apologise for the delay in replying to the hon. Member. A reply will be sent out shortly.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Gaza. [257930]

Bill Rammell: The political situation is undoubtedly complex. Our first priority is to ensure the Gaza population receives humanitarian aid and reconstruction materials, and so we have made available £26.8 million for the relief operation and are pressing Israel to open the crossings more fully. The Egyptian efforts to embed the ceasefire and to bridge the divide in Palestinian politics are at the heart of improving the political situation. We strongly support their efforts. I am travelling to Cairo today to discuss Gaza—and other issues—with Egypt.

Pakistan: Nuclear Power

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations have been made to the Pakistani authorities on the decision to release A.Q. Khan from house arrest; and if he will make a statement. [256383]

David Miliband: I met Pakistan Foreign Minister Qureshi on 7 February 2009. I expressed concern about the release of A.Q. Khan and made clear that the UK would still like to see A.Q. Khan interviewed about his proliferation activities. These concerns have been further reinforced with the Pakistani authorities in Islamabad at senior level through the acting high commissioner who also sought reassurance that A.Q. Khan would not be able to continue his proliferation activities.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken in co-operation with international counterparts and organisations to bring about a peaceful solution to the Tamil conflict in Sri Lanka. [251997]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer of 29 January 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made it clear that the UK wants to see an end to the conflict and a new drive for a lasting political solution. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary repeated the Prime Minister's call in his statement on 29 January urging the Government of Sri Lanka to announce a humanitarian ceasefire. He made this clear when he spoke to President Rajapakse on 30 January 2009. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials are in regular contact with the EU, Commonwealth and UN member state counterparts about the situation in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken in co-operation with international counterparts to persuade the Government of Sri Lanka to allow access for UN and international observers in the northern region of the country. [253351]

David Miliband: The UK regularly lobbies the Government of Sri Lanka to allow full humanitarian access, including monitoring in the northern regions, which are most affected by the conflict. This is done both bilaterally in talks with the Sri Lankan Government and in conjunction with international partners, through the EU, Commonwealth and UN.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister raised the issue of humanitarian access to the Vanni in his letter to President Rajapakse in January 2009. I also raised telephone conversations with President Rajapakse and the Foreign Minister Bogollogama, most recently on 13 February 2009.

My noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown made clear in his address to the Human Rights Council in March 2008 that the UK supports a stronger mandate and presence for the UN human rights mission for Sri Lanka.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 24 February 2009

WALES

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff in his Department were on sick leave for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days in each of the last five years. [256337]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Records for sick absence are only available for each financial year since April 2004.

No staff were absent for more than 30 days in 2004-05 or 2005-06.

In 2006-07 and 2007-08 a very small number of staff were absent for more than 30 days. In line with Cabinet Office guidance, exact figures are not given in order to protect their privacy.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the average number of days sick leave per staff member in his Department was in each of the last five years. [256391]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Figures for the level of sickness absence at the Wales Office are available for each financial year since April 2004.

The average number of days of sickness absence is as follows:

	Days
2004-05	4.59
2005-06	3.56
2006-07	5.18
2007-08	[1] 9.27

[1] Average is skewed by isolated incidents of long-term sickness absence.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Drinking Water

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 196W, on departmental drinking water, what reductions in the number of water coolers are planned. [257291]

Mr. Woodward: We plan to reduce the overall number of water coolers by around 10 in the course of the next 12 months.

Departmental Press

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what newspapers his Department subscribed to in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [257261]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office's (excluding its Agencies and Executive NDPBs) total expenditure on newspapers in 2007-08 was £53,275. The information provided on the department's finance system does not allow the identification of costs which relate to subscriptions.

Departmental Television

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 995W, on departmental television, what criteria are used to decide which television subscriptions to subscribe to. [257263]

Mr. Woodward: Access is provided to TV channels to meet business requirements, and for Ministers and staff who are working away from home.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 995W, on departmental television, what criteria are used to decide which makes of television are purchased. [257265]

Mr. Woodward: The televisions purchased by the Department were selected because they were fit for purpose and represented value for money.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 995-6W, on departmental travel, how much was spent on hotels used by his Department's staff in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06 and *(d)* 2006-07. [257269]

Mr. Woodward: Prior to 2007-08, the Northern Ireland Office recorded expenditure relating to hotels under the general expense heading of overnight subsistence. The extraction of hotel costs would require the manual investigation of transactions within the overnight subsistence heading which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 729W, on departmental travel, how much was spent by his Department's agencies on *(a)* staff travel within the UK and *(b)* international staff travel in each year since 1997. [257274]

Mr. Woodward: As each of the Northern Ireland Office's agencies maintain their own finance systems, there are differences in the information that can be provided.

Northern Ireland Prison Service

	Within UK	Outside UK	£ Total
1997-98	[1]	[1]	948,804
1998-99	[1]	[1]	1,700,056
1999-2000	[1]	[1]	1,570,014
2000-01	[1]	[1]	1,453,299
2001-02	[1]	[1]	2,002,319
2002-03	[1]	[1]	1,303,910
2003-04	1,302,452	735	1,303,187
2004-05	1,791,044	645	1,791,689
2005-06	1,860,508	4,330	1,864,838
2006-07	1,634,640	1,605	1,636,245
2007-08	1,415,943	2,051	1,417,994

[1] Not available.

The Northern Ireland Prison Service is able to provide a breakdown of UK and international travel expenditure from 2003-04 in the format required. To split the expenditure in the same way prior to this would involve a manual investigation of all claims which would incur disproportionate costs.

Compensation Agency

	Within UK	Outside UK	£ Total
1997-98	[1]	[1]	12,476
1998-99	[1]	[1]	14,066
1999-2000	[1]	[1]	12,807
2000-01	[1]	[1]	16,535
2001-02	[1]	[1]	10,211
2002-03	[1]	[1]	26,415
2003-04	[1]	[1]	21,331
2004-05	[1]	[1]	17,201
2005-06	[1]	[1]	17,178
2006-07	[1]	[1]	13,342
2007-08	[1]	[1]	6,616

[1] Not available.

Compensation Agency expenditure on travel is grouped under the same heading as subsistence. The figures therefore include both travel and subsistence. To provide separate costs and give details of whether the staff travel was within or outside the UK can be done only at disproportionate cost.

Youth Justice Agency

	Within UK	Outside UK	£ Total
1997-98	[1]	[1]	[1]
1998-99	[1]	[1]	[1]
1999-2000	[1]	[1]	[1]
2000-01	[1]	[1]	[1]
2001-02	[1]	[1]	[1]
2002-03	[1]	[1]	[1]
2003-04	166,499	0	166,499
2004-05	175,318	0	175,318
2005-06	192,929	0	192,929
2006-07	266,107	535	266,642
2007-08	225,663	0	225,663

[1] Not applicable.

The Youth Justice Agency was launched on 1 April 2003.

Forensic Science Agency of Northern Ireland

	Within UK	Outside UK	£ Total
1997-98	[1]	[1]	[1]
1998-99	[1]	[1]	[1]
1999-2000	[1]	[1]	[1]
2000-01	[1]	[1]	[1]
2001-02	[1]	[1]	[1]
2002-03	[1]	[1]	[1]
2003-04	[1]	[1]	[1]
2004-05	[1]	[1]	[1]
2005-06	[1]	[1]	[1]
2006-07	[1]	[1]	107,127
2007-08	[1]	[1]	111,182

[1] Not available.

FSNI's current finance system has only been in operation since 2006-07 and groups expenditure on travel under the same heading as subsistence. To provide the other information requested would involve a manual investigation of claims and could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 1996W, on departmental visits abroad, what the purpose was of each of the visits to the US. [257209]

Mr. Woodward: My previous answer included official visits made by me, the Minister of State for Northern Ireland and officials.

The United States has played and continues to play a critical role in the political process. Their involvement is crucial in securing further progress towards the devolution of policing and justice and investment in Northern Ireland. Successive Secretaries of State have worked closely with the United States and have made regular visits to discuss policy. I continue this policy.

In addition officials have gone to the United States on official business for the purposes of learning and sharing knowledge (e.g. presenting evidence at the United Nations building).

All travel is undertaken in accordance with departmental rules and the Civil Service Management Code.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Energy Performance Certificates

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what consideration the House of Commons Commission has given to displaying energy certificates at the public entrances to the Palace of Westminster in line with Government policy on public non-domestic buildings exceeding a floor area of 1000 square metres. [257000]

Nick Harvey: In line with good practice energy assessments were commissioned in July 2008. Energy certificates will shortly be displayed on the parliamentary estate.

SCOTLAND

Baugur Group

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he plans to meet *(a)* Ministerial colleagues and *(b)* business leaders to discuss the risks to commercial activity in Scotland arising from the financial position of the Baugur Group. [256249]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues and business leaders on a wide range of issues.

By-Elections: Glenrothes

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the implications of the marked register from the Glenrothes by-election going missing for his responsibility for policy for the conduct of elections in Scotland; what discussions he has had with the Scottish Courts Service on the matter; when the marked register should have been lodged with the Courts Service; and if he will make a statement. [257818]

Ann McKechin: Following UK Parliament elections, certain election documents and records, including the marked register currently, must be sent to the relevant sheriff clerk for storage. After one year the records must be destroyed. Following a Scotland Office consultation last year, responsibility for the retention and supply of post-election documents and records for UK Parliament elections is to be transferred from sheriff clerks to returning officers. The amendment is being made through the Political Parties and Elections Bill currently before Parliament. This will bring Scotland more into line with the arrangements in England and Wales as well as with the existing arrangements for local authority and European Parliament elections in Scotland. The intention is to make similar provision for Scottish Parliament election records through secondary legislation.

I am aware that the Scottish Courts Service has commissioned an independent investigation into the particular circumstances of the loss of the marked register from the Glenrothes by-election and it would not, therefore, be appropriate for me to comment. Neither the Secretary of State nor I have had discussions with the Scottish Courts Service about the matter.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which ICT projects initiated by his Department were abandoned before completion in each year since 1997; what costs were incurred on each project; who the contractors were; what the date of *(a)* commencement and *(b)* abandonment was in each case; and if he will make a statement. [256655]

Ann McKechin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 68W, to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell).

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will publish a copy of his Department's website accessibility plan. [257223]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office website accessibility plan will be published on our new website which is to be launched shortly. As part of this upgrade, our website will be updated from Level Single-A of the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines to Level Double-A of the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.0.

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) how many staff in his Department were on sick leave for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days in each of the last five years; [256333]

(2) how many staff in his Department were recorded as having been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December in each of the last five years. [256626]

Ann McKechin: All staff are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice, who as parent Departments have absence management policies that apply to those of their staff working in this Office. We do not maintain a separate central record of sick absences. Such records are held by the parent Departments who publish their sick absence statistics.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many contacts there were between British forces and anti-coalition militia in Afghanistan in each month since June 2006; [251650]

(2) how many contacts between British and anti-coalition militia forces there have been in Helmand province in each roulement since June 2006. [257686]

Mr. Hutton: The Ministry of Defence is currently collating and validating the data needed to answer this question. I will write to the hon. Member when this work is complete, and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Schools

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on what dates he has had meetings with the Leader of Essex county council on the involvement of the Ministry of Defence in either a military academy school or a military vocational college at Colchester; and if he will make a statement; [256077]

(2) whether he has met the hon. Member for North Essex to discuss the involvement of his Department in a military academy school or a military vocational college at Colchester; and if he will make a statement. [256079]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I met the hon. Member for North Essex (Mr. Jenkin) and the Leader of Essex county council on 28 January 2009. No decision has been made regarding MOD involvement in an Academy school in the Colchester area and no proposal has been tabled by local authorities for any such initiative. Should an appropriate proposal be made, the Ministry of Defence would not be opposed in principle and would examine any proposal on its merits.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has allocated for staff bonuses in 2008-09. [252253]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The total paybill for staff below the Senior Civil Service (excluding Trading Funds) covered by the main pay awards is £1,827 billion of which up to 2.7 per cent. is for non-consolidated performance awards to staff. The median payment is £775.

The total paybill for permanent members of the Senior Civil Service (SCS) is £18.4 million of which 8.6 per cent. is for non-consolidated performance awards. The median payment is £8,000. This does not include fixed term employees at SCS level.

Non consolidated performance awards are designed to reward those deemed to have made the greatest contribution through specific in-year achievements such as the delivery of a major project, to departmental objectives or defence business more widely and overall costs must be contained within a set percentage of the pay bill. For the Senior Civil Service the size of the non-consolidated performance pay pot is based on recommendations by the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

Departmental Security

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff working in his Department's main building lost their security passes in each month of 2008. [257690]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In 2008, 23 members of staff (including contractors) working in MOD Main Building reported their passes as lost or stolen. The monthly breakdown is tabled as follows:

	Lost	*Stolen*
January	2	–
February	2	–
March	–	1
April	–	–
May	1	–
June	2	1
July	2	1
August	1	–
September	2	–
October	3	1
November	–	1
December	2	1

Once reported as lost or stolen, passes are disabled immediately, denying access to the building.

EU Battlegroups

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1116W, on Netherlands: military exercises, whether the training exercise planned for 2009 will be used to meet the EU certification requirement for the UK's commitment to the EU Battlegroup for the first half of 2010. [257496]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No. There will be a separate training exercise in November 2009 which will be used to validate the UK commitment to the EU Battlegroup.

Ex-servicemen: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many ex-service *(a)* men and *(b)* women living in the City of York have received Veteran's Badges. [257825]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is not held in the format that identifies how many ex-service men and women living in the City of York have received their Veterans Badges. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

We have however, identified that 1,391 veterans applying for the badge have included York in their address.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* service and *(b)* ex-service (i) men and (ii) women normally resident in York have received (A) medals for bravery or distinguished service, (B) mentions in despatches, (C) campaign medals and (D) other medals and honours for military service since 1997. [257828]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any unmanned aerial vehicles tested at Parc Aberporth have been deployed by Israel in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [257361]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The MOD has not tested any unmanned aerial vehicles at Parc Aberporth.

QinetiQ

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the Treasury Minute entitled The privatisation of QinetiQ issued in response to the Committee of Public Accounts' Twenty-Fourth Report of session 2007-08, what steps his Department has taken as a result of the findings of the review of QinetiQ's compliance regime undertaken by his Department's internal auditors. [257577]

Mr. Quentin Davies: As a result of the recommendations made by the Defence Internal Audit report, the following action has been taken by the Department:

Inclusion of Defence Equipment and Support senior commercial staff in the approvals process to ensure that risk assessments address interrelationships between projects and cover the totality of MOD's business.

Increased visibility of QinetiQ's oversight and implementation of the compliance regime through Defence Equipment and Support Director General Commercial involvement and inclusion in the QinetiQ Compliance Committee correspondence.

QinetiQ will provide Defence Equipment and Support with formal confirmation of their internal reviews and notify the Department of the findings, to enable a joint approach to managing risk.

Improvements to day to day operation of the firewall procedures including an update to QinetiQ's Compliance Manual to improve the firewall closure process.

Ongoing awareness training for Department commercial staff to ensure early identification of conflicts in the supply chain.

Development of a set of generic principles for dealing with conflicts of interest wherever they occur in the supply chain. These principles draw heavily on the QinetiQ compliance regime which is seen as effective and comprehensive.

TRANSPORT

Accessibility and Equalities Directorate

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 298W, on the Accessibility and Equalities Directorate, what timetable he has set for considering options for the management of his Department's business in relation to the work carried out by the Accessibility and Equalities Directorate. [258199]

Mr. Hoon: I have not set a timetable. The Permanent Secretary is responsible for the effective management of staff and resources to achieve all departmental goals, including the promotion of greater equality of opportunity for all citizens.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many flights each Minister in his Department has made in each of the last five years; how many miles each Minister has flown in each of those years; how much in carbon dioxide emissions is attributable to these flights; and what the cost of the flights has been. [258162]

Mr. Hoon: The detailed information requested is not held centrally, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999 the Government have published a list of Cabinet Ministers' overseas travel over £500 along with the total cost for all ministerial travel. The list for 2007-08 includes a list of overseas travel over £500 undertaken by all Ministers. Information for the last financial year was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS. Copies of previous lists are available in the Libraries of the House. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

All central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset from 1 April 2006. Most Departments calculate their aviation emissions on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases UN-approved certified emissions reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

A list of Government Carbon Offsetting Fund members, their emission figures and what activities they have offset through the fund is available online at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/govt-list.htm

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many members of staff in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for losing (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers and (iv) mobile telephones belonging to his Department in each year since 1997. [248243]

Mr. Hoon: The Department's seven Executive agencies and its Shared Service Centre have not found records of any instances of staff members being suspended or dismissed in relation to the loss of memory sticks, laptop computers, desktop computers or mobile telephones. To fully search the historical disciplinary data for the central Department would incur disproportionate costs.

Departments have taken urgent and decisive action across Government to improve data handing including minimising the amount of data put on removable media, encryption programmes for data and mobile devices that carry personal protected data and the introduction of training and education programmes to improve staff awareness of information risks.

The Government take data security very seriously which is why a report into data handling procedures across Government was commissioned and new measures to improve and strengthen controls in the protection of personal data were introduced.

Under Para 2.8 of the Data Handling Report published in June 2008, all Departments are required to:

"amend HR processes where necessary to make clear that failing to apply controls in handling personal data could amount to gross misconduct."

The Department and its agencies are in the process of reviewing HR processes to ensure that they meet the requirements of paragraph 2.8 of the Data Handling Report.

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [256199]

Mr. Hoon: There are a total of *(a)* 56 EU foreign nationals and *(b)* 27 non-EU foreign nationals employed in the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, the Vehicle Certification Agency

and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. The Central Department, the Driving Standards Agency, the Government Car and Despatch Agency and the Highways Agency do not record these data separately and they can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Equality Impact Assessments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many equalities impact assessments his Department has undertaken in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such assessments. [255065]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport and its agencies have carried out over 100 Equality Impact Assessments in the last 12 months and are in the process of setting up a system to accurately monitor all assessments going forward. A cost estimate could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish a copy of his Department's website accessibility plan. [257225]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport intends to comply with Level Double-A of the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (version 1.0 or the version 2.0 equivalent) by December 2009.

A summary of the online accessibility plan/policy for the Department's website:

www.dft.gov.uk

is available at:

www.dft.gov.uk/accessibility

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has allocated for staff bonuses in 2008-09. [252258]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport comprises a central Department plus seven executive agencies each with its own pay and reward system. Information regarding non-consolidated performance pay has been collected from the central Department and all seven agencies.

The Department has allocated £12,336,194 for non-consolidated performance payments to staff in 2008-09.

The total paybill for the Department for 2008-09 is £606,890,207. Non-consolidated performance payments represent 2.03 per cent. of the paybill.

Non-consolidated performance pay is funded within existing paybill controls and has to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets. It is paid in respect of exceptional overall performance or exceptional performance on a specific task or at a specific time and, as such, does not add to future pay bill costs.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many language translators are employed in *(a)* each of his Department's Executive agencies and *(b)* its non-Ministerial department; and what the cost of translating services provided by such people was in the latest period for which information is available. [257145]

Mr. Hoon: The central Department and its agencies do not employ any staff specifically for translation purposes. However, when such services are required they will be procured on an ad hoc basis.

The cost of such services are shown in the following table.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	£ *2007-08*
DfTic1	19,100	22,600	22,400	34,200	23,900
DVLA	64,200	92,700	78,800	134,500	111,700
VOSA	19,000	55,000	37,000	56,000	56,000
VCA	1,300	1,400	2,100	2,100	800
MCA	8,500	4,700	7,700	20,100	12,200
DSA	[1]	[1]	4,900	100	3,200
HA	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]

[1] Data not available.
[2] Data not available except at disproportionate cost.

Note:
Those for DfTic1 include interpretation as well as translation. Separate translation information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on translations provided by the Department's non-departmental public bodies *(b)* is held by the bodies themselves. This information is not held centrally.

Fines

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what administrative financial penalties may be levied by his Department and its agencies. [253590]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. To answer this question fully would entail all policy units and agencies of the Department researching and providing the information.

Railways: Bus Services

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on rail replacement bus services in the North East in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [257534]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold this information.

Railways: Finance

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 50WS, on rail services, whether the fund for the provision of rail services promoted by local authorities or passenger transport authorities will come from the rail budget; how many projects he estimates will meet his Department's criteria for funding in this manner; what representations he has received from local authorities on the number of projects that are likely to meet his Department's criteria; whether capital projects designed to enhance capacity on the rail network will

be applicable for such funding; and whether he plans to allow private sector organisations to bid for capital projects on the railways under the fund. [256765]

Paul Clark: A fund for supporting rail services initially funded by local authorities and passenger transport executives (PTEs) will be formally established at the time the high level output specification for the period 2014-19 is published in 2012. As the fund has only just been announced, we have yet to receive representations from local authorities and therefore have no precise number of the projects likely to meet the Department for Transport's criteria for funding from this initiative in the period 2014-19. This fund does not include capital funding for projects. Local authorities and regions can already recommend to Ministers that regional funding allocations can be used for investment in rail schemes.

Railways: Pennines

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Transpennine Express train services on the Manchester to Hull line scheduled to run at peak hours ran according to the timetable in each year since 1997. [257400]

Paul Clark: This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the custodian of timetable and performance data for the rail industry. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Ian Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London, NW1 2EE.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the schedule for de-trunking of each road in the non-core network in the next five years is. [257397]

Paul Clark: The 1998 Transport White Paper, "A New Deal for Transport: Better for Everyone", set in hand a programme of de-trunking to allow the Highways Agency to concentrate on the operation of a strategic road network that links the main centres of population and major transport hubs.

There are four road sections remaining in this de-trunking programme as follows:

The A38 from Minworth (Birmingham) to its junction with the A5 at Weeford Island.

The A63/A19 between the Boot and Shoe roundabout at Micklefield and Loftsome Bridge.

The A65 from M6 junction 36 to the Lancashire/North Yorkshire boundary.

The A40 from Ross-on-Wye to the county of Herefordshire/ Gloucestershire boundary.

These road sections are expected to be de-trunked by the end of March 2009 and the de-trunking programme will then be completed.

There are no plans to initiate any similar programme of de-trunking in future years, as distinct from individual de-trunking orders that may be required as a matter of routine following a new road opening, or for operational reasons.

TransPennine Express: Rolling Stock

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to ensure that extra carriages for TransPennine Express will be manufactured in England. [257990]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport's procurement procedures conform to European Union procurement directives and UK regulations which prohibit the selection of suppliers on the grounds of country of origin or manufacture. The Department's process in evaluating bids does not therefore incorporate such criteria.

The winning bidder for new rolling stock procured by the Department will be selected on the basis of compliance with the technical specification, deliverability and value for money for the taxpayer.

TREASURY

Banks: Accountancy

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what dates the auditors of banks regulated by the Financial Services Authority who issued a qualified audit report on the 2007-08 accounts of a bank informed his Department of their plans to issue such reports. [256999]

Ian Pearson: The auditors of banks that are regulated by the FSA have a duty to report to the FSA if they intend to issue a qualified audit report. The auditors do not have a duty to report such matters to HM Treasury.

Capital Gains Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate what the cost to the Exchequer would be of exempting from capital gains tax business owners who sell their businesses upon retirement up to the value of *(a)* £100,000, *(b)* £200,000, *(c)* £300,000, *(d)* £400,000, *(e)* £500,000 and *(f)* £1,000,000 in each financial year from 2009-10 to 2014-15. [257645]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the former Financial Secretary (Jane Kennedy) on 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 435W.

Child Care Tax Credit

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many parents were claiming child care tax credit in respect of children aged *(a)* between four and 11 and *(b)* over 11 years old in each of the last three years. [257386]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is available only at a disproportionate cost.

However, estimates of the number of families, by age group of children, benefiting from the child care element of working tax credit at selected dates, are published in table 4.4 of the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics" for each year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department were on sick leave for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days in each of the last five years. [256336]

Angela Eagle: The following table shows the total staff on sick leave in each of the last five years.

	Over 30 days	*Over 50 days*	*Over 100 days*
2004	12	13	12
2005	18	15	11
2006	11	20	7
2007	11	17	12
2008	7	10	7

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the extra revenue which would be raised in 2008-09 by increasing the rate of duty on cider to that levied on beer. [257504]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs publishes estimates of the revenue effects of alcohol duty rate changes on its website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-6.pdf

The duty rate on still cider and perry exceeding 1.2 per cent. abv and not exceeding 7.5 per cent. abv is £31.21 per hectolitre of product. The duty rate on beer is £16.15 per hectolitre per cent. of alcohol in the beer. Hence, the duty rate on beer will vary depending on its alcoholic strength, whereas cider pays the same amount of duty regardless of its strength within the 1.2 per cent.—7.5 per cent. strength band. Any beer with abv in excess of 1.93 per cent. will pay higher duty per hectolitre than cider between 1.2 per cent. abv and 7.5 per cent. abv.

Job Creation

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 588W, on public expenditure, what estimate he has made of the proportion of the 100,000 jobs which will go to British workers; and how many of these jobs he expects to arise in relation to eco-friendly projects. [256550]

Angela Eagle: The public sector capital investment brought forward in 2009-10, which was detailed in the pre-Budget report, will create jobs in sectors and communities across the UK. A number of areas in which capital will be brought forward are focused on environmental goals, including the Warm Front programme and spending to improve household energy efficiency.

Non-Domestic Rates: Business

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department carried out of the effect on businesses of the planned increase in national non-domestic rates in April 2009; and if he will make a statement. [256252]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

Government policy on Impact Assessments is that they are not required where a predetermined formula, such as the rate of inflation, changes the rate of a tax.

www.berr.gov.uk/files/file44544.pdf

Non-Profit Making Associations

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Office of Government Commerce is taking to implement the recommendations of the Glover review. [257847]

Angela Eagle: In response to the recommendations of the Glover report, the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) is working on a number of projects to make it easier for small and medium sized enterprises to supply the public sector. Work is underway to deliver all of the recommendations by the end of 2010, though many will be delivered sooner. An update of progress will be provided at Budget 2009. Government will continue to work closely with SMEs and business representative groups to ensure that the impact of the recommendations is positive.

Public Expenditure: Small Businesses

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department monitors the proportion of Government spending on public sector contracts which goes to small businesses. [257845]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury does not currently monitor this. However, the Glover report, "Accelerating the SME Economic Engine" published on the HMT website in November 2008, made 12 recommendations to improve SMEE access to public procurement including:

"The committee recommends that all central Government departments should report annually on the value of their contract spend with SMEs."

Government are currently implementing all the recommendations of the Glover report.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what training the Office of Government Commerce provides for public procurement managers on dealing with consortia of small businesses tendering for public contracts. [257846]

Angela Eagle: In response to the recommendations of the Glover report, the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) is working on a number of projects to make it easier for small and medium sized enterprises to supply the public sector. One of the projects to be delivered this year has a specific focus on advising and training procurers and will cover the issue of consortia bidding. This area is also covered in OGC's supply chain management guidance which is available on the OGC website.

Regional Planning and Development: Finance

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the timetable is for the next regional finance allocation for each region; and what scrutiny processes apply to the allocations. [258139]

Angela Eagle: The allocation of resources to Government Departments is determined through the regular spending review framework. The allocation of spending to the English regions by Government Departments is determined by a large number of factors taking into account the needs and circumstances of each region.

Revenue and Customs

Mr. Meale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of the closure of HM Revenue and Customs' office, Chaucer House, Mansfield; and by what date he expects such costs to be recouped by anticipated savings resulting from the closure. [257072]

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of the closure of the HM Revenue and Customs office in Burton-on-Trent; and by what date he expects such costs to be recouped by anticipated savings resulting from the closure. [257537]

Mr. Timms: Reliable figures for the costs of closing both offices will only be established once workable options have been found for all staff prior to the buildings being vacated. It is not possible to give a date by which costs would be recouped by anticipated savings from specific closures because HM Revenue and Customs' efficiency savings from business restructuring will be recognised at a department-wide level and not at individual office levels.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in the amount of travel allowance paid in each month to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) staff who are to relocate following the closure of the HMRC office in Burton-on-Trent. [257538]

Mr. Timms: The daily travel allowance that will be paid to staff as a result of the closure of Crown House, Burton on Trent cannot be estimated at this stage. The actual amounts payable depend on a number of factors which cannot be calculated in advance. These can include the mode of transport, the working pattern of the employee, availability of season tickets and cost of fuel, among others. Staff who have been working at this locality will be moving to Derby, Nottingham or Birmingham.

It is not yet certain where all employees currently working at Crown House will relocate to, as the redeployment opportunities we offer include help in moving to other Government Departments, retraining for posts in the wider public sector or other early release schemes.

Mr. Meale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the total cost of redundancy payments for HM Revenue and Customs staff who are leaving the service following the closure of Chaucer House, Mansfield. [257027]

Mr. Timms: HMRC has not estimated redundancy payments for the staff at Chaucer House in Mansfield. While it has announced the vacation of the building, with the exception of the Enquiry Centre, by March 2010 HMRC is working with the staff and managers involved to identify redeployment opportunities.

Managers are meeting individually with staff to discuss their personal circumstances and the full package of options and assistance which are available.

HMRC has not used compulsory redundancy to date and will maintain this policy where it is reasonably practical to do so.

Mr. Meale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change to the total amount of travel allowance paid to HM Revenue and Customs staff who are to relocate following the closure of Chaucer House office, Mansfield. [257177]

Mr. Timms: The daily travel allowance that will be paid to staff as a result of the closure of Chaucer House, Mansfield cannot be estimated at this stage. The actual amounts payable depend on a number of factors which cannot be calculated in advance. These can include the mode of transport, the working pattern of the employee, availability of season tickets and cost of fuel, amongst others.

It is not yet certain that all employees currently working at Chaucer House will relocate to Castle Meadow as the redeployment opportunities we offer include help in moving to other Government Departments, retraining for posts in the wider public sector or other early release schemes.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of redundancy payments for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) staff who are leaving the service following the closure of the HMRC office in Burton-on-Trent. [257536]

Mr. Timms: HMRC has not estimated redundancy payments for the staff at Crown House in Burton upon Trent. It plans to vacate the building with the exception of one floor containing an inquiry centre by 31 March 2010. HMRC is working with the staff and managers involved to identify redeployment opportunities.

Managers are meeting individually with staff to discuss their personal circumstances and the full package of options and assistance which are available.

HMRC has not used compulsory redundancy to date and will maintain this policy where it is reasonably practical to do so.

Revenue and Customs: Standards

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will call for a report from HM Revenue and Customs as to the percentage of tax returns received by 31 October 2008 which had been processed by 31 January 2009; and if he will make a statement. [257375]

Mr. Timms: Of 2.74 million paper tax returns received by the new deadline of 31 October 2008, less than 1 per cent. remained unprocessed at 5 February, the nearest date to 31 January for which HMRC has a precise count.

Smuggling: Tobacco

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs spent on information campaigns relating to the smuggling and supply of illegal and counterfeit tobacco in each of the last five years. [256863]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs spend by year on targeted media campaigns to support their anti-smuggling strategy was:

	£
2003-04	672,449
2004-05	83,368
2005-06	556,382
2006-07	91,993
2007-08	55,000

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs spent on reducing levels of smuggling and supplying of illegal and counterfeit tobacco in the latest period for which figures are available. [256864]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available.

Tax Allowances

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will provide tax relief to all forms of media using public interest criteria. [257200]

Mr. Timms: The Government have no plans to provide additional tax relief to all forms of media.

The Government have clear objectives for the tax system, which include minimising distortions. For the introduction of any special reliefs the Government will need to be satisfied that there is clear evidence of the benefits, and that these outweigh the costs of the introduction of the measure.

VAT: Catering

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of reducing to five per cent. value added tax on the supply of restaurants and catering services, exclusive of services relating to the sale of alcohol. [257505]

Mr. Timms: No recent estimate of the cost of such a reduction has been made.

VAT: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to review the rules relating to value added tax relief for people with disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [257258]

Mr. Timms: VAT zero-rating currently applies to a wide range of goods and services supplied to disabled people for their personal use. Under the VAT agreements with our European partners signed by successive governments, we can retain our existing VAT zero rates, but we may not extend them or introduce new ones. It is therefore not possible to remove VAT from additional goods and services purchased by disabled people.

The same VAT agreements allow EU member states to introduce reduced rates of VAT of not less than 5 per cent. on a prescribed list of goods and services. All taxes are kept under review, but given the wide range of the UK's zero rates we see little scope within the reduced rate list for the introduction of further VAT reliefs that would benefit disabled people.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of *(a)* the total value of value added tax (VAT) relief on goods and services for people with disabilities, *(b)* the number of sold goods for disabled people which were VAT zero-rated and *(c)* the number of disabled people who have received goods and services that have been VAT zero-rated in each year since 1997. [257259]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the value of the VAT zero rate on vehicles and other supplies to people with disabilities are published in Table 7 of the Tax Ready Reckoner and Tax Reliefs, available on the HM Treasury website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08_taxreadyreckoner_287.pdf

These estimates are based on expenditure data only. HM Revenue and Customs does not collect information on the number of such goods sold, or on the number of disabled people receiving them.

VAT: Museums and Galleries

Mark Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with HM Revenue and Customs officials on changes to the interpretation of the rules on the recovery of value added tax for libraries and museums; and if he will make a statement. [257349]

Mr. Timms: There have been no discussions about changing the interpretation of the rules governing the scheme that provides for the recovery of VAT by libraries and museums under the provisions of section 33A of the VAT Act 1994.

The scheme was introduced as a part of the Government's commitment to make access to the main museums and galleries free. Because VAT can be recovered only on purchases relating to taxable business activities (such as charging for admission), abolishing admission charges could have left museums and galleries bearing the cost of irrecoverable VAT. The scheme refunds this VAT, but it is confined to museums and galleries. The National Libraries are included in it, but only in relation to their permanent collections on free public display.

Welfare Tax Credits

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* new claims, *(b)* renewals and *(c)* change of circumstances claims for tax credits have been processed (i) within and (ii) after the target time in each month since the introduction of tax credits; [257185]

(2) how many and what proportion of tax credit payments have been made *(a)* within and *(b)* after the target time for payments in each month since their introduction; [257186]

(3) what targets his Department has set for the time taken to process *(a)* a new application for tax credits and *(b)* an application to renew a tax credits claim; how long on average it has taken to process (i) a new claim for tax credits and (ii) an application to renew a tax credits claim (A) in each year since the scheme's introduction and (B) in each of the last 12 months; how many new claims for tax credits have been received by the Tax Credit Office in each month since their introduction; and if he will make a statement. [257189]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) sets its tax credits processing targets annually.

Performance outturn for all new claims, renewals and changes of circumstances for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 can be found in the Department's autumn performance reports which are available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

(a) Information relating solely to new claims for 2006-07 and 2007-08 is provided in the following table:

Target		*86% in five working days*	*Percentage 95% in 30 working days*
2006-07	Outturn	80	91.7
2007-08	Outturn	81	91.7

In 2008-09 the Tax Credit Office (TCO) aims to pay 60 per cent. of all tax credits claims in 15 calendar days and all new tax credit claims in 20 calendar days In light of the difference to previous years' targets, HMRC is working hard to identify how resources can be most effectively deployed to achieve these revised aims. Separate information about the time taken to make payments in earlier years is not available.

(b) Information relating solely to renewals for 2006-07 and 2007-08 is provided in the following table:

Target		*86% in five working days*	*Percentage 95% in 30 working days*
2006-07	Outturn	43.7	85.3
2007-08	Outturn	74.7	90

In 2008, HMRC had an internal measure that aimed to process 85 per cent. of tax credits renewals in 15 working days over the renewal period. Around 99 per cent. of renewals cleared from April 2008 to September 2008 inclusive were processed within the target time with an average processing time of around three days.

(c) For information about change of circumstances I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Cardiff Central (Jenny Willott) on 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 591W. Detailed information about the number of change of circumstance notifications received and processed is not available in the format requested.

For the number of new tax credits claims received from January 2006 to November 2008 inclusive, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Wealden (Charles Hendry) on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 792W and the answer my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary gave the hon. Member for Cardiff Central (Jenny Willott) on 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 198W.

The number of new claims received from households in each month November 2002 to December 2005 inclusive, and in December 2008 and January 2009 are shown in the following table:

	Number of new claims
2002	
November	765,225
December	357,684
2003	
January	519,982
February	674,744
March	487,319
April	419,484
May	484,326
June	361,554
July	329,014
August	146,102
September	129,534
October	125,468
November	110,497
December	71,990
2004	
January	98,088
February	105,397
March	109,432
April	108,802
May	133,170
June	141,319
July	136,006
August	119,116
September	162,325
October	156,743
November	138,198
December	108,783
2005	
January	107,655
February	121,839
March	113,983
April	114,908
May	111,586
June	127,140
July	115,555
August	127,774
September	147,331
October	164,764
November	175,523
December	70,068
2008	
December	97,522
2009	
January	109,046

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of tax credit payments were made *(a)* into bank accounts and *(b)* by other payment methods in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [257187]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is provided in the following table.

	Method of payment		Percentage of total payments		
2008	BACs (Thousand)	Cheque (Thousand)	BACs	Cheque	Total payments (Thousand)
February	15,970	369	97.74	2.26	16,339
March	15,994	354	97.83	2.17	16,298
April	17,670	380	97.89	2.11	18,050
May	17,997	396	97.85	2.15	18,393
June	17,762	397	97.81	2.19	18,159
July	20,176	465	97.75	2.25	20,641
August	15,895	356	97.81	2.19	16,251
September	17,175	381	97.83	2.17	17,556
October	18,022	397	97.84	2.16	18,419
November	15,858	355	97.81	2.19	16,213
December	20,137	415	97.98	2.02	20,552
January	16,330	359	97.85	2.15	16,689
Total	208,936	4,624	97.83	2.17	213,560

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions the Tax Credit Office has been notified by claimants of a delay in receiving payments in each of the last 12 months. [257190]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available.

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effect on public expenditure of removing the second income threshold on tax credits and applying a consistent taper rate of 44 per cent. while increasing the first income threshold of tax credits to *(a)* £6,750, *(b)* £7,000, *(c)* £7,500, *(d)* £8,000, *(e)* £8,500, *(f)* £9,000, *(g)* £9,500 and *(h)* £10,000 in each of the next six years; if he will estimate the number of people who would have an entitlement reduced to zero in each case; and if he will make a statement. [257195]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is available only at a disproportionate cost.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Constituencies

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission has made estimates of the likely impact of under-registration on the size of the electorates in new constituencies proposed by the Boundary Commissions. [257305]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Commission informs me that it has not made any such estimates.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission has undertaken research on the effect of recent changes in the law that allow local authority electoral registration officers to consult local goyernment databases. [257311]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Commission informs me that it has undertaken no such research. However, its performance standards for electoral registration officers include the requirement to check council tax, housing benefit and any other council records that would help them to carry out their registration duties. The Electoral Commission will publish an assessment of the performance of electoral registration officers in respect of this standard in spring 2009.

The Electoral Commission further informs me that it will also review the use and effectiveness of local government databases as part of its longer term research programme into the accuracy and completeness of electoral registers.

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what representations the Electoral Commission has received on electoral registration officers using central government databases to improve their electoral registers. [257313]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Commission informs me that in its 2002 consultation "Electoral registration: a review of the process", it specifically sought views on whether better data-sharing between local and central Government databases would help electoral registration officers improve the accuracy of electoral registers. The Commission received 32 representations addressing this issue, from electoral registration officers, political parties and other organisations.

The Commission further informs me that many respondents to the consultation supported the principle of better gathering of data to improve the accuracy of electoral registers. However, there was considerable variance in views on, or understanding of, the extent to which this would be possible under existing law.

Electoral Register and Postal Votes

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how much funding the Electoral Commission has provided for research into *(a)* under-registration and *(b)* postal vote fraud in each year since it was established. [257312]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it does not hold this information in the requested format. However it regularly conducts research into both registration and the security of postal voting. The following table sets out the costs of all public opinion research projects that have addressed these subjects.

UK	
Financial year	Cost (£)
2001-02	60,000
2002-03	89,065
2003-04	346,332
2004-05	343,706
2005-06	229,933
2006-07	284,071
2007-08	278,459
2008-09	122,850

The Commission has also conducted research using electoral registers to review the extent of under-registration. Costs for this are as follows:

UK

Financial year	Cost (£)
2001-02	—
2002-03	39,405
2003-04	40,185
2004-05	146,064
2005-06	29,500
2006-07	95,704
2007-08	86,574
2008-09	69,818

In addition to expenditure on research, the Commission also works to identify and analyse the scale and frequency of postal voting malpractice, through monitoring electoral petitions and prosecutions for electoral offences and liaison with the police, prosecuting authorities, and electoral registration and returning officers.

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many meetings Electoral Commission officers have *(a)* initiated and *(b)* attended on (i) postal ballot fraud and (ii) electoral registration in each of the last five years. [257715]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Commission does not hold this information in the requested format. However, it informs me that over the past five years, Commission staff initiated or attended a number of briefings, seminars and meetings involving electoral registration officers, electoral administrators, academics, political parties, the Crown Prosecution Service, the police, Government officials and elected representatives, at which postal ballot fraud and electoral registration were discussed.

The Commission further informs me that in 2007 it hosted 10 dedicated seminars covering electoral registration across England and Wales for electoral registration officers and administrators. It has also held four national and two regional seminars for Single Point of Contact (SPOC) police officers on reducing and preventing electoral fraud, including postal ballot fraud.

Electoral Register: Marketing

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what assessment the Electoral Commission has made of the effectiveness of its advertising campaign to raise electoral registration levels. [257321]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Commission informs me that it measures the effect of its advertising campaigns through direct response statistics such as the number of voter registration forms ordered through its telephone helpline or downloaded from its website. The Commission also undertakes independent tracking research to measure the reach of its campaigns among target audiences.

The 2006 report by the Comptroller and Auditor General to the Speaker's Committee entitled "Is the Public Aware of Democracy" concluded that

"the Commission has used its resources in raising public awareness in general effectively when judged by measures such as recall rates and other industry measures for its advertising. There does too, seem to have been an overall positive effect on voter registration".

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what steps the Electoral Commission has taken to encourage the use of doorstep canvassing in increasing levels of voter registration. [257462]

Sir Peter Viggers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to him of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 151W.

Electoral Register: Standards

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what steps the Electoral Commission has taken to measure the effectiveness of electoral registration officers in increasing levels of voter registration. [257461]

Sir Peter Viggers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to him of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 151W. The Electoral Commission informs me that it is in the process of assessing EROs against the published performance standards and will publish an assessment in spring 2009.

Pay

Mr. Grieve: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many bonus payments were made in 2007-08 to *(a)* senior civil servants and *(b)* other staff of the Electoral Commission; and how much was paid in total. [257745]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that there were 15 bonus payments to staff during 2007-08, totalling £23,145. The Electoral Commission is independent of Government and its staff are not civil servants.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1278W, on council housing: Greater London, what data her Department routinely collects on the number of people *(a)* on housing waiting lists and *(b)* in housing need; and if she will make a statement. [256663]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities report summary information about their housing waiting list in Section C of their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) returns. The latest available data are at April 2008. These include the total number of households (rather than people) on the housing register and a breakdown of their bedroom requirements. A question was recently added requesting the number of households on the waiting list in any reasonable preference category. Information is collected at local authority level.

A link to the table presenting the number of households on the housing waiting list in each local authority is as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table600.xls

Further information on the number of households on the local authority housing waiting lists for England, including the full HSSA datasets, can be accessed from the statistical release "Local Authority Housing Statistics England: 2007-08: Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) and Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA)". This was published on 22 January 2009 on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/lahousing200708

Copies of the statistical release and live table have been deposited in the Library.

Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time. The size of the waiting list is not an indicator of absolute need, it is only useful as a broad indicator of housing demand in an area.

Currently no information is collected on housing need. A new analytical model is currently being developed to improve the Department's capacity to estimate the number and type of households with some form of housing related need.

Council Housing: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people are on local authority housing waiting lists in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire; and what the equivalent figures were (i) five and (ii) 10 years ago. [256498]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information is available on numbers of households rather than people. The number of households registered on local authority housing waiting lists in each local authority, as at 1 April each year, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600. The latest available data are at April 2008. The link for this table is given as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table600.xls

Local authorities in England report the numbers of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. Hemel Hempstead is included under Dacorum district council. The number of households on local authorities' waiting lists in Hertfordshire and Dacorum is given in the following table.

Number of households on the council house waiting list (excludes households looking for transfers)

	April		
	1998	*2003*	*2008*
Dacorum	3,274	5,465	4,794
Hertfordshire	18,601	19,677	26,891

Source:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA).

Further information on the number of households on the local authority housing waiting lists for England, can be found in the statistical release "Local Authority Housing Statistics England: 2007-08: Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) and Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA)". This was published on 22 January 2009 on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/lahousing200708

Copies of the statistical release and live table have been deposited in the Library.

The accuracy of the local authority housing waiting list depends on the extent to which housing authorities keep the register up-to-date, e.g. some households might already have found housing, yet remain on the list. It is also important to bear in mind that not everyone on the waiting list will necessarily be in urgent housing need. It will also include those who consider social housing as their preferred choice, or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time.

Council Housing: Lambeth

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions the Minister for Housing has had with Lambeth Council on rent increases from 1 April 2009. [255822]

Mr. Iain Wright: No such discussions have taken place. Communities and Local Government issued rent guidelines for each council within the Housing Revenue Account Determination on 18 December. Councils have the discretion to set their own rent levels. They are not set by central Government.

Council Housing: Rents

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will estimate the effect on the change in the level of rents in each local housing authority in 2009-10 if the relevant month for the purpose of including inflation in her Department's guideline rent increase was *(a)* October, *(b)* November and *(c)* December 2008. [255372]

Mr. Iain Wright: No. Decisions on rent levels are a matter for each local housing authority.

The national average guideline rent increase within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) subsidy determination for 2009-10, consulted upon in October and issued on 18 December 2008, was based upon Government policy for social rents and on information available at the time, with full consideration of affordability for tenants. It would not be appropriate to estimate in retrospect the possible impact of changing inflation rates on individual guideline rents for local authorities.

Council Tax: Second Homes

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of houses were registered as second homes for council tax purposes in each county in each year since 1997. [256458]

Mr. Iain Wright: Details of the number of properties registered as second homes for council tax purposes, and the percentage of the total number of homes this represents, in each county in England since 2004 are given in the following table. Information for previous years is not available.

	November 2004		*October 2005*		*October 2006*		*October 2007*		*October 2008*	
	Second homes	*Percentage of total*	*Second homes*	*Percentage of total*	*Second homes*	*Percentage of total*	*Second homes*	*Percentage of total*	*Second homes*	*Percentage of total*
Bedfordshire	461	0.3	527	0.3	512	0.3	720	0.4	732	0.4
Buckinghamshire	1,020	0.5	978	0.5	995	0.5	1,014	0.5	1,070	0.5
Cambridgeshire	2,163	0.9	2,260	0.9	2,072	0.8	2,083	0.8	2,064	0.8
Cheshire	1,548	0.5	1,760	0.6	2,122	0.7	2,581	0.8	2,995	0.9
Cornwall	13,509	5.7	13,221	5.6	13,040	5.4	13,291	5.4	13,603	5.5
Cumbria	7,865	3.4	7,908	3.4	8,352	3.6	8,084	3.4	8,196	3.5
Derbyshire	1,782	0.5	1,750	0.5	1,784	0.5	1,733	0.5	1,898	0.6
Devon	12,191	3.7	12,015	3.6	11,550	3.5	11,253	3.5	11,218	3.5
Dorset	6,178	3.3	6,361	3.4	6,362	3.4	6,297	3.3	6,439	3.4
Durham	651	0.3	709	0.4	615	0.3	707	0.3	780	0.3
East Sussex	5,049	2.2	4,950	2.1	4,834	2.1	4,749	2.0	4,730	2.0
Essex	4,429	0.8	4,279	0.7	4,595	0.8	4,623	0.8	4,459	0.8
Gloucestershire	3,124	1.2	3,049	1.2	3,080	1.2	3,133	1.2	3,299	1.2
Hampshire	4,311	0.8	4,663	0.9	4,630	0.8	4,836	0.8	4,741	0.8
Hertfordshire	2,123	0.5	2,493	0.6	2,431	0.5	2,509	0.6	2,611	0.6
Kent	7,192	1.2	6,672	1.1	6,866	1.1	6,251	1.0	8,287	1.3
Lancashire	2,799	0.6	3,098	0.6	2,864	0.6	2,795	0.5	2,799	0.5
Leicestershire	1,030	0.4	1,273	0.5	1,585	0.6	1,501	0.6	1,587	0.5
Lincolnshire	2,982	1.0	3,103	1.0	2,952	1.0	2,689	0.9	2,627	0.8
Norfolk	11,666	3.0	11,957	3.1	11,776	3.1	11,666	3.0	11,933	3.1
North Yorkshire	6,950	2.6	7,024	2.7	7,057	2.7	7,053	2.6	7,506	2.7
Northamptonshire	1,196	0.4	1,087	0.4	1,056	0.4	1,057	0.4	1,071	0.4
Northumberland	2,766	2.0	2,695	2.0	2,709	2.0	2,767	1.9	2,897	2.0
Nottinghamshire	888	0.3	1,152	0.3	1,234	0.4	1,290	0.4	1,526	0.4
Oxfordshire	3,062	1.2	3,035	1.2	3,106	1.2	3,302	1.3	3,201	1.2
Shropshire	1,208	1.0	1,246	1.0	1,229	1.0	1,196	0.9	1,267	0.9
Somerset	3,007	1.3	2,973	1.3	2,925	1.3	2,820	1.2	2,858	1.2
Staffordshire	654	0.2	695	0.2	685	0.2	682	0.2	695	0.2
Suffolk	5,643	1.8	5,616	1.8	5,337	1.7	5,387	1.7	5,451	1.7
Surrey	3,534	0.8	4,050	0.9	3,623	0.8	3,424	0.7	3,576	0.8
Warwickshire	991	0.4	997	0.4	1,767	0.6	1,646	0.6	1,851	0.6
West Sussex	5,756	1.7	6,286	1.8	6,241	1.8	6,119	1.8	6,304	1.8
Wiltshire	1,835	1.0	1,983	1.0	2,189	1.1	2,161	1.1	2,130	1.1
Worcestershire	1,666	0.6	1,559	0.6	1,558	0.6	1,529	0.5	1,589	0.6
Total	130,299	1.3	133,112	1.3	133,279	1.3	132,340	1.3	136,197	1.3

The data are from a snapshot taken each year and are as recorded by each local authority in Council Tax Base returns submitted annually.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of maintaining the databases owned and managed by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies was in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [256149]

Mr. Khan: A full answer to the question could be given only at disproportionate cost. However I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 2 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 619W.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty dwelling management orders have been issued since the Housing Act 2004 came into force. [256651]

Mr. Iain Wright: To date, 17 Interim Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMOs) have been approved by the Residential Property Tribunal Service (RPTS) since the legislation came into effect in April 2006. However, local authorities claim that in many cases the threat of an EDMO has been sufficient to make owners take action to bring long-term empty homes back into use.

We are confident that the legislation is beginning to work well. We always intended that the legislation should be used only as a last resort where other measures have proved unsuccessful. We want to encourage voluntary re-occupation of empty homes but this can only work well where there is realistic compulsion to back them up. EDMOs provide this compulsion and should therefore be a key component of a comprehensive empty property strategy.

We are keen for local authorities to make use of EDMOs, where appropriate, and are supporting the independent Empty Homes Agency's new guidance on EDMOs. The guidance, which is currently being tested, is internet based and interactive and will take local authorities through the EDMO process step by step.

My right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Planning is providing a foreword for the guidance.

We are also hosting a seminar at which I will address local authorities encouraging them to take action and to share best practice on tackling empty homes, including the use of EDMOs.

Homelessness

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people who applied to local authorities for housing have been assessed under homelessness criteria as priority need in the last *(a)* six months, *(b)* 12 months and *(c)* two years; and how many of those applicants were (i) ex-service personnel, (ii) ex-prisoners and (iii) asylum seekers. [258036]

Mr. Khan: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. Data collected include the number of applicants accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). These households are known as 'accepted' households.

In addition, some applicants may be found to be in priority need, but are not accepted as owed a main homelessness duty because they were found to be intentionally homeless. For these cases we do not hold the reason for priority need centrally.

During the last six months for which data are available (April to September 2008), 34,640 applicants were assessed as being homeless and in priority need. 30,020 of these were accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, of which 20 were vulnerable through having previously served in HM forces, 140 through having previously been on remand or in custody, and 40 through having previously been an asylum seeker (note that since April 2000, asylum seekers have been ineligible for assistance under the homelessness legislation, with certain exceptions where an asylum claim had been made prior to 3 April 2000).

The following table summarises the data for the most recent six months, and also shows figures for the most recent 12-month and two-year period:

	(a) April to September 2008 (last 6 months)	*(b) October 2007 to September 2008 (12 months)*	*(c) October 2006 to September 2008 (2 years)*
Applicants found to be homeless and in priority need	34,640	69,360	147,170
Of which: accepted as owed a main homelessness duty	30,020	60,600	127,730
Of which: applicants vulnerable as a result of:			
(i) having served in HM forces	20	40	80
(ii) having previously been on remand or in custody	140	270	430
(iii) being a former asylum seeker	40	100	220

However it is important to note that some applicants who had previously been in the HM forces, on remand or in custody, or are a former asylum seeker, may have been accepted with alternative primary priority needs (for example through having dependent children or being a pregnant woman) and so will not be shown as being priority need for these reasons.

Homelessness: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for housing assistance under homelessness legislation were made in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each of the last five years. [257084]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected by the Department. Authorities provide data on the number of applications for housing assistance (including those by ineligible households), as well as the number of households who are accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty.

Figures are collected at local authority level. The following table shows the number of applicants who have applied for housing assistance in each local authority within East Sussex (which includes Eastbourne).

Applications for housing assistance under homelessness legislation in local authorities within East Sussex (including ineligible households): 2003-04 to 2007-08

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Eastbourne	524	531	424	378	364
Hastings	1,101	907	695	546	287
Lewes	365	292	188	139	125
Rother	..	427	172	127	130
Wealden	401	418	464	226	176

.. Data not reported by local authority

Homelessness: Hampshire

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for housing assistance under homelessness legislation were made in *(a)* Winchester and *(b)* Hampshire in each of the last five years. [258225]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about local housing authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected by the Department. Authorities provide data on the number of applications for housing assistance (including those by ineligible households), as well as the number of households who are accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty.

Figures are collected at local authority level. The following table shows the number of applicants who have applied for housing assistance in each local authority within the county of Hampshire (which includes Winchester).

Applications for housing assistance under homelessness legislation in local authorities within Hampshire (including ineligible households), 2003-04 to 2007-08

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Basingstoke and Deane	166	187	100	135	54
East Hampshire	480	460	259	193	80
Eastleigh	376	292	175	127	123
Fareham	463	450	177	82	68
Gosport	477	370	359	286	192
Hart	89	113	[1]	16	12
Havant	720	760	816	769	672
New Forest	260	330	155	188	179
Rushmoor	210	130	44	51	40
Test Valley	237	196	135	50	30
Winchester	187	73	[1]	47	46
Hampshire (aggregate)	3,827	3,407	[1]	1,944	1,496
Portsmouth UA	2,040	1,467	954	470	456
Southampton UA	1,490	820	705	450	265

[1] Data not reported

Homelessness: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in York were accepted as statutorily homeless in each of the last 15 years. [257832]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

A summary table which includes the total number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty in each year between 1997-98 and 2007-08, for each local authority, including York, was provided in response to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for West Suffolk (Mr. Spring) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1499-1500W, and placed in the Library. Figures for York are shown in the following table:

Households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty in York local authority, 1997-98 to 2007-08

	Number
1997-98	280
1998-99	[1]
1999-2000	282
2000-01	499
2001-02	418
2002-03	409
2003-04	460
2004-05	424
2005-06	414
2006-07	213
2007-08	258

[1] Data not reported

Acceptance data at local authority level prior to 1997-98 are not held electronically.

Housing: Braintree

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans have been made for the (*a*) provision and (*b*) development of affordable housing in Braintree. [255309]

Mr. Iain Wright: Braintree district council is part of the Greater Haven Gateway sub-region which has an indicative allocation for the period 2008-11 of £76.8 million. For the period up to 31 December 2008 the homes and communities agency has allocated Braintree district council a grant of £3.49 million which will deliver 86 units for rent and 16 units for sale.

Housing: Low Incomes

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to increase (*a*) the supply of and (*b*) access to affordable housing in rural areas in the North East. [257535]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Homes and Communities Agency has been set a national target to provide 10,300 affordable homes in smaller rural communities from 2008-11 for both social rent and low cost home ownership. Grant from the £8 billion National Affordable Housing Programme is allocated through a competitive bidding process based on four main criteria: deliverability, quality, value for money and fit with national, regional and local priorities.

A number of rural communities in the North East will be supported through the Homes and Communities Agency's investment in North East former Coalfields areas.

The Government are committed to helping the development of a viable, well managed and financially robust Community Land Trust sector. Community Land Trusts have the potential to get the weight of the community behind the development of affordable housing and bring forward land for development, particularly in rural areas. We recently published a consultation on the development of a viable Community Land Trust sector and we have received 63 responses from a wide range of stakeholders which we are currently analysing. We will publish the results in the near future.

The Homes and Communities Agency has built links with the Community Land Trust movement in the North East and aims to deliver more new rural housing through this route.

Access to social rented housing is determined by the allocations legislation. This is designed to ensure the widest possible access while ensuring that priority goes to those people who are in the greatest housing need. Access to low cost home ownership schemes funded through the Affordable Housing Programme is open to first time buyers with an annual household income of £60,000 or less who are unable to buy a home in the market.

The Prime Minister commissioned a report from the hon. Member for Truro and St. Austell (Matthew Taylor) who has been looking at how land use and planning can

better support rural business and deliver affordable housing in rural communities. His report, published in July 2008, provides a comprehensive review of the issues that our rural communities face, including access to affordable housing, and provides a number of practical recommendations. We are looking at the report in detail and will publish a full response shortly.

Housing: Standards

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of properties *(a)* in the private rented sector and *(b)* under owner occupation in each (i) region and (ii) London local authority area are deemed to be below the Decent Homes standard. [257384]

Mr. Iain Wright: The English House Condition survey provides national estimates of the number and proportion of homes below the Decent Homes standard in each of the main tenures.

The survey can provide estimates for each tenure only by grouped regions. The number and proportion of private rented and owner occupied homes assessed to be below the Decent Homes standard by the English House Condition survey are provided for three regional groups by averaging three years of survey data (2005-06 to 2007-08) to establish reasonably robust results for each tenure in Table 1 as follows. Taking into account margins of error associated with the sample survey, the table indicates.

For the private rented sector, south east regions (London and South East regions combined) have below average proportions of non-decent homes, but there is no significant difference between other regional groups and the national average for this sector.

For the owner occupied sector, there is no significant difference between any of the regional groups and the national average for this sector.

Table 1: Number and percentage of privately rented and owner-occupied homes that are non- decent by regional group, 2006

	Number (Thousand)	*Percentage of regional group*
Private rented		
Northern regions	329	51.0
South east regions	426	40.5
Rest of England	480	49.1
All regions	1,235	46.2
Owner occupied		
Northern regions	1,589	35.3
South east regions	1,480	33.0
Rest of England	2,248	34.5
All regions	5,317	34.3

Regional groups:
Northern regions include North West, North East and Yorkshire and the Humber; south east regions include London and South East; rest of England includes East of England, East Midlands, West Midlands and South West.
Note:
Results are based on data collected from March 2005 to April 2008. They are based on the updated definition of the Decent Homes standard which incorporates the Housing Health and Safety Rating System as its statutory criterion.
Source:
2005-06 to 2007-08 English House Condition Surveys.

Information for London local authorities is not available.

Housing: Students

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many bed spaces have been completed in purpose-built communal housing for students and key workers in each local planning authority area since 2004; and what assessment her Department has made of the effects of such accommodation on local housing markets. [258010]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not held centrally.

Mobile Homes

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many residential park homes there are on licensed park home sites in *(a)* St Ives constituency, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* England; [257357]

(2) how many licensed sites for park homes are registered in *(a)* St Ives constituency, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* England. [257358]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not routinely collect statistics on the number of park homes or the number of park home sites. However, an ad hoc survey of local authorities in England carried out in 2006 suggested the following:

	Approximate number of residential park home sites	*Approximate number of residential park homes*
Constituency of St. Ives	30	856
Cornwall	86	4,102
England	1795	83,753

Property Development: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what analysis she plans to undertake of the 16 recent planning applications on which the Environment Agency advised against proceeding but which went ahead on flood plains under Planning Policy Statement 25; and if she will make a statement. [257332]

Mr. Iain Wright: We continue to work closely with the Environment Agency, local authorities and other stakeholders to ensure our policies in Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25), "Development and Flood Risk", are delivered on the ground. The Environment Agency's latest annual 'Development and Flood Risk' report, produced jointly with local government, sets out how the Agency's technical advice was taken into account in local authority planning decisions during the period April 2007 to March 2008. The report lists 16 'major developments' (residential development of 10 dwellings or more, or other new building of 1,000 square meters or more) that were granted planning permission against Agency advice on flood risk. The report notes that six of the cases were in areas of high flood risk but that in eight cases the developments were located in areas with a low risk of flooding. The report sets out the Agency's advice and how the relevant local authority responded.

Rented Housing: Regulation

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will establish an independent watchdog for tenants renting managed properties via letting agencies. [256848]

Mr. Iain Wright: Last year the Government commissioned an independent review of the private rented sector from Julie Rugg and David Rhodes of the centre for housing policy in the university of York. The review reported in October 2008. As part of its proposals to improve quality and professionalism within the sector, it recommended that letting and managing agents should be subject to mandatory, independently-led regulation. Such a regime would include independent redress for consumers and policing of the sector. We are currently considering the proposals in the review with key stakeholders and will be responding formally later this year.

Rented Housing: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on building and repairing *(a)* council and *(b)* housing association homes in City of York constituency in each year since the creation of the unitary authority. [257830]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the grant funding through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme in each financial year by registered social landlords (RSLs) in the City of York local authority area on the provision of affordable housing. This includes both new build and acquisition and refurbishment. This does not include expenditure that RSLs may have invested through their own resources.

	£ million
1997-98	1.28
1998-99	1.71
1999-2000	1.31
2000-01	2.50
2001-02	2.15
2002-03	1.51
2003-04	2.77
2004-05	3.29
2005-06	1.04
2006-07	1.12
2007-08	2.86

Source: Homes and Communities Agency.

RSLs as independent private organisations are responsible for the maintenance of their properties. Information on the spend by RSLs on maintenance of their stock in the City of York local authority is not held centrally.

Data on the cost of building council homes are not collected but no new council homes have built in the City of York since 1996. Capital spend on council housing stock is captured from the Business Plan Statistical Appendix. These data have been collected only since 2001:

Capital expenditure on Housing Revenue Account stock in the City of York

	£000
2001-02	4,316
2002-03	4,364
2003-04	5,491
2004-05	5,683
2005-06	5,981
2006-07	7,332
2007-08	6,378
Total since 2001	39,547

Rents: Wimbledon

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the change in rental rates for *(a)* business and *(b)* council tenants in Wimbledon constituency arising from her Department's decisions on the rental increase formula for 2008-09. [256617]

Mr. Iain Wright: No estimate has been made. Local authority rents are set by the councils themselves, not central Government. We do not estimate rent increases that might be made by individual councils.

The guideline rent formula used in the housing revenue account subsidy determination does not impact upon business rents.

Rough Sleepers: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many rough sleepers there were estimated to be in Eastbourne in each year since 1990. [257094]

Mr. Iain Wright: Annual rough sleeping figures for Eastbourne have been collected since 1998. The figures are based on local authority street counts and estimates where a street count did not take place.

Rough sleepers in Eastbourne

	Number
1998	11
1999	3
2000	1
2001	0
2002	0
2003	0
2004	3
2005	3
2006	6
2007	6
2008	0

Rough Sleepers: Hampshire

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many rough sleepers there were estimated to be in Winchester in each of the last five years. [258226]

Mr. Iain Wright: Annual rough sleeping figures are based on local authority street counts and estimates where a street count did not take place.

Number of rough sleepers in Winchester:

	Number
2006	1
2007	0
2008	0
2007	0
2008	0

Social Rented Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social housing tenants received payments under cash incentive schemes in each *(a)* English region and *(b)* London local authority area in each year since 1990. [257383]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government collects information from local authorities on cash incentive schemes intended to support social tenants who wish to buy property in the private sector, releasing social housing for other households in need. Figures are only available from 1997-98 onwards.

The total number of grants given in each English region is provided in the following table.

Total number of cash incentive scheme grants

Region	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North East	71	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North West	474	256	15	126	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yorkshire and the Humber	130	109	18	6	3	0	1	0	12	8	8
East Midlands	203	200	177	12	3	6	5	0	2	15	6
West Midlands	309	222	52	35	83	34	29	27	31	27	7
East of England	403	297	120	89	91	53	89	57	55	77	50
London	2105	1416	630	405	382	386	425	345	365	373	493
South East	611	376	195	95	65	53	30	16	34	17	22
South West	346	292	94	61	43	39	32	30	58	63	30
ENGLAND	4892	3258	1301	827	670	571	611	475	557	580	616

Source:
RSX4 (2001-02 present), HIP Annual Plan (1997-98–2000-01) as reported by local authorities

The total number of grants given in each London local authority is provided in the following table.

Total number of cash incentive scheme grants

London local authority	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Barking and Dagenham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barnet	53	36	23	31	32	36	33	30	30	18	21
Bexley	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brent	68	46	0	0	0	31	32	11	0	0	0
Bromley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camden	28	15	10	50	33	20	13	19	14	9	3
City of London	13	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0
Croydon	162	156	135	60	60	60	60	27	45	51	43
Ealing	95	60	3	0	0	0	36	13	31	10	1
Enfield	91	68	53	46	49	31	37	21	46	28	28
Greenwich	74	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hackney	150	105	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	241
Hammersmith and Fulham	20	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Haringey	64	60	36	25	16	23	20	24	0	18	0
Harrow	45	22	16	10	1	0	0	23	30	32	16
Havering	35	16	152	4	02	9	0	0	0	[illegible]	0
Hillingdon	52	31	36	20	16	19	21	9	12	12	3
Hounslow	89	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Islington	86	79	0	0	7	9	1	0	0	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea	28	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kingston upon Thames	29	26	16	16	16	17	8	8	11	15	19
Lambeth	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Lewisham	31	13	0	13	36	27	35	24	29	34	15
Merton	42	21	9	10	9	9	6	7	0	0	0
Newham	113	73	22	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Redbridge	16	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Richmond upon Thames	70	57	24	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southwark	226	173	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sutton	38	12	9	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Total number of cash incentive scheme grants

London local authority	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Tower Hamlets	118	84	46	36	36	56	71	62	56	27	14
Waltham Forest	52	43	23	21	19	6	9	8	5	4	0
Wandsworth	88	86	38	42	35	32	35	42	32	31	30
Westminster	48	32	16	23	15	15	14	16	17	80	26
LONDON	2105	1418	630	403	382	386	425	345	365	373	493

Source:
HSSA (2001-02-present), HIP Annual Plan (1997-98-2000-01) as reported by local authorities

No figures are collected centrally on schemes providing incentives for social tenants to move to smaller socially-rented properties.

Social Rented Housing: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of social housing in *(a)* London, *(b)* Birmingham, *(c)* Liverpool, *(d)* Leeds, *(e)* Sheffield, *(f)* Bristol, *(g)* Manchester, *(h)* Leicester, *(i)* Coventry, *(j)* Kingston upon Hull, *(k)* Bradford, *(l)* Stoke-on-Trent, *(m)* Wolverhampton, *(n)* Nottingham, *(o)* Plymouth, *(p)* Southampton, *(q)* Reading, *(r)* Derby, *(s)* Dudley and *(t)* Newcastle upon Tyne (i) met the decent home standard (A) in December 2007 and (B) in December 2008 and (ii) is expected to meet the standard by 2010. [249779]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table provides the information requested. This is drawn from the Business Plan Statistical Appendix—Annual Monitoring data from Local Authorities for 2007-08 published by CLG last month. The RSL data is from the Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR) for 2007-08 published by the Housing Corporation (now Tenant Services Authority) last autumn.

Percentage of Social Housing meeting the Decent Homes Standard

	Local authorities			RSLs	
	2007	2008	2010	2007	2008
Birmingham	65	78	100	90	93
Bradford	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	84	89
Bristol	86	88	97	90	92
Coventry	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	94	95
Derby	99	100	100	84	90
Dudley	83	86	97	98	99
Kingston-upon-Hull	35	50	81	97	95
Leeds	65	68	98	92	94
Leicester	85	91	97	92	92
Liverpool	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	86	77
London	65	69	83	89	90
Manchester	32	46	81	82	81
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	10	30	74	92	93
Nottingham	65	69	69	92	95
Plymouth[2]	50	44	15	95	90
Reading	88	91	97	92	96
Sheffield	48	66	92	85	80
Southampton	75	81	96	94	98
Stoke-on-Trent	75	78	93	94	96
Wolverhampton	43	55	73	91	95

[1] No current stock.
[2] Housing transfer to new RSL November 2009.

Decent Homes forecasts by local authority for registered social landlords' property is not available.

Social Rented Housing: Sustainable Development

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social rented homes she expects to be built in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010; and to what level under the Code for Sustainable Homes she expects such homes to be built. [257533]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1278-79W, to the hon. Member for Solihull (Lorely Burt).

Standards of Living

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the 10 per cent. *(a)* most and *(b)* least deprived lower level super output areas are in (i) London and (ii) Sutton and Cheam constituency. [257174]

John Healey: A table that lists the most deprived 10 per cent and the least deprived 10 per cent. Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in London has been placed in the Library of the House. This table also lists the 10 per cent. most and least deprived LSOAs in the parliamentary constituency of Sutton and Cheam.

Supporting People Programme: Learning Disability

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to her answers of 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1902W, on supporting people programme: learning disability, and 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1306W, on learning disability: adults, what proportion of the supporting people budget has been allocated to people with learning disabilities in each of the last five years. [257502]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Supporting People programme is administered at the local level by the relevant administering authority. It is for the authority to decide which services to fund, informed by the local needs and priorities identified in their five year Supporting People Strategies. The following table sets out the amount spent on Supporting People services for people with a learning disability, as reported to the Department by administering authorities. It will not identify all funding spent on people with a learning disability who access Supporting People services: some may have a different service classification (for example, people with a learning disability may access support from Supporting People services that help them move on from domestic violence or homelessness).

	Spend reported on services for people with a learning disability (£)	*Proportion of the total reported spend (percentage)*
2003-04	426,362,116	23.5
2004-05	396,596,732	23.4
2005-06	388,760,777	23.1
2006-07	367,435,288	22.4
2007-08	346,626,291	21.3

Theology Board of Muslim Scholars

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who has been appointed to the Theology Board of Muslim Scholars; how many workshops the board has held; and when she expects the Board to publish its recommendations to the Government. [256965]

Mr. Khan: This initiative is now called the 'Contextualising Islam in Britain' project. Cambridge university, with participation from the universities of Exeter, Glasgow and Westminster are hosting a series of independent symposia to engage in academic debate and discussion about Islam in a British context. As the project is being delivered through a series of seminars, contributors are being invited by Cambridge according to their specific expertise and views. There are no formal appointments being made, and it is for Cambridge university to decide on who should contribute to the symposia.

The discussions and debates hosted by Cambridge will be captured in a report and published by Cambridge university in summer 2009.

Travelling People

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Shipley of 22 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1098W, on Travelling people, what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support her Department has given to developing services for Gypsies and Travellers in each year since 2005. [258059]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government has given no financial or logistical support to an annual conference called Developing Services for Gypsies and Travellers. An annual conference on this topic is arranged by the private sector and Ministers and officials have supported it by attending as speakers.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate his Department has made of the potential taxpayer liability for *(a)* fines disallowance and *(b)* other penalties as a result of late payment under the single farm payment scheme and other precursor common agricultural schemes since 1997; [241252]

(2) what *(a)* fines, *(b)* disallowance and *(c)* other penalties the Government has incurred as a result of late payments under the single payment scheme and other precursor common agricultural schemes since 1997; and from which budget each penalty was paid. [241253]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA financial corrections incurred as a result of late payments on the single payment and other common agricultural policy schemes have been £144.8 million since 1999. This is based on EU Commission Ad Hoc Decisions from February 1999 to November 2008.

To analyse the data prior to February 1999 would involve a disproportionate cost.

These corrections have been met from a separate ring fenced disallowance budget.

It is not possible at this stage to say what further decisions may be published this year.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent steps the Government has taken to assist arable farmers; [256933]

(2) what recent steps the Government has taken to assist livestock farmers. [256934]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The Government's wider economic policies are aimed at assisting arable and livestock farmers emerge stronger from the global recession just as they are for other businesses.

The Government also works closely with the arable and livestock sectors on sector specific issues to further our objective of a thriving farming and food sector with an improving net environmental impact. We are pressing the case here and in Europe for policies that are evidence based and take account of the principles of better regulation, such as in the case of the Commission's proposals on pesticides and electronic identification of sheep. We also strongly support the continued process of greater market orientation of the CAP and the recent health check agreement will contribute to improved competitiveness by further reducing trade distorting coupled payments and the regulatory burden on farmers.

Over the last 12 months, the regional development agencies have begun delivering a £300 million programme of investment in improving the competitiveness of farming and forestry under the Rural Development Programme for England, of which at least £107 million will be targeted at the livestock sector to help it meet the particular challenges that it faces. The continued progress of the Rural Payments Agency in making more timely payments under the Single Payments Scheme has helped farmers' cash flow, with just under £1.37 billion in payments made by 16 February, equivalent to around 84 per cent. of the estimated total fund.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the ceiling is in each region for direct payments in *(a)* pounds sterling and *(b)* euros. [257296]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* Under EU legislation (Article 8 of Council Regulation (EC) no. 73/2009) giving effect to the CAP Health Check agreement, ceilings are set for the amount of

direct payments, net of modulation, that may be granted each year by member states. The ceiling for the UK for 2009 scheme payments is €3.3731 billion. The sterling equivalent will be determined by the last exchange rate set at the end of September 2009, but using the 2008 exchange rate (€1=£0.79030) it would be £2.6658 billion. No decisions have been taken to date on regional breakdowns.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many single farm payments which erroneously omitted *(a)* protein crop premium, *(b)* aid for energy crops and *(c)* nut aid were made in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [257585]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* 974 Single Payment scheme (SPS) claimants received an SPS payment that initially omitted a protein crop premium, aid for energy crops or a nut aid payment in 2008. These cases were all fully validated at the point of payment but required additional action to enable the omitted payments to be made.

The number of claims attributed to each omitted payment type are as follows:

Payment type	*Number of claims*
Protein crop premium	825
Aid for energy crops	128
Nut aid	44
Total	997

The figures include claims for which a combination of the three premium payment types were initially omitted.

All of these cases have now been reviewed and top-up payments made in all cases where underpayments have been identified.

The Rural Payments Agency is not aware of any similar issues resulting in the erroneous omission of protein crop premium, aid for energy crops or a nut aid payments for the 2007 scheme year.

Agriculture: Vocational Guidance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government has taken to encourage young people into agricultural careers. [256932]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* Fresh Start, an industry-led initiative supported by Government, helps train new entrants to the farming industry. There are 24 Fresh Start Academies, with more in the pipeline, focusing on developing business skills for new farmers.

We are working with the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs to provide training opportunities that enable members to learn an array of new skills to become successful farmers.

Government supported the Year of Food and Farming in 2007-08 and are supporting the legacy campaign, Think Food and Farming. These schemes have helped children and young people learn about growing food, what happens on a farm, what life is like in the countryside and what the countryside can offer in terms of employment. Through agri-environmental schemes farmers receive approximately £1 million per year to provide educational visits to their farms from schools and other interest groups.

From this September the new Diploma in Environmental and Land-based studies will be available to 14 to 19-year-olds to help them develop an understanding of these industries.

Agriculture: Waste Disposal

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on research into on-farm anaerobic digestion techniques in each of the last six years. [257426]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has spent £380,000 over the last six years on research into anaerobic digestion that addressed on-farm techniques, and their impacts on the environment and on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Angling

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated size of the recreational fishing catch of each species was in the latest period for which information is available. [256986]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In 2007, anglers reported the capture of 19,884 salmon and 29,398 sea trout from rivers in England and Wales; many of these fish were released alive. There is no current requirement to report recreational catches for other freshwater or marine species, so it is not possible to estimate these reliably.

From 2009, under EU regulation 199/2008 relating to data collection, the UK will be required to sample recreational catches of cod and eels in the North sea and bass and eels in western waters. Some estimate of the recreational catches of these species will therefore be possible for these areas in the future.

Birds of Prey: Genetics

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 34W, on birds of prey: genetics, in which scientific journal the final report on DNA profiling of birds of prey completed in November 2006 was published. [257286]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* An article based on the report and subsequent work was recently published in 'Forensic Science International: Genetics—An international journal dedicated to the application of genetics in the administration of justice'. The report can be found on the DEFRA website.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Deer

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on research for a vaccine for tuberculosis in deer in each of the last five years. [257427]

Jane Kennedy: No money has been spent on TB vaccine development for deer in the last five years. The vaccine research programme is currently focused on developing TB vaccines for cattle and badgers.

Common Agricultural Policy

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the *(a)* maximum, *(b)* minimum and *(c)* average value of claims made in England under the Common Agricultural Policy were in 2007; [257432]

(2) what the *(a)* maximum, *(b)* minimum and *(c)* average value was of claims made in England under the Common Agricultural Policy in 2008. [257433]

Jane Kennedy: The 2007 scheme year value of payments made under the Common Agricultural Policy are:

	£
Maximum	3,170,052.01
Minimum	0.01
Average	14,511.63

This information relates to the European financial year 2008, which is 16 October 2007 to 15 October 2008.

Unfortunately the data required to provide payment information for earlier years is not held in a form that is easily accessible and it could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [256046]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My Department will place in the Library a copy of the display energy certificates and their associated advisory reports in respect of each property occupied by my Department and its agencies.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many expert advisers, excluding special advisers, have been commissioned by his Department since June 2007; and on which topics they have advised. [254744]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department does not have a central list and to compile a list as requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many equalities impact assessments his Department has undertaken in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such assessments. [255074]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In total we have published 37 completed equality impact assessments on our internet and intranet websites (25 of which were published in 2008). These are predominantly in relation to employment and organisational change as these were areas highlighted for priority action. Since the EqIA is integrated into our policy making process, it is not possible to estimate any additional cost.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on *(a)* pot plants and *(b)* flowers in each of the last three years. [254876]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The total sum spent by DEFRA on internal and external planting for each of the three years are as follows:

	£
2005-06	21,009.90
2006-07	27,844.42
2007-08	31,017.53

These costs include internal and external planting. The nature of provision through the current FM contractor makes it difficult to separate internal planting from the overall costs. The costs also include provision of cut flowers on a weekly basis to Nobel House and 55 Whitehall.

Dogs

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken to support research into *(a)* canine and *(b)* feline illnesses. [256931]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* In 2008-09 DEFRA has begun to co-fund (£2,500 p.a.) a consortium led by the University of Liverpool that will ultimately combine veterinary practice data from computerised clinical records and reports from some private veterinary laboratories to give a nationwide overview of diseases in companion animals. Although only recently initiated, this project is already piloting voluntary reporting from private veterinary laboratories, and plans to soon conduct real time surveillance of clinical conditions at veterinary practices using a particular suppliers software package.

The Department also supports ongoing research with a total of approximately £1.4 million committed to the following projects:

Antimicrobial use and carriage of antimicrobial-resistant Escherichia coli and staphylococci in dogs and horses in the community: molecular mechanisms of resistance and risk to humans.

The epidemiology of Campylobacter infection in dogs in context of the risk of infection to humans.

Incidence of, risk factors for, histological features of and protein expression patterns in injection site sarcomas in cats.

The clinical treatment of pet dogs and antibiotic resistance in commensal and potentially pathogenic bacteria.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1049W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, if he will place in the Library a copy of the report on *(a)* Project REDUCE, *(b)* Understanding Household Waste Prevention Behaviour and *(c)* Establishing the Behaviour Change Evidence Base. [252717]

Jane Kennedy: The following projects have been completed and the reports published via the DEFRA website:

(WR0112) Understanding Household Waste Behaviour—University of Paisley

(WR0504) Establishing the Behaviour Change Evidence Base to Inform Community-based Waste Prevention and Recycling—Brook Lyndhurst

Output from the project (WR0105) Project REDUCE Monitoring and Evaluation: Developing Tools to Measure Waste Prevention—has been incorporated into the review study referred to in the response to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1050W, on Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal, and will be published later in 2009.

Electronic Tagging: Sheep

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the cost to farmers of the electronic tagging of sheep in line with EC proposals. [256674]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for East Devon (Mr. Swire) on 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2030-31W.

Flood Control

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many flood warnings have been issued by the Environment Agency in each county of England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [256351]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table shows the number of flood warnings issued by the Environment Agency in each of its regions from 2006. The warnings are defined as either flood watches, flood warnings or severe flood warnings dependent upon the likelihood of flooding occurring.

Environment Agency region	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Total*
Flood warnings issued					
North West	25	24	85	8	142
Midlands	44	214	244	6	508
Anglian	13	196	108	60	377
Thames	14	37	37	25	113
Southern	6	13	59	38	116
EA Wales	92	109	176	1	378
South West	97	119	269	77	562
North East	91	277	275	17	660
Total	382	989	1,253	232	2,856
Severe flood warnings issued					
North West	0	0	2	0	2
Midlands	1	22	5	0	28
Anglian	0	25	5	1	31
Thames	0	3	0	0	3
Southern	0	0	1	0	1
EA Wales	1	0	2	0	3
South West	0	1	7	0	8
North East	0	25	24	0	49
Total	2	76	46	1	125

Before the Floodline Warnings Direct (FWD) system became operational in January 2006, flood warnings were sent out locally by Environment Agency offices. Information prior to 2006 is therefore not held centrally and cannot be collated without incurring disproportionate cost.

Flood warning information is organised into operational areas based on water management catchments. The information above has therefore been organised by Environment Agency region.

The numbers of flood warnings are dependent on the weather and the number of sites where warnings are issued. The Environment Agency is constantly adding new areas where a flood warning service is provided.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made in implementing the flood defence schemes brought forward under spending announced in the Pre-Budget Report. [256353]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The flood risk management schemes brought forward are in development and due to start from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010. They will be completed over a number of years.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how his Department calculated that 27,000 homes will receive protection from bringing forward spending on flood defences as part of the measures announced in the Pre-Budget Report. [256354]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The protection of an additional 27,405 homes through the accelerated programme is based on detailed local mapping and flood modelling.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his latest estimate is of the number of posts in flood risk management in local authorities which are *(a)* filled and *(b)* vacant. [256357]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information on vacancies in flood risk management within local authorities is not held centrally. This is because local authorities are independent autonomous bodies responsible for decisions on pay and work force issues.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to amend his Department's policy in flood management expenditure areas where provision has been made in the past for land drainage and agriculture benefits. [257028]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My Department has no plans to amend policy for flood management expenditure which is specific to areas where provision has been made in the past for land drainage and agriculture benefits.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding has been allocated by his Department to implementing the recommendations of Sir Michael Pitt's review of the summer 2007 floods. [257448]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Annex B of the Government's response to Sir Michael Pitt's review of the summer 2007 floods contains a complete breakdown of funding. The document can be viewed at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environ/fcd/floods07/Govtresptopitt.pdf

Flood Control: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons *(a)* the right for regional flood defence committees to decide spending priorities will be replaced by a national Government block grant which will decide which area is to receive funding for flood defence and *(b)* the Environment Agency will decide nationally where such money is spent and which defences are of strategic priority. [257029]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA makes a national allocation of Flood Defence Grant in Aid, which the Environment Agency is then responsible for allocating to each of its Regional Flood Defence Committees.

The allocation of funding is done on a national basis to ensure consistency and so that the available funding is used most effectively. Capital schemes are prioritised based on the practical consequences that will result from the flood defence measures they provide.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on flood risk management plans *(a)* in each year since 1997 and *(b)* in 2008-09 to date; and how much was budgeted for such expenditure in each period. [257664]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government are committed to effective management of flood and coastal erosion risk and some £4.5 billion has been invested across England in total since 1996-97.

Spending across central and local government has increased from £307 million in 1996-97 to some £650 million this year and will increase to a total of £2.15 billion over the three years of the Spending Review.

The following table shows past and expected future expenditure on flooding and coastal erosion risk management.

Figures for 1996-07 to 2007-08 are actual figures based on outturns; figures for 2008-09 onwards are budgets or estimates.

£ million

Financial year	*DEFRA funding*	*LA funding*
2010-11	[2]697	87
2009-10	[2]633	87
2008-09	*563*	*87*
2007-08	507.5	[1]100.6
2006-07	506.0	84.5
2005-06	514.8	84.4
2004-05	415.4	80.3
2003-04	135.5	322
2002-03	128.4	299.4
2001-02	84.7	281.4
2000-01	71.4	262.7
1999-2000	75.5	246.6
1998-99	78.3	233.2
1997-98	87.1	223.3
1996-97	101.9	205.2

[1] Expenditure following the 2007 floods may explain why local authority spending was considerably higher in 2007-08 than in previous years. The figures for future local authority expenditure are as previously forecast, although it is for local authorities to decide how much to spend on flood risk management as budgets are not ring-fenced for the purpose.

[2] As announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report, £20 million has been brought forward from 2010-11 into 2009-10 as part of the fiscal stimulation package. This reduces the 2010-11 budget from £804 million to £784 million, with 2009-10 increasing from £700 million to £720 million.

From 2004-05 the money previously given to LAs for expenditure on flood risk management was largely brought together to form a central grant to the Environment Agency.

DEFRA flood and coastal erosion risk management budgets for the current year are on track and as forecast, subject to the recent bad weather.

Figures on budgeted expenditure for each year from 1996-97 are not available without disproportionate cost.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs over what period he expects funds allocated for response measures following the Pitt report on flooding to be spent. [257665]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Vale of York (Miss McIntosh) on 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 600W.

Floods

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has any plans to establish a single telephone number for use by the public to report incidents of flooding and related concerns. [258040]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The Environment Agency operates a 24-hour freephone incident hotline service for the reporting of all environmental

incidents including flooding. In addition the Environment Agency's Floodline service operates a 24-hour helpline providing information and general advice on flooding.

Floods: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 326W, on floods: Canvey Island, what representations the Environment Agency has received from *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* others on controls on development in flood risk areas of Canvey Island in the last three years; what discussions it has had on the matter in that period. [256402]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency has had several meetings with Castlepoint district council in the last three years to discuss development on Canvey Island and explain the implications of planning policy statement 25 "Development and Flood Risk". The Environment Agency has sought safe development and advised Castlepoint district council and individual developers to take into account the potential impact of flooding on new development.

Landfill

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects current landfill sites in each region of England to be full. [257482]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency estimated the remaining capacity at existing non-hazardous landfill sites in England at the end of 2007 as follows:

Region	*Remaining capacity in years*[1]
North East	7.6
North West	5.0
Yorks and Humber	12.5
East Midlands	7.8
West Midlands	10.8
East of England	4.2
London	3.0
South East	5.1
South West	6.2

[1]Figures are in base 10

Landfill: EC Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what progress has been made in implementing the EU Landfill Directive; and if he will make a statement; [251690]

(2) what progress he has made on implementation of *(a)* the EU Landfill Directive and *(b)* the EU Packaging Directive; and if he will make a statement. [253202]

Jane Kennedy: The requirements of the Landfill Directive are now contained in the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. These requirements have been progressively implemented, with the final measure being introduced in October 2007.

Separately from this the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003 implements Article 5(2) of the Landfill Directive, which requires member states to reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill.

The UK has fully implemented the requirements of the EU packaging directive via the producer responsibility obligations (packaging waste) regulations and the essential requirements regulations.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the Minister for Farming and the Environment to reply substantively to the letter of 14 October 2008 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on water rate charges for scout groups. [256808]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* I am very aware of the affordability issues faced by some customers, such as scout groups, following the switch to site area charging for surface water drainage by some companies.

Our view is that while the basic polluter pays principle of the guidance is correct, something is clearly very wrong if faith buildings, community amateur sports clubs and scout huts are facing such big increases in their bills, and where there are such marked variations between what is being charged in different areas, by different companies.

Under the powers enshrined in the Water Industry Act 1999, in 2000 the Government issued statutory guidance to Ofwat on water charging policy. Ofwat's subsequent and more detailed guidance to companies on surface water drainage charging was issued in 2003. Both of these documents addressed the issues surrounding the scale and pace of surface water bill changes for non-domestic, non-business customers and the need for charges to be based only upon the actual area within a property that drains to the public sewer.

We understand that the highest price increases are occurring in the United Utilities area, and that United Utilities now proposes to set its surface water drainage charges for 2009-10 at 2007-08 levels for customers such as faith buildings, community amateur sports clubs and scout huts (i.e. at levels prior to the introduction of site area charging). This is a very welcome step forward although we will continue to monitor this issue and engage further with Ofwat if necessary.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when a reply will be sent to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 15 August 2008 on water drainage charges for non-profit organisations. [257959]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* A reply was sent to the right hon. Member on 16 February 2009.

Nature Conservation

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many wildlife species in England were classified as at risk in each of the last 10 years. [257481]

Huw Irranca-Davies: 'At risk' is not an official threat category for species either internationally or within England. The Government does, however, maintain a list of species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

The species on the section 41 list are almost entirely the English components of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species, which were selected using criteria based on international importance, rapid decline and high risk. From 1999 to 2008, the section 41 list contained 473 species. In 2008 it was revised and now contains 943 species.

Pesticides: EC Law

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the effect on the farming industry's revenue of the introduction of the EU Pesticides Directive. [257423]

Huw Irranca-Davies: An economic assessment of restrictions included in the proposed regulation on the authorisation of pesticides was published last year by Sean Rickard, Senior Lecturer in Business Economics at Cranfield University School of Management, and is available at the Cranfield University website.

Public Consultation

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list all consultations initiated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies since 1 January 2008, including the dates given for responses and the intended dates for report. [256036]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 23 February 2009]*: A total of 86 consultations were carried out by DEFRA since 1 January 2008. Records are held on the start and end dates of consultations, but not the intended dates for reports (see following table). DEFRA does not co-ordinate consultations for its executive agencies, therefore information on these consultations is not held.

A full list is held on the Department's website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/default.asp

Start date	*End date*	*Consultation title*
9 January 2008	17 January and 29 February 2008 —two dates	Consultation on proposal of 2 per cent. milk quotas
14 January	31 March 2008	Consultation on national listing and plant breeders' Right fees
7 February	30 April 2008	Consultation on surface water management
7 February	30 April 2008	Consultation on guidance to Ofwat
7 February	30 April 2008	Consultation on phosphates in detergents—laundry
17 January	8 April	Consultation on mining waste directive (CLG-lg 8)
21 January	14 April	Consultation on sustainable products (market transformation programme website)
4 February	6 May 2008	Consultation on charging for CITES licences
30 January 2008	29 April 2008	Consultation on the future of the aggregates levy sustainability fund April 2008 to March 2011
25 February	19 May 2008	Consultation on river basin planning (volume)
27 February 2008	19 May 2008	Consultation on the transposition of Council Directive 2006/117/Euratom
29 February 2008	23 May 2008	Consultation on implementation of fruit and vegetable reforms
29 February 2008	27 May 2008	Consultation on environmental liability directive 2nd consultation
7 March 2008	4 April	Consultation on European Fisheries Fund: UK operational programme (1st phase)
7 March 2008	18 April	Consultation on Fal and Helford
March 2008	30 May	Consultation on statutory notification requirements for potatoes introduced into England and Wales from other EU member states
17 March 2008	9 June	Consultation on joint waste authorities
18 March 2008	29 April	Consultation on Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007, Directive 2004/12/EC amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste)
20 March	25 April	Consultation on the remaking of the drinking milk regulations
31 March	25 June	Consultation on soil strategy for England
3 April	26 June	Consultation on TSE Regulations 2007
3 April	26 June	Consultation draft Marine Bill
8 April	29 August	Consultation on the strategy of health of honey bees
2 May	27 June	Consultation on European Fisheries Fund: UK operational programme (2nd phase)
7 May	30 July	Consultation on the EU Commission's proposals to amend the EU ETS from 2013
9 May	23 May	Consultation on the remaking of Eggs and Chicks (England) Regulations 2008
14 May	6 August	Consultation on draft AQEG report Ozone in the United Kingdom
14 May	6 August	Consultation on EPAQS report guidelines for metals and metalloids in ambient air for the protection of human health
14 May	6 August	Consultation on EPAQS report Addendum to guidelines for halogen and hydrogen halides in ambient air for protecting human health against acute irritancy effects
28 May	20 August	Consultation on groundwater regulations
29 May	25 July	Consultation on the European Commission's proposed directive on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) (recast)—ammonia livestock
29 May	25 July	Consultation on the European Commission's proposed directive on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) (recast)
29 May	25 July	Consultation on the European Commission's proposed directive on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) (recast)—combustion plants
2 June	25 August	Consultation on REACH enforcement
2 June	22 August	Consultation on Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976—reform order

Start date	End date	Consultation title
6 June	31 July	Consultation on the European Commission's proposed directive on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC)) - emissions
9 June	1 September	Consultation on CAP health checks
13 June	25 July	Consultation on Wine SI 2008
16 June	11 August	Consultation on Socio Economic Note 2008: Rendering
17 June	17 September	A second consultation on the controls on the handling, transfer and transport of waste
12 June	12 September	Consultation on White Paper Radioactive waste - to be published on homepage
16 June	30 September	Consultation on revised UK strategy for radioactive waste discharge limits 2008-2030
23 June	17 October	Consultation on revised membership arrangements for Northumberland National Park Authority
June 2008	22 September	Consultation on wildlife management strategy
30 June	30 September	Consultation on 'Our Seas - a shared resource'
1 July	17 October	Consultation on the Beef and Veal Labelling Regulations 2008 (England)
4 July	26 September	Consultation on air quality guidance
11 July	3 October	Consultation on F gases and ozone
15 July	10 October	Consultation on Phytophthora ramorum and Phytophthora kernoviae
21 July	10 October	Consultation on DEFRA's contingency plan
21 July	20 October	Consultation on dragonmarsh licensing (exclusion) regulations
25 July	17 October	Consultation on changes to the Local Government Act 1972 to allow local authorities in England to work together on animal health
28 July	20 October	Consultation on a code of practice for the sustainable use of soils on construction sites
28 July	28 November	Consultation on direct elections to National Park authorities
30 July	31 October	Consultation on flood resilience
30 July	31 October	Consultation on flooding, coastal erosion management
31 July 2008	23 October	Consultation on review of waste exemptions
5 August 2008	28 October	Consultation on plans to meet EU air quality limit values
6 August 2008	3 October	Consultation on the English inshore fleet - looking to the future
11 August	3 November	Consultation on private water supplies
4 September	28 November	Consultation on aviation action plans
5 September	28 November	Consultation on VMD
8 September	28 November	Consultation on common land councils
15 September	14 November	Consultation on Recycling Service guidance
23 September	15 December	Consultation on SCP border checks regulations
26 September	19 December	Consultation on LA environmental regulation of industrial plant 2009/10 fees and charges
30 September	23 December	Consultation on the conservation varieties
16 October	19 December	Consultation on direction to the EA on classification of water bodies
October 2008	19 January	Consultation on carbon accounting regulations
October 2008	3 December	Consultation on proposed changes to BSE Testing
4 November	31 December	Consultation on code of practice on cat, dog and equine
6 November 2008	6 February	Consultation on revision of our swine vesicular disease legislation
7 November	30 January	Consultation on the code of practice for animal feeds
10 November	2 February	Consultation on the equine ID
13 November 2008	6 February	Consultation on animal by products regulations
13 November 2008	6 February	Consultation on hazardous waste regulations
14 November	6 February	Consultation on the Better Regulation review and six year review
18 November	10 February	Consultation on school milk
27 November	19 February	Consultation on marine works (amendment to regulations)
17 December	20 March	Consultation on the rules of court for the water and sewerage special administration regime
17 December	27 March	Consultation on national flood emergency framework
22 December	31 March 2009	Consultation on water protection zones
6 January	31 March	Consultation on handling LA's powers to regulate pest supplies
16 January	30 April	Consultation on regulations to allow the free passage offish in inland waters
20 January	27 March	Consultation on allocating increased milk quota
26 January	20 April	Consultation to protect the welfare of chicken meat
27 January	20 April	Consultation on air quality directive extension
27 January	20 April	Consultation on the welfare of animals at killing

Recycling

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the reduction in the value of recyclable materials on the recycling rates of local authorities. [256366]

Jane Kennedy: Figures for local authority recycling rates since the onset of the fall in value of recyclable materials are not yet available. However, the Waste and Resources Action Programme reports that so far there is no indication of any significant change in local authority recycling performance as a result of the fall in market prices.

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what his policy is on the payment of recycling credits to third party collectors who collect material from the kerbside in one local authority area but send the material to a neighbouring local authority area which is willing to pay a recycling credit and claim the recycling within their reported recycling rate and his Department's WasteDataFlow system. [256886]

(2) how household recycling collected at the kerbside by social enterprise organisations is included in his Department's WasteDataFlow in circumstances where the local authority does not pay a recycling credit. [256887]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* Local authorities have a power but not a duty to pay recycling credits to third parties. The local authority in

the area where the waste was collected may decide whether it would be reasonable to pay credits under these circumstances.

WasteDataFlow collects information on "tonnes of material collected from kerbside schemes by non contracted/voluntary community sector from household sources". No information is collected on whether or not local authorities pay recycling credit in WasteDataFlow.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to review the distinction between his Department's definitions of domestic and commercial waste for the purposes of recycling waste; and if he will make a statement. [257488]

Jane Kennedy: The definitions of household and commercial waste used by DEFRA are those contained within Section 75 of The Environmental Protection Act 1990. Further clarification of these definitions is contained in the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992.

There are no plans to review these definitions.

Rights of Way

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to identify and restore lost rights of way. [256896]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In the wake of the Discovering Lost Ways project, Natural England has formed a Stakeholder Working Group to bring together key interests nationally to agree a package of strategic reforms relating to unrecorded and other rights of way. These include any reforms the group considers would improve the system for processing claims and reduce unnecessary delay and bureaucracy.

The group is expected to report by the end of the year. We have undertaken not to commence the provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 relating to the extinguishment of unclaimed historic rights of way from 2026 at least until the group has reported.

Rural Payments Agency: ICT

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 2249W, on the Rural Payments Agency: ICT, if he will estimate the shelf-life of the Epsilon programme. [258193]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* The Epsilon programme, involving a 12 month development cycle, made changes to IT systems used to process claims under the Single Payments scheme. The changes made during the Epsilon upgrade will continue to be used unless amendments to the scheme affect the functions introduced as part of that programme.

Sewers

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs from which budget his Department plans to meet net new burdens on local authorities imposed as a result of the transfer of responsibilities for maintaining private sewers and lateral drains. [257952]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The transfer of responsibility for private sewers and drains to the water and sewerage companies in England will impose no new net burdens on local authorities. It is expected that the transfer will produce savings to local authorities which will no longer need to exercise their statutory powers to ensure the repair of privately owned lateral drains and sewers.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities have received advice through the Local Authority Support Direct Consultancy Service about the operation of alternate weekly collections of household waste in the last 24 months. [257834]

Jane Kennedy: There is no such named service.

Waste Management

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on the proportion of municipal waste *(a)* recycled or composted, *(b)* landfilled and *(c)* incinerated with energy from waste by each member state of the EU-15 in each of the last 10 years. [257666]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA supplies data to Eurostat as part of its European reporting obligations. This reported national data for all EU member states is publicly available from Eurostat:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu

Data for the last 10 years is available from this site via the Eurostat Environmental Data Centre on Waste

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1090,70469433,1090_70525109&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

Eurostat publish this data for all EU-15 and EU-27 countries.

Water Charges

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has *(a)* been budgeted for expenditure on and *(b)* has been spent to date on the surface water management plan announced on 17 December 2008. [257967]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* At present, £300,000 is allocated towards the production of surface water management plans (SWMP) split over the six local authorities which are trialling the new SWMP guidance document. To date, no expenditure has been made but invoices are expected from the six authorities in the next few weeks. The anticipated expenditure up to end of March 2009 will be £190,000 with the remaining £110,000 spent by end of July 2009.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department has made available to each local authority for the development of a surface water management plan; and whether the allocation of this funding takes account of the geographical size of each local authority. [258059]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 23 February 2009]*: DEFRA announced initial funding of £300,000 in December 2008 for an initial programme of six locations where guidance for Surface Water Management Plans will be trialled. The money was divided equally between the successful bids. The findings from the trials are required quickly to inform final guidance which we are planning to consult on later in 2009 and then make available to all local authorities. Work on this first phase is not expected to deliver complete coverage within all the locations selected due to the variation in size and complexity.

Water Charges: Religious Buildings

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from the General Synod about church water bills; and if he will make a statement. [257842]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My Department has received a number of representations from the Church of England and I am aware that the issue of surface water drainage charges for churches was discussed by the General Synod on 11 February.

The Government support site area charging for surface water drainage in principle. However, it is very wrong that customers such as churches are facing increases in bills of several hundred per cent., and where there are massive variations between what is being charged in different areas by different companies.

I have made this clear to Ofwat as the economic regulator for the water industry. I have also made it clear that increases in bills of this magnitude are not in line with the Government's guidance on charging issued to Ofwat in 2000, or Ofwat's more detailed 2003 guidance to the water companies.

It is for individual water companies to prepare their charging schemes and for Ofwat to review and approve them. In response to representations, United Utilities now proposes to set its surface water drainage charges for 2009-10 at 2007-08 levels for places of public religious worship.

Water Charges: Yorkshire and the Humber

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* Yorkshire Water and *(b)* the East Riding Council on the development of a surface water management plan; and what progress has been made on such a plan. [258038]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 23 February 2009]*: The East Riding Council (indicating that Yorkshire Water would be a partner) submitted a bid for funding from DEFRA in October 2008. This followed a call for expressions of interest from local authorities to undertake early implementation of surface water drainage improvements. The purpose of the work was to test new guidance for producing surface water management plans and report back findings by mid 2009. DEFRA received more than 30 applications although the trial was restricted to six owing to the proposed level of support and advice that would be available during the trial. The East Riding proposal was of good quality but in this instance was not selected to be part of this first phase. The successful bids were announced by the Secretary of State on 18 December 2008 during the Government's Response to Sir Michael Pitt's Review—Lessons Learned from the 2007 Floods. DEFRA will shortly be publishing a living draft of the current guidance and inviting comments on this with a view to publishing a final version in autumn 2009.

Water Companies: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what powers he has to direct Ofwat to direct water companies to adopt carbon dioxide emission reduction measures; [257733]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to promote the adoption of carbon dioxide emission reduction programmes by water supply companies. [257735]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Ofwat sets out how it is taking into account the impact of climate change for the 2009 price review in its documents "Setting Price Limits for 2010 to 2015: Framework and approach" and "Capital Expenditure for 2010 to 2015: Ofwat's views on companies' draft business plans". These documents are available on the Ofwat website.

The Secretary of State has no powers to direct Ofwat to direct water companies. However, guidance issued by the Secretary of State to Ofwat in 2000 states that

"companies' charges schemes should take proper account of the impact of the use of water services on the environment".

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will meet representatives of water companies and the construction sector to discuss major infrastructure projects and carbon dioxide emission reductions. [257734]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Secretary of State and myself are in the process of arranging a meeting with water company chief executives to discuss a range of water issues.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Children

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of women in the UK have children. [257617]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your request for information on how many, and what proportion, of women in the UK have children. (257617)

The information requested is only available for women of childbearing age in England and Wales (ages 15-44). The latest year for which figures are available is 2007.

The table below shows for 2007, the estimated number and proportion of women aged between 15 and 44 in England and Wales who have ever had a child.

Estimated number and proportion of women aged 15-44 who have ever had a child, England and Wales, 2007

	Number/Percentage
All women	11,127,200
Women who have ever had a child	5,381,000
Proportion of women who have ever had a child	48.4

The proportion of women aged 15-44 in 2007 who have evet had a child is relatively low because many of the women in this age group have not yet started childbearing. For women who have completed their childbearing years (women aged 45 in 2007), 80 per cent are estimated to have had at least one child.

More detailed information showing the proportion of women of childbearing age by number of live-born children, by year of birth of mother and age is published annually for England and Wales in Birth Statistics Series FM1. Table 10.5.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=5768

Civil Service: Work Experience

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what summer placement internship schemes are available in the Civil Service for students *(a)* with disabilities, *(b)* without disabilities, *(c)* from an ethnic minority and *(d)* not from an ethnic minority. [256469]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* The Cabinet Office is responsible for managing the Civil Service Summer Diversity Internship programme. The Summer Diversity Internship programme is open to undergraduates and graduates from black and ethnic minority backgrounds and those with disabilities. The programme seeks to provide high calibre ethnic minority and disabled undergraduates/graduates with a six-nine weeks work placement within Government Departments across Whitehall. The aim of the programme is to ensure that the civil service is bringing through a diverse range of people to further increase the capacity and capability of the civil service to better respond to the needs of the business and public.

The Cabinet Office is not responsible for centrally coordinating any internship schemes that are department specific and does not hold any information about these local schemes.

We have been in discussions with senior officials at the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and other stakeholders about the proposed new National Internship programme and have offered our support to this programme across the civil service.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-7W, on Government Departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* computers in the offices of its (i) Ministers, (ii) communications officials and (iii) special advisers. [241946]

Mr. Watson: In accordance with standard good information security practice and to help defend against electronic attack, my department does not publish internal IP addresses for its corporate IT systems. When accessing external services such as internet websites, the IP addresses of all the computers on my Department's internal office IT system are hidden behind the following IP addresses which are publicly available—195.92.40.49 and 62.25.106.209.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much has been spent by his Department on staff reward and recognition schemes in each of the last three years. [248716]

Mr. Watson: The amount spent by the Cabinet Office on staff reward and recognition schemes in each of the last three years is set out as follows:

	Amount spent (£)
2007-08	24,350
2006-07	12,600
2005-06	0

These totals represent small individual awards to staff as part of the overall pay award. They are used to drive performance and recognise individual instances of exceptional performance.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of the population is registered to vote in each constituency, ranked in descending order in each region. [257330]

Kevin Brennan: The information falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what percentage of the population is registered to vote in each constituency ranked in descending order in each region (257330)

Table 1 shows the number of people who were registered to vote in parliamentary elections as a percentage of the estimated resident population aged 18 and over for each parliamentary constituency in England Wales for 2007. This is the latest year for which estimates of the usually resident population are available by parliamentary constituency. The table has been placed in the House of Commons library.

These figures should not be interpreted as the percentage of the eligible population who are registered to vote. The population eligible to vote in parliamentary elections includes British Citizens resident overseas and excludes foreign citizens (from outside the British Commonwealth and Republic of Ireland) resident within England and Wales.

In addition, figures for the registered electorate may be inflated because people who have more than one address may register in more than one place (e.g. students may register at parental and term-time addresses) and electoral registration officers vary in how quickly they remove people from the registers after they have moved away from an area or died. This may lead to percentages of over one hundred per cent and can affect the comparability of figures across parliamentary constituencies.

Table 1: Number of people registered to vote in parliamentary elections as a percentage of the resident population aged 18 and over, by parliamentary constituency in England and Wales, and Government office regions in England: 2007

	Parliamentary constituency	Percentage
England		
North East	North West Durham	101
	Sedgefield	100
	Darlington	100
	Hexham	100
	Bishop Auckland	100
	North Durham	100
	Blaydon	99
	Blyth Valley	99
	Easington	98
	Gateshead East and Washington West	98
	Tynemouth	98
	Hartlepool	98
	Wansbeck	97
	North Tyneside	96
	Jarrow	96
	Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	96
	Houghton and Washington East	96
	Berwick-upon-Tweed	95
	Sunderland South	95
	Stockton South	95
	Redcar	94
	Stockton North	94
	South Shields	93
	Newcastle upon Tyne North	93
	Middlesbrough	92
	Sunderland North	91
	Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend	89
	Tyne Bridge	85
	City of Durham	84
	Newcastle upon Tyne Central	83
North West	Wirral South	101
	Wirral West	100
	Bolton West	100
	West Lancashire	100
	Chorley	100
	Bury North	100
	Congleton	100
	Warrington South	99
	Bolton North East	99
	Rossendale and Darwen	99
	Halton	99
	Penrith and The Border	99
	South Ribble	99
	Macclesfield	99
	Blackpool South	99
	Blackburn	99
	Altrincham and Sale West	98

Table 1: Number of people registered to vote in parliamentary elections as a percentage of the resident population aged 18 and over, by parliamentary constituency in England and Wales, and Government office regions in England: 2007

	Parliamentary constituency	Percentage
	Burnley	98
	St. Helens North	98
	Rochdale	98
	Hazel Grove	98
	Copeland	98
	Bury South	98
	Heywood and Middleton	98
	Wirral West	98
	Carlisle	98
	Ribble Valley	98
	Denton and Reddish	98
	St. Helens South	98
	Stalybridge and Hyde	98
	Bolton South East	98
	Wallasey	97
	Tatton	97
	Wigan	97
	Birkenhead	97
	Warrington North	97
	Fylde	97
	Makerfield	97
	Workington	97
	Crewe and Nantwich	97
	Westmorland and Lonsdale	97
	Worsley	97
	Knowsley North and Sefton East	96
	Crosby	96
	Oldham East and Saddleworth	96
	Ellesmere Port and Neston	96
	Stretford and Urmston	96
	Oldham West and Royton	96
	Leigh	96
	Blackpool North and Fleetwood	95
	Pendle	95
	Chorley	95
	Ashton under Lyne	95
	Hyndburn	95
	Stockport	94
	Knowsley South	94
	Eddisbury	94
	Liverpool, Garston	94
	Barrow and Furness	94
	Eccles	93
	Manchester, Withington	93
	Wythenshawe and Sale East	93
	Preston	93
	Liverpool, Wavertree	92
	Lancaster and Wyre	92
	Morecambe and Lunesdale	92

Table 1: Number of people registered to vote in parliamentary elections as a percentage of the resident population aged 18 and over, by parliamentary constituency in England and Wales, and Government office regions in England, 2007

	Parliamentary constituency	Percentage
	Liverpool, West Derby	92
	Southport	91
	Liverpool, Riverside	91
	City of Chester	91
	Liverpool, Walton	90
	Bootle	89
	Manchester, Blackley	89
	Salford	87
	Manchester, Gorton	87
	Manchester Central	86
Yorkshire and the Humber	Brigg and Goole	99
	Normanton	99
	Hemsworth	99
	Barnsley West and Penistone	99
	Pontefract and Castleford	98
	East Yorkshire	98
	Rother Valley	98
	Beverley and Holderness	98
	Scunthorpe	98
	Haltemprice and Howden	98
	Colne Valley	97
	Wentworth	97
	Cleethorpes	96
	Barnsley Central	96
	Vale of York	96
	Scarborough and Whitby	96
	Barnsley East and Mexborough	96
	Selby	96
	Dearne	96
	Dewsbury	95
	Batley and Spen	95
	Kingston upon Hull East	95
	Elmet	95
	Pudsey	95
	Wakefield	94
	Calder Valley	94
	Don Valley	94
	Doncaster North	94
	Shipley	94
	Richmond (Yorks)	94
	Skipton and Ripon	93
	Rotherham	93
	Sheffield, Hillsborough	93
	Morley and Rothwell	93
	Huddersfield	93
	Doncaster Central	93
	Leeds North East	92
	Great Grimsby	92
	Harrogate and Knaresborough	92

Table 1: Number of people registered to vote in parliamentary elections as a percentage of the resident population aged 18 and over, by parliamentary constituency in England and Wales, and Government office regions in England, 2007

	Parliamentary constituency	Percentage
	Keighley	92
	Halifax	91
	Sheffield, Attercliffe	91
	Sheffield, Hallam	90
	Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle	90
	City of York	90
	Sheffield, Heeley	89
	Bradford South	88
	Bradford North	88
	Leeds West	86
	Leeds East	85
	Sheffield, Brightside	85
	Kingston upon Hull North	83
	Leeds North West	79
	Bradford West	78
	Leeds Central	77
	Sheffield Central	71
East Midlands	Mansfield	100
	North West Leicestershire	100
	Bolsover	100
	Amber Valley	99
	Chesterfield	99
	West Derbyshire	99
	Blaby	99
	South Holland and The Deepings	98
	North East Derbyshire	98
	Charnwood	98
	Kettering	98
	Ashfield	98
	Bosworth	98
	South Derbyshire	97
	Gainsborough	97
	Bassetlaw	97
	Blaby	97
	Boston and Skegness	97
	Leicester East	97
	Sherwood	96
	Corby	96
	Rutland and Melton	96
	Glanford and North Holderness	96
	High Peak	96
	Rushcliffe	95
	Erewash	95
	Grantham and Stamford	95
	Gedling	95
	Newark	95
	Louth and Horncastle	94
	Derby North	94
	Leicester South	93

Table 1: Number of people registered to vote in parliamentary elections as a percentage of the resident population aged 18 and over, by parliamentary constituency in England and Wales, and Government office regions in England, 2007[1]

	Parliamentary constituency	Percentage[2]
	Wellingborough	93
	Daventry	92
	Northampton North	92
	Loughborough	92
	Leicester West	91
	Northampton South	91
	Broxtowe	91
	Derby South	89
	Lincoln	88
	Nottingham North	88
	Nottingham East	76
	Nottingham South	72
West Midlands	Ludlow	101
	Cannock Chase	101
	Stourbridge	101
	Sutton Coldfield	100
	Meriden	100
	Lichfield	100
	Halesowen and Rowley Regis	100
	Staffordshire Moorlands	100
	Stoke-on-Trent South	100
	West Bromwich West	100
	Bromsgrove	99
	West Worcestershire	99
	Dudley North	99
	Aldridge-Brownhills	99
	Dudley South	99
	South Staffordshire	99
	Stone	99
	Stoke-on-Trent North	99
	Redditch	98
	Wolverhampton South East	98
	Worcester	98
	North Shropshire	98
	Burton	98
	Rugby and Kenilworth	98
	Stratford-on-Avon	98
	North Warwickshire	97
	West Bromwich East	97
	Shrewsbury and Atcham	97
	Tamworth	97
	Telford	96
	Hereford	96
	Birmingham, Hall Green	96
	Birmingham, Hodge Hill	96
	Wolverhampton North East	96
	Wyre Forest	95
	Stoke-on-Trent Central	95
	The Wrekin	95

Table 1: Number of people registered to vote in parliamentary elections as a percentage of the resident population aged 18 and over, by parliamentary constituency in England and Wales, and Government office regions in England, 2007[1]

	Parliamentary constituency	Percentage[2]
	Leominster	95
	Newcastle-under-Lyme	95
	Mid Worcestershire	95
	Nuneaton	95
	Walsall South	95
	Warley	95
	Stafford	94
	Birmingham, Yardley	94
	Birmingham, Northfield	94
	Walsall North	94
	Wolverhampton South West	94
	Birmingham, Perry Barr	93
	Birmingham, Erdington	93
	Solihull	93
	Birmingham, Selly Oak	93
	Coventry North West	91
	Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath	90
	Coventry South	88
	Warwick and Leamington	88
	Birmingham, Edgbaston	88
	Birmingham, Ladywood	87
	Coventry North East	86
East	Hitchin and Harpenden	104
	South Suffolk	101
	Saffron Walden	100
	Central Suffolk and North Ipswich	99
	North West Norfolk	99
	Rayleigh	99
	South Norfolk	99
	Billericay	98
	North Norfolk	98
	Hemel Hempstead	97
	Castle Point	97
	Basildon	97
	St. Albans	97
	Watford	97
	Maldon and East Chelmsford	97
	Epping Forest	97
	Harlow	96
	South West Bedfordshire	96
	Hertford and Stortford	96
	Bury St. Edmunds	96
	Ipswich	96
	Southend West	96
	Stevenage	96
	Braintree	96
	Brentwood and Ongar	96
	South Cambridgeshire	96
	Waveney	96

Table 1: Number of people registered to vote in parliamentary elections as a percentage of the resident population aged 18 and over, by parliamentary constituency in England and Wales, and Government office regions in England, 2007[1]

	Parliamentary constituency	Percentage[2]
	South West Hertfordshire	95
	Mid Norfolk	95
	Suffolk Coastal	95
	North East Bedfordshire	95
	Luton North	95
	Broxbourne	95
	West Chelmsford	95
	Thurrock	95
	Rochford and Southend East	94
	North East Cambridgeshire	94
	Hertsmere	94
	Mid Bedfordshire	94
	North East Hertfordshire	94
	South East Cambridgeshire	94
	Great Yarmouth	93
	Norwich North	93
	Luton South	93
	North Essex	92
	North West Cambridgeshire	92
	Huntingdon	91
	Harwich	90
	South West Norfolk	90
	Bedford	89
	Norwich South	87
	Welwyn Hatfield	87
	Colchester	84
	West Suffolk	81
	Peterborough	80
	Cambridge	77
London	Chingford and Woodford Green	101
	Romford	100
	Orpington	99
	Old Bexley and Sidcup	99
	Hornchurch	99
	Bexleyheath and Crayford	98
	Upminster	98
	Bromley and Chislehurst	98
	Croydon South	97
	Ruislip-Northwood	97
	Erith and Thamesmead	97
	Harrow East	97
	Dagenham	96
	Uxbridge	96
	East Ham	95
	Beckenham	95
	Feltham and Heston	94
	Eltham	94
	Harrow West	94

Table 1: Number of people registered to vote in parliamentary elections as a percentage of the resident population aged 18 and over, by parliamentary constituency in England and Wales, and Government office regions in England, 2007[1]

	Parliamentary constituency	Percentage[2]
	Ilford South	93
	Ilford North	93
	Chipping Barnet	92
	Brent North	91
	Twickenham	91
	Barking	91
	Walthamstow	91
	Hayes and Harlington	90
	Carshalton and Wallington	90
	Croydon Central	90
	Enfield North	89
	Battersea	89
	Leyton and Wanstead	89
	Enfield, Southgate	89
	Sutton and Cheam	89
	Ealing, Southall	88
	Greenwich and Woolwich	88
	Brentford and Isleworth	88
	Lewisham East	88
	Tooting	87
	Dulwich and West Norwood	87
	West Ham	87
	Bethnal Green and Bow	86
	Lewisham West	86
	Hornsey and Wood Green	86
	Croydon North	86
	Streatham	86
	Hackney South and Shoreditch	85
	Poplar and Canning Town	84
	Camberwell and Peckham	84
	Edmonton	84
	Ealing North	83
	Putney	83
	Kingston and Surbiton	83
	Richmond Park	82
	Mitcham and Morden	82
	Brent South	81
	Hendon	80
	Lewisham, Deptford	80
	Wimbledon	79
	Vauxhall	79
	Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush	79
	Tottenham	79
	Hackney North and Stoke Newington	79
	Islington North	79
	Islington South and Finsbury	77
	Brent East	77
	Finchley and Golders Green	77

Table 1: Number of people registered to vote in parliamentary elections as a percentage of the resident population aged 18 and over, by parliamentary constituency in England and Wales, and Government office regions in England, 2007[1]

	Parliamentary constituency	Percentage[2]
	North Southwark and Bermondsey	76
	Hammersmith and Fulham	75
	Hampstead and Highgate	70
	Holborn and St. Pancras	68
	Regent's Park and North Kensington	67
	Cities of London and Westminster	59
	Kensington and Chelsea	55
South East	North West Hampshire	103
	East Hampshire	101
	Wantage	100
	Henley	99
	Wealden	99
	Winchester	99
	Fareham	99
	Havant	99
	Chesham and Amersham	99
	Mole Valley	98
	Mid Sussex	98
	Arundel and South Downs	98
	Chichester	98
	New Forest West	98
	New Forest East	98
	East Worthing and Shoreham	98
	Dover	97
	South West Surrey	97
	Faversham and Mid Kent	97
	Horsham	97
	Newbury	97
	Eastleigh	97
	Dartford	97
	North East Hampshire	97
	Lewes	97
	Spelthorne	97
	Worthing West	97
	Witney	97
	Beaconsfield	97
	Ashford	97
	Isle of Wight	97
	Bexhill and Battle	96
	Gosport	96
	South Thanet	96
	Buckingham	96
	Tonbridge and Malling	96
	Epsom and Ewell	96
	Romsey	96
	Wycombe	96
	Surrey Heath	95
	Tunbridge Wells	95
	Banbury	95

Table 1: Number of people registered to vote in parliamentary elections as a percentage of the resident population aged 18 and over, by parliamentary constituency in England and Wales, and Government office regions in England, 2007[1]

	Parliamentary constituency	Percentage[2]
	Maidstone and The Weald	95
	Sevenoaks	95
	North Thanet	94
	Reading West	94
	Sittingbourne and Sheppey	94
	Chatham and Aylesford	94
	Wokingham	93
	Aylesbury	93
	North East Milton Keynes	93
	Maidenhead	93
	Reigate	93
	East Surrey	93
	Folkestone and Hythe	93
	Milton Keynes South West	93
	Guildford	93
	Medway	92
	Bognor Regis and Littlehampton	92
	Eastbourne	92
	Bracknell	92
	Woking	92
	Gravesham	92
	Hove	92
	Gillingham	92
	Hastings and Rye	91
	Crawley	91
	Brighton, Pavilion	91
	Oxford West and Abingdon	91
	Windsor	90
	Portsmouth North	90
	Brighton, Kemptown	90
	Aldershot	90
	Southampton, Itchen	89
	Reading East	88
	Esher and Walton	87
	Basingstoke	85
	Slough	84
	Southampton, Test	84
	Canterbury	82
	Runnymede and Weybridge	82
	Oxford East	79
	Portsmouth South	77
South West	West Dorset	102
	Christchurch	101
	North Swindon	101
	Poole	101
	Mid Dorset and North Poole	100
	North Devon	100
	North Wiltshire	100
	Stroud	99

Table 1: Number of people registered to vote in parliamentary elections as a percentage of the resident population aged 18 and over, by parliamentary constituency in England and Wales, and Government office regions in England, 2007[1]

	Parliamentary constituency	Percentage[2]
	Yeovil	99
	Forest of Dean	99
	Tewkesbury	98
	Somerton and Frome	98
	Devizes	98
	Teignbridge	98
	North Dorset	98
	South East Cornwall	98
	Cotswold	98
	Tiverton and Honiton	98
	South West Devon	98
	Totnes	98
	Wansdyke	97
	South Swindon	97
	Wells	97
	Northavon	97
	Kingswood	96
	South Dorset	96
	Woodspring	96
	Cheltenham	96
	Bridgwater	96
	Torbay	95
	Westbury	95
	Gloucester	95
	Torridge and West Devon	95
	Taunton	95
	Truro and St. Austell	95
	East Devon	95
	St. Ives	95
	Bournemouth East	95
	North Cornwall	94
	Plymouth, Devonport	93
	Falmouth and Camborne	93
	Bristol North West	92
	Salisbury	92
	Weston-Super-Mare	91
	Bristol South	91
	Bournemouth West	88
	Bath	86
	Bristol East	84
	Exeter	81
	Plymouth, Sutton	81
	Bristol West	80
Wales	Islwyn	106
	Cardiff West	104
	Ogmore	104
	Neath	101
	Aberavon	100
	Clwyd West	100
	Preseli Pembrokeshire	100
	Gower	100
	Swansea West	98
	Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	98
	Swansea East	98
	Brecon and Radnorshire	97
	Monmouth	97
	Blaenau Gwent	97
	Torfaen	96
	Meirionnydd Nant Conwy	96
	Alyn and Deeside	96
	Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	96
	Montgomeryshire	96
	Vale of Clwyd	95
	Cynon Valley	95
	Delyn	95
	Rhondda	94
	Bridgend	94
	Cardiff North	94
	Caernarfon	94
	Ynys Mon	93
	Newport East	93
	Clwyd South	93
	Conwy	93
	Newport West	92
	Pontypridd	91
	Wrexham	91
	Vale of Glamorgan	91
	Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	91
	Llanelli	91
	Cardiff South and Penarth	91
	Caerphilly	90
	Cardiff Central	90
	Ceredigion	85

[1] The percentages have been calculated using the mid-2007 population estimates for parliamentary constituencies in England and Wales of those aged 18 and above, and the number of people registered to vote in parliamentary elections on the 1 December 2007.
[2] Percentages exceed 100 per cent. where the registered electorate exceeds the estimated population of an area.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Employment: Lone Parents

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many lone parents were in work in *(a)* 1998 and *(b)* 2005; and how many lone parents were in work on the most recent date for which figures are available. [257315]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many lone parents were in work in (a) 1998 and (b) 2005; and how many lone parents are in work on the most recent date for which figures are available. (257315)

The information requested is given in the table attached. The figures in the table are estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) household datasets available for the three month period ending in June of each year requested.

The LFS is a sample survey covering over 53,000 households in the United Kingdom, in each three month period. As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Working-age[1] lone parents with dependent children[2] in employment

	Level (thousand)
April-June 1998	778
April-June 2005	1,023
April-June 2008	1,040

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[2] Children under 16 and those aged 16-18 who are never-married and in full-time education.
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Employment: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were in employment in the City of York in each of the last 15 years. [257975]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about how many people were in employment in the City of York in each of the last 15 years.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) and following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

The following table shows the number of people, aged 16 and over, resident in the City of York constituency, who were in employment in each of the last 15 years. Estimates are provided for the 12 months ending in February from 1995, the earliest period for which estimates are available, to 2004, from the annual LFS, and for the 12 months ending in March from 2005 to 2008, from the APS. An estimate for July 2007 to June 2008 has also been provided, the most recent twelve months for which data are available.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

People in employment[1] in City of York Constituency

12 months ending	*£000 Employment*
February	
1995	44
1996	51
1997	44
1998	45
1999	48
2000	45
2001	51
2002	51
2003	54
2004	53
March	
2005	55
2006	56
2007	57
2008	58

People in employment[1] in City of York Constituency

12 months ending	*£000 Employment*
June	
2008[2]	**59

[1] Levels of employment are provided for persons aged 16 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007.
[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.
Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV — for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) [%] Statistical robustness
* 0 = CV ≤ 5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 = CV ≤ 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 = CV ≤ 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.
Source:
Annual Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey

Foreign Workers: Wales

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many non-UK nationals were working in Wales in 2008. [258034]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many non-UK nationals were working in Wales in 2008. (258034)

There are an estimated 48 thousand non-UK nationals aged 16 and over in employment in Wales.

The estimate is derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) using the latest data available (October-December 2008). It should be noted that the above estimate excludes people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figure is derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently the estimate is not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, or the migrant workers figures published every quarter, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Freedom of Information

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many freedom of information requests refused in whole or in part by his Department are subject to further review by the Information Commissioner. [253510]

Mr. Watson: Information about cases referred to the Information Commissioner's Office is not a matter for the Cabinet Office.

Government Departments: Computer Software

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the adoption of open source software in Government. [256972]

Mr. Watson: The Government are committed to seek the best value for money in the technology it buys. We announced in 2004 that Open Source solutions should be considered fairly on this basis. Since then, many Government Departments have shown that Open Source can be best for the taxpayer—for our web services, for the NHS and in other vital public services.

However we need to ensure that the potential of open source solutions are fully appreciated among all Government IT Suppliers and among the Government's own IT and procurement professionals. I am publishing today new procurement guidelines and a programme of ten positive actions to ensure that cost-benefit analysis of open source is a regular part of IT procurement. I am placing a full copy of the document in the Libraries of the House.

Job Vacancies

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average number of job vacancies was in *(a)* Darlington constituency, *(b)* County Durham and *(c)* England in each of the last three years. [258256]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average number of vacancies was in (a) Darlington constituency, (b) County Durham and (c) England in each of the last three years. (258256)

The Office for National Statistics estimates the total number of UK vacancies from the Vacancy Survey, but estimates for areas within the UK are not available from this source.

An alternative source of information on job vacancies is the administrative data from Jobcentre Plus. This data only includes job vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and so is inconsistent with the Vacancy Survey, which includes all known vacancies. However, detailed geographical breakdowns of the administrative data are available.

The table attached shows the number of live, unfilled job vacancies held by Jobcentre Plus for the Darlington constituency, for County Durham and for England, in December 2006, 2007 and 2008. Figures from Jobcentre Plus for Great Britain and three month averages for the UK from the Vacancy Survey have also been included, for comparison.

Number of job vacancies[1] in Darlington parliamentary constituency, County Durham, England, Great Britain and UK

	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted	
	Darlington	*County Durham*	*England*	*Great Britain*		*UK*
December 2006	756	2,676	264,618	308,414	October to December 2006	603,000
December 2007	641	3,459	342,840	394,904	October to December 2007	682,000
December 2008	372	1,529	238,385	271,011	October to December 2008	532,000

[1] Job vacancies for Darlington, County Durham, England and Great Britain are live unfilled vacancies from Jobcentre Plus administrative data. These are inconsistent with the UK figures from the ONS Vacancy Survey.

Sources:
Not seasonally adjusted—Jobcentre Plus Administrative Data
Seasonally adjusted—Vacancy Survey, ONS

Lobbying

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will establish a register of lobbyists to record *(a)* representations made by lobbyists, *(b)* salaries of lobbyists, *(c)* each lobbying event involving a Minister and *(d)* the subject of each lobbying event. [254457]

Mr. Watson: The Public Administration Select Committee published its report on lobbying on 5 January 2009. The Government will respond in due course.

Minimum Wage

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* the City of York he estimates are being paid at the level of the national minimum wage. [257973]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people in (a) the UK, (b) Yorkshire and the Humber and (c) the City of York are estimated as being paid at the level of the national minimum wage. (257973)

Estimates for the number of jobs paid at the national minimum wage are not available from the Office for National Statistics. However, estimates for the number of all employee jobs paid below the national wage are available by Government Office Region. This is the lowest geographical breakdown published by ONS.

I attach a table showing the number of jobs earning less than the national minimum wage for UK and the Yorkshire and the Humber region for all employees in 2008.

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837

Number of employee jobs paid below the national minimum wage in the UK and the Yorkshire and the Humber region for 2008

2008	*Number of jobs (Thousand)*
UK	288
Yorkshire and the Humber	29

Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Pay

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average weekly earnings were of *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time (i) employees, (ii) male employees and (iii) female employees in (A) the UK, (B) Yorkshire and the Humber and (C) the City of York in (1) cash and (2) real terms in each year since the City of York unitary council was established. [257976]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average weekly earnings were of (a) full-time and (b) part-time (i) employees, (ii) male employees and (iii) female employees in (A) the UK, (B) Yorkshire and the Humber and (C) City of York in (1) cash and (2) real terms in each year since the City of York unitary council was established. (257976)

City of York unitary council was established in 1996. Since 1997, average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence.

Table 1 attached below shows the median gross weekly earnings for full-time, male full-time, female full-time, part-time, male part-time and female part-time employees for the specified geographies for all years since 1997. In table 2, the figures from table 1 are expressed in 2008 prices by deflating with the Retail Price Index (RPI).

Median weekly pay, Gross, for employee jobs[a]: United Kingdom, Yorkshire and the Humber and York Unitary Authority, 1997 to 2008

Current prices (£)

Description	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004[b]*	*2004[c]*	*2005*	*2006[d]*	*2006[e]*	*2007*	*2008*
UK														
Full time	321	335	346	359	376	391	404	423	419	431	446	444	458	479
Male full time	357	373	384	398	416	430	445	463	460	471	487	484	498	521
Female full time	265	277	289	298	314	331	343	361	357	371	386	383	395	412
Part time	93	97	103	106	110	116	123	131	130	132	137	138	144	147
Male part time	84	86	96	96	99	110	113	120	121	122	128	128	137	137
Female part time	94	99	105	108	112	118	125	133	132	135	140	140	145	150
Yorkshire and the Humber														
Full time	298	314	321	335	346	360	376	393	389	399	412	409	423	441
Male full time	331	346	357	374	381	395	412	433	426	435	450	449	464	485
Female full time	239	251	263	269	285	298	314	334	327	338	353	350	355	371
Part time	89	93	99	103	107	114	120	128	125	130	131	132	141	144
Male part time	*79	*92	*104	*100	*99	*109	*115	*125	*122	121	120	120	*132	*137
Female part time	90	93	99	103	108	114	121	128	126	132	134	134	144	147
York Unitary Authority														
Full time	*297	323	*340	368	372	*400	405	*423	*419	414	453	451	*462	*453
Male full time	*363	*372	*382	*403	*402	448	*446	*472	*460	*454	486	481	*500	*482
Female full time	*235	*250	*267	*286	*303	*306	*335	*342	*342	*356	*395	*391	*393	**392
Part time	**87	*93	*100	*111	**111	*117	*122	*127	*121	*127	*136	*138	*146	**149
Male part time	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Female part time	*89	*95	*101	**117	**116	*125	**124	130	*126	*133	*146	*146	*149	**153

[a] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.
[b] 2004 results excluding supplementary survey for comparison with 2003.
[c] 2004 results including supplementary surveys designed to improve coverage of the survey (for more information see National Statistics website www.statistics.gov.uk).
[d] 2006 results with methodology consistent with 2005.
[e] 2009 results with methodology consistent with 2007.

Guide to quality

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.

Key

CV <= 5%
* CV > 5% and <= 10%
** CV > 10% and <= 20%
X CV > 20%

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Office for National Statistics, 1997 to 2008

Median weekly pay, Gross, for employee jobs[a]: United Kingdom, Yorkshire and the Humber and York Unitary Authority, 1997 to 2008

Constant (2008) prices (£)

Description	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004[b]*	*2004[c]*	*2005*	*2006[d]*	*2006[e]*	*2007*	*2008*
UK														
Full time	439	441	448	452	465	476	477	487	483	482	486	483	477	479

Median weekly pay: Gross, for employee jobs[1]: United Kingdom, Yorkshire and the Humber and York Unitary Authority, 1997 to 2008

Constant (2008) prices (£)

Description	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004[2]	2004[3]	2005	2006[4]	2006[5]	2007	2008
Male full time	489	491	497	500	514	526	525	536	530	526	530	527	519	521
Female full time	363	364	376	375	389	403	405	416	411	415	420	417	411	412
Part time	127	128	134	133	136	142	145	151	150	148	150	150	150	147
Male part time	115	113	124	120	122	134	133	139	139	136	140	139	142	137
Female part time	129	130	135	136	139	145	148	155	152	150	152	152	151	150
Yorkshire and the Humber														
Full time	408	413	416	421	427	439	444	453	449	445	449	445	440	441
Male full time	455	455	463	470	471	481	486	499	491	485	490	489	483	485
Female full time	328	330	341	338	352	363	371	385	377	378	385	381	379	371
Part time	122	122	129	129	132	138	142	148	146	145	145	143	147	144
Male part time	*108	*121	*135	*126	*122	*133	*135	*144	*140	135	131	131	*137	*137
Female part time	123	122	129	130	135	139	143	148	145	148	148	148	150	147
York Unitary Authority														
Full time	*407	425	*440	463	460	*487	470	*488	*483	463	494	491	*481	*453
Male full time	*497	*490	*495	*508	*497	546	*526	*546	*531	*507	529	525	*525	*492
Female full time	*322	*329	*366	*360	*375	*372	*393	*396	*396	*397	*430	*425	*409	**392
Part time	**119	*123	*129	*140	**137	*143	*144	*147	*140	*142	*148	*150	*152	**149
Male part time	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Female part time	*122	*124	*131	**147	**144	*152	**147	150	*145	*149	*150	*150	*153	**153

[1] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.
[2] 2004 results excluding supplementary survey for comparison with 2003.
[3] 2004 results including supplementary surveys designed to improve coverage of the survey (for more information see National Statistics website www.statistics.gov.uk).
[4] 2006 results with methodology consistent with 2005.
[5] 2009 results with methodology consistent with 2007.

Guide to quality

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.

Key

CV <= 5%
* CV > 5% and <= 10%
** CV > 10% and <= 20%
X CV > 20%

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Office for National Statistics, 1997 to 2008 uprated using the RPI.

Public Sector: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were employed in *(a)* the Civil Service, *(b)* central government, *(c)* local government and *(d)* the public sector in each year since 1996-97. [257011]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many people were employed in *(a)* the Civil Service, *(b)* central government, *(c)* local government and *(d)* the public sector in each year since 1996-97. (257011)

The Office for National Statistics collects employment statistics for the public sector, as part of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES).

The requested data are attached at Annex A.

Annex A: public sector employment by sector classification

United Kingdom (thousand): headcount, not seasonally adjusted

	Local Government[1]	Central Government[1]	Public Corporations[1]	Total Public Sector[1]	Of which: Civil Service[1]
1997	2,728	2,107	346	5,182	516
1998	2,710	2,111	360	5,176	505
1999	2,728	2,115	357	5,200	504
2000	2,763	2,154	363	5,281	506

Annex A: public sector employment by sector classification

United Kingdom (thousand): headcount, not seasonally adjusted

	Local Government[1]	Central Government[2]	Public Corporations[3]	Total Public Sector[4]	Of which: Civil Service[5]
2001	2,764	2,252	375	5,371	522
2002	2,782	2,324	373	5,479	538
2003	2,826	2,436	376	5,636	569
2004	2,878	2,506	367	5,751	570
2005	2,915	2,566	370	5,849	570
2006	2,925	2,539	369	5,833	558
2007	2,932	2,491	342	5,765	539
2008	2,913	2,489	365	5,767	527

[1] Local government covers those types of public administration that only cover a locality and are bodies controlled and mainly financed by them. It includes police forces and their civilian staff.

[2] Central government includes all administrative departments of government and other central agencies and non-departmental public bodies. It also includes HM Forces, the National Health Service and education Academies.

[3] Public corporations are companies or quasi-corporations controlled by government.

[4] The public sector comprises central government, local government and public corporations as defined for the UK National Accounts.

[5] Estimates of Civil Service employees count all home Civil Service employees.

Source:
Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey

Pupils: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Information Commissioner was consulted on the provisions of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 (Disclosure of Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2009; and what advice the Commissioner gave in respect of the regulations. [258607]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated February 2009:

I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking whether the Information Commissioner was consulted over the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 (Disclosure of Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2009, and what representations the Commissioner made in respect of the proposals (258607). I am replying on behalf of the National Statistician who is away on business.

As part of the preparation for the laying of the draft Regulations before Parliament, officials from the Office for National Statistics met with staff from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) on 1 August 2008 to discuss their plans. The ICO indicated that it was content for the proposed disclosure of information to proceed given that the information was to be used for statistical purposes only, that it was to be authorised by Parliament and that it was to be transmitted securely.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will publish a copy of her Office's website accessibility plan. [257231]

Tessa Jowell: The Government's official website for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games is part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's (DCMS) website.

DCMS has not produced a separate website accessibility plan. This has been incorporated into the Department's Equality Scheme 2007-10 which is published on the Department's website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/3506.aspx

In addition, DCMS have published an accessibility statement at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/0912.aspx

This specifies the Department's commitment to high standards of website accessibility.

Olympic Games 2012: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent estimate her Office has made of the net financial effect on *(a)* London and *(b)* each London borough of the London 2012 Olympic Games, broken down by borough; and if she will make a statement. [257276]

Tessa Jowell: The financial and economic benefits of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games are already evident. Over 3,300 people are currently working for contractors on the Olympic Park. Over 800 businesses have already won over £3.5 billion of work supplying the Olympic Delivery Authority.

The 2012 games will continue to play an active role in meeting the challenges of the current economic environment by:

- Creating up to 75,000 supply chain opportunities – there will be opportunities for businesses across the country to get involved;
- Creating employment – with up to 11,000 people working on site at the peak and 100,000 contract jobs to stage the games;
- Opening up skills and employment opportunities for most, if not all, sectors, extending well beyond the Olympic Park and London;
- Delivering a total of 350 construction apprenticeships at the Olympic Park site.

In the longer term, London 2012 will deliver economic benefits to East London and bring wider benefits across the UK, including:

- Long-term job creation, with up to 50,000 new permanent jobs created in the Olympic Park and surrounding area after the games;
- Through public and private investment, 10,000 - 12,000 new mixed-tenure homes in the Olympic Park site, 35 per cent. of which will be affordable housing, and over 5,000 new homes in the Olympic Village and Stratford City development.

Creating opportunities for tourism, media, sport and many other sectors, for example, the value of the games to UK tourism is estimated to be £2.1 billion between 2007 and 2017, increasing the potential for inward investment and export, including through the use of local facilities as training camps.

The Mayor of London is responsible for maximising the impact of the 2012 games on London. The London Development Agency (LDA) is commissioning a study to evaluate the impacts, outcomes, benefits and additionality of investment in LDA 2012 games legacy programmes.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date the euro changeover plan of (a) his Department and (b) each of its agencies was last updated; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version of each plan. [258593]

Andy Burnham: The information is as follows:

(a) The Euro changeover plan for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport was last updated in June 2006. A copy of the DCMS changeover plan will be placed in the Library. The Department will however review their plans at a later date.

(b) The Royal Parks Agency (the only agency of DCMS) does not maintain a separate Euro changeover plan. Legislation relating to the Agency is included in the Department's plan.

National Lottery: Sports

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much National Lottery funding has been allocated to sporting projects in Cornwall in the last five years, broken down by lottery distributor. [258508]

Barbara Follett: The Big Lottery Fund, their legacy bodies, Awards for All, and Sport England have advised that the following funding has been allocated to sporting projects in Cornwall in the last five years for which information is available.

£

Financial year	DCMS (and legacy bodies)	Awards For All	Sport England
2003-04	0	7,200	4,409,771
2004-05	3,052,810	10,870	4,121,507
2005-06	680,796	10,022	755,767
2006-07	670,877	25,827	815,000
2007-08	0	91,565	980,006

Olympic Games 2012: Gun Sports

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding has been (a) allocated to and (b) provided to the training of the British Olympic shooting team for the London 2012 Olympics. [256879]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* UK Sport have advised that the British Olympic shooting team and athletes from shooting disciplines on the World Class Pathway have been allocated £1,225,350 for the period 2009-13.

Sport and Arts: South West

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to provide facilities for (a) sporting activity and (b) participation in the arts for young people in the South West. [255409]

Andy Burnham: The majority of Exchequer funding provided in support of these activities is channelled to local authorities via settlements from the Department for Communities and Local Government.

DCMS works with other Departments and our network of sponsored bodies (NDPBs) to set overarching objectives relating to the sectors for which we have policy responsibility in Government. Delivery of these objectives is usually the responsibility of the lead NDPB who take forward delivery of our strategic priorities at a national and local level. As follows are examples of work taken forward in the South West region:

Sporting Activity

Free Swimming

Local authorities across the South West have signed up to the Government's initiative to offer free swimming to both those aged 16 and under and over 60. The local authorities that have opted in to offer the scheme to both age groups have also received a share of a £10 million capital fund to spend on modernising or improving pool provision in time for the start of the two-year scheme in 2009. Those local authorities that will offer free swimming to both age groups also stand to benefit from a further £25 million capital challenge fund in both 2009-10 and 2010-11 to spend on improving pool provision.

5 Hours of Sport

DCMS works with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) to support the delivery of the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP) which will increase the quality and quantity of school and community based sport on offer and give young people more opportunities to be active. It builds on the success of the 2003 PE, School Sport and Club Links Strategy (PESSCL) for five-16 year olds.

The new 5 hour offer will deliver further Government commitments announced by the Prime Minister in 2007 and set out in PSA 22 which promises to 'deliver a successful Olympic games and Paralympic games with a sustainable legacy and get more children and young people taking part in high quality PE and sport'.

The strategy will be delivered through the two key delivery bodies, Sport England—with its focus on sport in the community, and the Youth Sport Trust—with its network of School Sport Partnerships and focus on PE and sport in schools.

Sport England (who fund projects from Exchequer and lottery funding), have identified two projects for which funding has been provided specifically for built facilities for young people in the South West:

£136,500 granted over the last three years to Swim Torquay Limited for extension of facilities which is heavily used for swimming lessons for young people.

Falmouth Youth Club was awarded £300,000 for the Docksteps Centre in 2007 (this was a CIF award).

Young people will also benefit from funding targeted to the wider community.

In addition to built facilities, in the last five years (April 2003-to date) Sport England has invested in 216 projects in the South West. Projects which would benefit young people specifically include:

Sport Unlimited This project is in its second year and it constitutes Sport England's part of the 5 hour sport offer.

The Youth Sport Trust is delivering two hours of sport via PE in schools plus one hour of extra curricular sport.

The Step into Sport programme which amounts to £770,000 focuses on young people aged 14 to 19 started three years ago. It provides opportunities for young people to become involved in sports leadership and volunteering encouraging them to continue this into later life

Cultural Activity

Participation in the Arts

Many cultural initiatives in the South West Region are supported by Arts Council England including DAISI (Drown Arts in Schools Initiative) and The Wren Music Trust.

Find Your Talent

In February 2008 the Government announced the new £25 million Find Your Talent (FYT) pathfinder programme to trial different ways of delivering a five hour cultural offer for children and young people from 0-19.

North Somerset is one of ten Find Your Talent pathfinder areas launched in September 2008. The pathfinders, working in partnership with schools and local and national organisations over three years, will provide opportunities for children and young people to have a range of high quality arts and cultural experiences in and out of school.

Awards For All

"Awards For All" is a Lottery Grants scheme for local communities. Managed by the Big Lottery Fund, in the last five years, 5381 awards in the South West, the majority of these projects will affect young people.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of apprenticeship training providers funded by the Learning and Skills Council were employers in each year since 2001. [254167]

Mr. Simon: *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* The information on the number of employers who are apprenticeship training providers is not available. Table 1 shows the percentage of apprenticeship starts in 2005/06 to 2007/08 at each type of provider.

Many of these organisation types such as 'Organisation In Business In Its Own Right' and 'Other Private Organisation' could be training providers or employers. It is not possible to specifically identify employers without surveying all Learning and Skills Council partnership teams, and this would not provide wholly accurate information.

Table 1: Percentage of apprenticeship starts in an academic year by provider type, 2005/06 to 2007/08

Provider type	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
Chamber of Commerce/ Trade	1.3	1.1	0.7
Charitable	4.8	4.6	7.2
City Technology College	[1]	[1]	[1]
External Institution	0.1	0.2	[1]
General FE College incl. Tertiary	22.1	23.3	21.5
Higher Education Organisation	0.2	0.2	0.2
Independent school or college	[1]	[1]	[1]
Local Authority	0.5	0.4	0.1
Local Education Authority (LEA)	1.4	1.4	1.5
Non-Charitable	[1]	[1]	[1]
Organisation in Business in its own right	62.2	59.5	55.3
Other Local Authority	0.3	0.1	0.3
Other Private Organisation	3.2	5.1	6.0
Other Public Organisation	2.3	2.8	6.0
Other Voluntary Organisation	[1]	[1]	[1]
Sixth form college	0.2	0.2	0.1
Special college - Agriculture and horticulture	1.3	1.1	1.0
Special college - Art, design and performing arts	[1]	[1]	[1]
Unknown	[1]	[1]	[1]
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number of apprenticeship starts	175,000	184,400	224,800

[1] Indicates a figure of 0% when rounded.

Notes

1. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 0.1 per cent.

Source

WBL ILR

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what arrangements there are for co-ordination between the National Apprenticeship Service and the National Employment Service in their programmes of work. [254371]

Mr. Simon: There will be a Service Level Agreement between the National Apprenticeship Service and the National Employer Service. This will outline how apprenticeship provision will be managed by the National Employer Service on behalf of the National Apprenticeship Service working with large national employers who need a one stop shop approach. The National Apprenticeship Service will have its own chief executive who will be required to work closely with the Skills Funding Agency's chief executive to deliver apprenticeships as part of a coherent strategy dealing with a wide range of employers.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of increasing the proportion of the training costs of adult apprentices paid by employers. [254705]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* It is a key principle of Government funding of adult learning that there is a shared responsibility on the part of learners, employers and the Government to contribute towards the costs of learning. The Skills Strategy White Paper 21st Century Skills: Realising our Potential (published in July 2003) set out our intention that employers and learners should contribute towards the cost of their course, in light of the returns they derive from learning. Further Education: Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances (March 2006) confirmed our intention to increase learner and/or employer fee contributions to 50 per cent. by 2010-11 for those not eligible for free provision. Lord Leitch's Review of Skills (December 2006) reaffirmed the importance for a shared responsibility to invest in skills with employers and learners asked to contribute most where they see the greatest private returns. We are therefore increasing private fee contributions for both employers and learners from 42.5 per cent. in 2008-09, to 47.5 per cent. for 2009-10 and 50 per cent. for 2010-11.

Apprenticeship funding rates for adults therefore are lower than rates for young people aged 16-18, with employers expected to contribute to the total cost of an adult apprenticeship framework. Employer contributions may be in cash to the training provider or in kind through supporting the delivery of the training activity.

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage the uptake of part-time apprenticeships. [256833]

Mr. Simon: Apprenticeship frameworks are designed to meet both the skills needs of employers and individuals. Like employment in general there is no presumption that they be full-time or part-time although custom and practice will differ between employers and across sectors. Any employee should be able to apply for an apprenticeship irrespective of whether they work full or part-time and we are making special efforts to break down gender or race stereotypes in apprenticeships. Our aim is to encourage the take-up of apprenticeships. The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007-08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 27 per cent. in 1997. A remarkable achievement.

Apprentices: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what percentage of people taking up apprenticeship schemes in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency in each of the last five years were disabled; [255028]

(2) what percentage of people taking up apprenticeships in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency in each of the last five years were female. [255032]

Mr. Simon: Tables 1-4 show apprenticeship starts by learning difficulty and/or disability and gender, in Cumbria local authority and Copeland constituency. Figures are presented from 2003-04 to 2007-08, the latest year for which fully audited data are available. We are also looking at schemes which will encourage employers to see the potential in recruiting disabled people for apprenticeships.

Table 1—Apprenticeship starts in Cumbria local authority by learning difficulty and/or disability

%

Cumbria local authority	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Learning Difficulty and/or Disability	10	12	8	11	8
No Learning Difficulty and/or Disability	87	88	92	89	91
Not Known	3	—	—	—	1
Total Starts	100	100	100	100	100
Total Starts (Number)	2,600	2,800	2,300	2,700	2,800

Table 2—Apprenticeship starts in Copeland constituency by learning difficulty and/or disability

%

Copeland constituency	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Learning Difficulty and/or Disability	10	13	8	8	9
No Learning Difficulty and/or Disability	88	87	92	92	91
Not Known	1	—	—	—	—
Total Starts	100	100	100	100	100
Total Starts (Number)	410	430	320	420	440

Table 3—Apprenticeship starts in Cumbria local authority by gender

%

Cumbria local authority	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Male	52	57	59	54	59
Female	48	43	41	46	41
Total Starts	100	100	100	100	100
Total Starts (Number)	2,600	2,800	2,300	2,700	2,800

Table 4—Apprenticeship starts in Copeland constituency by gender

%

Copeland constituency	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Male	55	56	55	50	55
Female	48	48	48	48	48

Table 4: Apprenticeship starts in Copeland constituency by gender

Copeland constituency	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total Starts	100	100	100	100	100
Total Starts (Number)	410	430	320	420	440

Notes:
1. Volumes for Cumbria are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Volumes for Copeland constituency are rounded to the nearest ten.
3. Percentages above are based on unrounded figures.
4. — indicates a value of less than <0.5%.
5. These figures include WBL (apprenticeships only).
6. This table uses programme starts as a measure for comparative purposes. Full-year numbers are a count of the number of starts at any point during the year. Learners starting more than one course will appear more than once.
7. Gender and learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is based upon self-declaration by the learner.
8. Local Authority and Constituency are based on home postcode of the learner.

Source:
WBL ILR

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people beginning apprenticeship schemes in each of the last five years in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency had been unemployed for six months or longer. [255034]

Mr. Simon: Information on the long-term employment status of people starting apprenticeships is not available. The following table shows the total number of apprenticeship starts in Cumbria local authority and Copeland constituency for 2003/04 to 2007/08 but it is not possible to break this information down in to what an apprentice was doing prior to starting their training programme.

Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship--up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05. A remarkable achievement.

Apprenticeship starts in Cumbria local authority and Copeland constituency

	Cumbria local authority	*Copeland constituency*
2003/04	2,600	410
2004/05	2,800	430
2005/06	2,300	320
2006/07	2,700	420
2007/08	2,800	440

Notes:
1. Volumes for Cumbria are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Volumes for Copeland constituency are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Percentages above are based on unrounded figures.
4. These figures include WBL (apprenticeships only).
5. This table uses programme starts/completions as a measure for comparative purposes. Full-year numbers are a count of the number of starts/completions at any point during the year. Learners starting/completing more than one course will appear more than once.
6. Local authority and constituency are based on home postcode of the learner.

Source:
WBL ILR

Apprentices: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of apprenticeships taken up in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each month since January 2006, broken down by apprenticeship type. [242677]

Mr. Simon: Table 1 shows the total number of apprenticeship starts in Hertfordshire local authority from January 2006 to July 2007, by the month in which the apprenticeship was started. Figures are presented up to the end of the 2006/07 academic year, the latest year for which fully audited data is available. Information by apprenticeship type/level is too small to split by month in which the course has started.

Numbers for Hemel Hempstead constituency are too small to split by the month in which the course has started.

Table 2 shows the total number of apprenticeship starts in Hemel Hempstead constituency, Hertfordshire local authority and a total for all regions for the 2005/06 and 2006/07 academic years.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts in Hertfordshire local authority by month of start for January 2006 to July 2007.

Month apprenticeship started	*Total*
2006	
January	230
February	180
March	150
April	130
May	140
June	90
July	150
August	270
September	540
October	240
November	190
December	160
2007	
January	240
February	50
March	150
April	100
May	100
June	110
July	140

Note:
Local authority is based on learner's home postcode.

Source:
WBL ILR 2005/06 and 2006/07

Table 2: Apprenticeship starts in Hemel Hempstead constituency, Hertfordshire local authority and all regions

	2005/06			2006/07		
	Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3)	*Apprenticeship (Level 2)*	*Total*	*Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3)*	*Apprenticeship (Level 2)*	*Total*
Hemel Hempstead	70	220	280	70	200	260
Hertfordshire	650	1,780	2,440	650	1,670	2,320
All regions	52,130	122,650	174,980	57,020	127,410	184,430

Notes:
1. Figures for advanced apprenticeships include a small number of higher level apprenticeships.
2. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
3. Constituency and local authority is based on learner's home postcode.

Source:
WBL ILR 2005/06 and 2006/07

Higher Education: Apprentices

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to improve the collection of data on the progression of apprentices into higher education. [249272]

Mr. Simon: In order to improve the identification of those learners who progress from an apprenticeship into higher education we are exploring the possibility of linking administrative datasets. The early work looks promising and the Higher Education Funding Council for England is currently testing the methodology to ensure it is robust. The findings are expected to be published in 2009.

In World Class Apprenticeships we set out the Government's intention that every apprenticeship framework has a clear pathway to higher education and this will be a requirement of our revised Apprenticeships Blueprint when it is published in 2009. This will ensure every apprentice knows there is a clear pathway to higher education if they want it.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when the commissioned reports from users of higher education were placed on his Department's website; and how these reports were publicised. [258461]

Mr. Lammy: The commissioned reports were placed on the Department's website on 16 February. A letter was sent to all of DIUS's major higher education stakeholders from the Director General for higher education to inform them of the publication, and the sector press were informed. A feature on the reports was included in Times Higher Education on 19 February.

The reports are part of the wider debate on the future of higher education that DIUS is currently conducting. This will lead to the publication of a Framework for the development of Higher Education during 2009.

Higher Education: Women

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of women and children who do not have a first degree. [257612]

Mr. Simon: In Quarter 4[1] 2008 an estimated 338,000 adult[2] women in England had a child but did not hold a first degree. This estimate is taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

[1] *Quarter 4 covers the period 1 October to 31 December.*

[2] *Women aged 19 to 59.*

Skilled Workers: Sustainable Development

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the future skills needs of low carbon, resource-efficient industrial sectors. [255959]

Mr. Simon: The Department has not commissioned any specific research on skills for a low carbon resource efficient economy (LCREE), although we have consulted widely on this issue in other ways. In response to the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change, for example, we jointly sponsored the Commission on Environmental Markets and Economic Performance with BERR and Defra. Further consultations are planned with lead employers in the next few months with a view to drawing cutting edge LCREE expertise into the skills system.

The Department has reviewed a range of research reports on LCREE skills including:

Skills for a Low Carbon Resource Efficient Economy—Review of Evidence: Defra 2008

Energy Skills—Meeting the Challenge: a report for BERR by the Sector Skills network: 2008

Employment Opportunities and Challenges in the context of rapid industry growth: British Wind Energy Association October 2008

Today's Investment—Tomorrow's Asset: skills and employment in the Wind, Wave and Tidal Sector: British Wind Energy Association October 2008.

These reports have been instrumental in helping the Department set out a strategic LCREE-skills solution in the proposed low carbon industrial strategy.

Students: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of people in each ward in each of the principal seaside towns of England were participating in *(a)* higher and *(b)* further education in each of the last three years. [257333]

Mr. Simon: Information on participation in further or higher education is not available at ward level.

Table 1 shows enrolments in Higher Education for each local authority, for 2005/06 to 2007/08. Table 2 shows FE and Skills participation for each local authority, for 2005/06 to 2007/08, the latest year for which we have fully audited information. Information on FE and Skills participation is also available on the Data Service website, and was released alongside the post-16 education statistical first release, which was published on 18 December 2008:

www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics

A copy of these tables has been provided and the relevant data will be placed in the Library.

Information is not available on the proportion of people in each local authority in further or higher education.

Table 1: Enrolments[1] by LA in England, UK Higher Education Institutions, academic years 2005/06 to 2007/08

Local authority	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
City of London	430	465	520
Camden	9,260	9,320	9,365
Greenwich	8,710	8,720	8,770
Hackney	9,945	10,065	10,220
Hammersmith and Fulham	6,300	6,355	6,480
Islington	8,430	8,475	8,685
Kensington and Chelsea	5,565	5,480	5,600
Lambeth	12,330	12,415	12,730
Lewisham	11,255	11,390	11,620
Southwark	12,370	12,295	12,525
Tower Hamlets	8,010	8,275	8,615
Wandsworth	10,945	10,955	11,185
Westminster	8,090	8,005	8,140
Barking and Dagenham	4,510	4,735	4,910
Barnet	15,390	15,490	15,685
Bexley	6,420	6,500	6,710
Brent	12,430	12,305	12,455
Bromley	10,115	10,270	10,280
Croydon	12,040	12,365	12,800
Ealing	13,430	13,565	13,935
Enfield	11,575	11,610	11,535
Haringey	10,845	10,895	11,090
Harrow	10,485	10,425	10,620
Havering	5,620	5,480	5,630
Hillingdon	8,230	8,330	8,400
Hounslow	8,040	8,170	8,285
Kingston upon Thames	6,430	6,480	6,465
Merton	7,185	7,130	7,350
Newham	11,335	11,565	11,710
Redbridge	10,830	10,900	11,025
Richmond upon Thames	7,375	7,530	7,560
Sutton	5,740	5,835	6,020
Waltham Forest	9,540	9,475	9,500
Birmingham	32,540	32,575	32,415
Coventry	9,960	9,560	10,775
Dudley	7,215	7,275	7,300
Sandwell	6,510	6,515	6,605
Solihull	6,385	6,500	6,975
Walsall	6,160	6,170	6,225
Wolverhampton	7,410	7,435	7,350
Knowsley	3,850	3,980	3,885
Liverpool	14,850	15,360	14,670
St. Helens	4,880	4,875	4,520
Sefton	9,755	10,150	9,285
Wirral	11,275	11,565	11,190
Bolton	8,545	8,515	7,850
Bury	6,330	6,240	6,065
Manchester	14,420	14,440	14,140
Oldham	5,945	5,935	5,835
Rochdale	5,925	5,850	5,690
Salford	5,360	5,280	5,090
Stockport	9,250	9,105	8,725
Tameside	5,055	5,115	5,060
Trafford	8,385	8,240	8,025
Wigan	7,810	7,890	7,195
Barnsley	4,275	4,460	4,505
Doncaster	5,610	5,705	5,640
Rotherham	5,390	5,455	5,410
Sheffield	15,150	15,565	15,750
Bradford	12,805	12,580	12,465
Calderdale	5,495	5,495	5,455
Kirklees	11,440	11,390	11,330
Leeds	21,815	22,080	21,495
Wakefield	6,930	6,945	6,745
Gateshead	4,895	5,150	5,195
Newcastle upon Tyne	8,965	9,215	8,955
North Tyneside	5,905	6,065	6,145
South Tyneside	3,920	3,945	3,870
Sunderland	7,530	7,685	7,415
Isles Of Scilly	65	50	45
Bath and North East Somerset	6,625	6,090	6,090
Bristol, City of	14,470	14,205	13,135
North Somerset	5,895	5,685	5,675
South Gloucestershire	7,380	7,325	7,445
Hartlepool	2,730	2,815	2,665
Middlesbrough	5,260	5,600	5,475
Redcar and Cleveland	5,055	5,165	4,895
Stockton-on-Tees	6,940	7,030	6,950
Kingston upon Hull, City of	5,985	6,260	6,025
East Riding of Yorkshire	10,830	10,800	10,220
North East Lincolnshire	3,180	3,255	3,105
North Lincolnshire	3,630	3,760	3,635
North Yorkshire	20,540	19,900	19,605
York	6,660	6,625	6,325
Bedfordshire	12,000	12,195	12,160
Luton	5,890	5,790	5,840
Buckinghamshire	18,070	18,000	17,965
Milton Keynes	7,810	7,470	7,570
Derbyshire	19,530	19,535	19,540
Derby	7,470	7,315	7,200
Dorset	11,300	11,175	11,075
Poole	3,900	3,890	3,845
Bournemouth	4,520	4,775	4,675
Durham	13,125	13,575	13,305
Darlington	3,240	3,345	3,260
East Sussex	14,515	14,510	14,555
Brighton and Hove	9,800	9,955	9,940
Hampshire	36,900	36,865	36,160
Portsmouth	5,065	5,225	5,005
Southampton	6,330	6,310	5,885
Leicestershire	18,370	18,415	18,730
Leicester	10,270	10,410	10,590
Rutland	1,245	1,255	1,335
Staffordshire	24,400	24,290	24,230
Stoke-on-Trent	5,490	5,575	5,620
Wiltshire	13,135	13,160	13,175
Swindon	4,165	4,155	4,115
Bracknell Forest	2,975	2,965	2,990
Windsor and Maidenhead	4,770	4,810	4,790
West Berkshire	4,570	4,650	4,645
Reading	5,120	5,080	4,990
Slough	4,070	4,090	4,220
Wokingham	6,470	6,475	6,360

Table 1: Enrolments[1] by LA in England, UK Higher Education Institutions, academic years 2005/06 to 2007/08

Local authority	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Cambridgeshire	19,360	19,480	17,240
Peterborough	4,030	3,945	4,080
Cheshire	23,985	23,760	22,505
Halton	3,080	3,275	3,030
Warrington	5,795	5,940	5,845
Devon	21,885	22,105	21,345
Plymouth	7,765	7,615	7,720
Torbay	3,280	3,255	3,095
Essex	35,190	34,805	34,910
Southend-on-Sea	4,360	4,320	4,290
Thurrock	2,880	2,900	2,990
Herefordshire	5,175	5,215	5,025
Worcestershire	16,630	16,605	16,195
Kent	40,505	41,070	40,995
Medway	6,770	6,940	7,030
Lancashire	40,175	40,855	33,950
Blackburn and Darwen	4,265	4,280	3,660
Blackpool	3,045	3,055	2,515
Nottinghamshire	20,745	20,395	20,225
Nottingham	7,355	7,195	7,005
Shropshire	8,790	9,185	8,790
Telford and Wrekin	4,225	4,190	4,165
Cornwall	15,265	15,540	15,390
Cumbria	16,075	15,860	13,820
Gloucestershire	17,075	16,690	16,690
Hertfordshire	34,740	34,760	34,920
Isle of Wight	3,445	3,380	3,210
Lincolnshire	17,950	18,340	18,140
Norfolk	20,135	21,490	20,180
Northamptonshire	17,885	18,035	18,610
Northumberland	9,590	9,805	9,530
Oxfordshire	22,975	23,435	23,190
Somerset	14,045	13,930	13,885
Suffolk	15,585	16,285	18,570
Surrey	35,060	35,140	34,990
Warwickshire	15,795	15,550	17,125
West Sussex	20,370	20,325	20,195
Total England	1,572,185	1,580,155	1,561,800

[1] Covers enrolments to all levels of study and of all domiciles.

Notes:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.
Local Authority is based on the home postcode of the learner.
Learners with missing/invalid postcodes and learners with a postcode outside of England are not included in these figures.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Table 2: FE and Skills Participation by local authority, 2005/06 to 2007/08

Region	Local authority	LA code	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
North East	Darlington	841	9,800	8,700	8,800
	Durham	840	55,600	50,500	50,300
	Gateshead	390	22,300	17,800	18,000
	Hartlepool	805	11,700	9,200	9,100
	Middlesbrough	806	19,100	15,800	15,000
	Newcastle Upon Tyne	391	32,100	24,600	23,600
	North Tyneside	392	22,700	18,600	18,100
	Northumberland	929	33,900	28,100	27,900
	Redcar and Cleveland	807	18,400	16,800	16,900
	South Tyneside	393	20,300	19,800	18,200
	Stockton-On-Tees	808	24,400	19,400	19,500
	Sunderland	394	31,000	26,200	26,400
	Total		301,300	255,600	251,700
North West	Blackburn with Darwen	889	18,300	13,600	13,500
	Blackpool	890	14,200	12,800	13,300
	Bolton	350	24,200	22,000	23,000
	Bury	351	17,600	14,700	14,800
	Cheshire	875	76,100	61,400	55,800
	Cumbria	909	39,700	43,300	40,600
	Halton	876	12,400	9,100	9,300
	Knowsley	340	16,500	14,300	14,100
	Lancashire	888	127,900	109,400	106,500
	Liverpool	341	51,500	47,800	45,000
	Manchester	352	53,000	42,200	44,400
	Oldham	353	23,500	20,000	21,800
	Rochdale	354	21,400	18,000	17,900
	Salford	355	20,400	17,500	19,200
	Sefton	343	28,100	22,800	21,000
	St Helens	342	16,300	12,700	14,300
	Stockport	356	26,300	21,300	18,900
	Tameside	357	19,500	16,600	18,300
	Trafford	358	18,500	15,400	15,200
	Warrington	877	17,600	15,600	13,100
	Wigan	359	27,200	24,700	26,800
	Wirral	344	26,100	22,000	24,400
	Total		696,400	597,300	590,500
Yorkshire and The Humber	Barnsley	370	25,500	19,800	21,700
	Bradford	380	47,600	41,200	38,800
	Calderdale	381	18,900	15,700	15,600
	Doncaster	371	31,100	26,100	28,000
	East Riding of Yorkshire	811	39,000	33,200	30,700
	Kingston upon Hull	810	32,300	27,100	28,300
	Kirklees	382	37,700	32,900	33,700
	Leeds	383	65,400	56,700	54,900
	North East Lincolnshire	812	19,700	17,100	16,900
	North Lincolnshire	813	17,400	15,900	15,300
	North Yorkshire	815	58,600	49,400	50,400
	Rotherham	372	22,900	20,100	19,900
	Sheffield	373	52,600	43,600	43,000
	Wakefield	384	31,600	27,000	27,300
	York	816	15,500	10,200	10,900
	Total		515,800	436,100	435,500
East Midlands	Derby	831	29,300	21,200	21,100
	Derbyshire	830	85,000	62,700	61,100
	Leicester	856	40,200	34,400	33,900
	Leicestershire	855	50,300	46,900	45,300
	Lincolnshire	925	55,600	44,000	48,100
	Northamptonshire	928	55,200	49,800	49,200
	Nottingham	892	32,200	28,300	26,800

Table 2: FE and Skills Participation by local authority, 2005/06 to 2007/08

Region	Local authority	LA code	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
	Nottinghamshire	891	76,100	60,700	59,000
	Rutland	857	2,700	3,700	3,800
	Total		434,600	351,600	348,400
West Midlands	Birmingham	330	125,100	104,200	99,500
	Coventry	331	35,200	29,000	29,000
	Dudley	332	39,200	30,700	28,700
	Herefordshire	884	15,000	12,800	13,000
	Sandwell	333	35,600	27,700	27,300
	Shropshire	893	30,400	25,700	25,900
	Solihull	334	18,800	15,600	15,000
	Staffordshire	860	72,200	71,600	68,100
	Stoke-On-Trent	861	28,100	24,600	25,900
	Telford and Wrekin	894	15,700	14,500	14,700
	Walsall	335	26,300	22,100	22,300
	Warwickshire	937	46,600	37,900	37,100
	Wolverhampton	336	29,100	25,200	24,600
	Worcestershire	885	50,200	43,300	42,400
	Total		567,300	484,700	473,500
East of England	Bedfordshire	820	36,500	31,800	30,600
	Cambridgeshire	873	51,900	45,600	44,500
	Essex	881	102,700	91,600	89,600
	Hertfordshire	919	69,300	58,400	59,700
	Luton	821	23,200	19,700	20,200
	Norfolk	926	62,700	62,800	66,700
	Peterborough	874	16,200	15,300	15,500
	Southend on Sea	882	14,200	13,100	13,200
	Suffolk	935	56,200	44,500	47,900
	Thurrock	883	10,900	10,100	10,500
	Total		443,600	392,800	398,400
Inner London	Camden	202	18,500	16,000	15,200
	City Of London	201	700	600	600
	Hackney	204	24,300	22,200	21,700
	Hammersmith and Fulham	205	15,600	13,600	12,200
	Haringey	309	25,600	22,600	21,700
	Islington	206	18,000	19,600	17,000
	Kensington and Chelsea	207	11,400	9,400	9,100
	Lambeth	208	32,100	31,700	29,500
	Lewisham	209	25,000	22,400	22,000
	Newham	316	33,800	30,800	31,400
	Southwark	210	25,900	23,000	23,600
	Tower Hamlets	211	21,800	20,000	19,100
	Wandsworth	212	24,500	22,700	22,100
	Westminster	213	17,300	14,300	14,000
	Total		294,500	268,800	259,200
Outer London	Barking and Dagenham	301	15,800	14,100	14,900
	Barnet	302	28,900	26,400	23,600

Table 2: FE and Skills Participation by local authority, 2005/06 to 2007/08

Region	Local authority	LA code	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
	Bexley	303	16,800	15,900	16,400
	Brent	304	28,200	24,600	25,500
	Bromley	305	24,300	21,100	20,400
	Croydon	306	31,600	29,400	24,200
	Ealing	307	25,500	21,900	20,900
	Enfield	308	23,100	20,200	21,300
	Greenwich	203	18,900	18,200	18,100
	Harrow	310	18,500	16,700	17,300
	Havering	311	20,700	18,400	16,800
	Hillingdon	312	16,800	15,300	15,900
	Hounslow	313	19,700	19,000	18,600
	Kingston Upon Thames	314	11,300	10,400	9,900
	Merton	315	14,100	14,000	15,400
	Redbridge	317	20,500	18,300	18,000
	Richmond Upon Thames	318	15,100	14,900	13,400
	Sutton	319	16,400	15,000	14,100
	Waltham Forest	320	26,900	24,800	24,900
	Total		393,300	359,300	349,800
Inner and Outer London	Total		687,800	628,100	609,000
South East	Bracknell Forest	867	9,100	8,500	8,500
	Brighton and Hove	846	24,200	18,600	19,200
	Buckinghamshire	825	35,300	31,500	29,600
	East Sussex	845	42,600	35,300	33,400
	Hampshire	850	118,100	98,500	101,600
	Isle Of Wight	921	10,600	10,600	10,300
	Kent	886	103,900	87,100	84,100
	Medway	887	18,700	17,200	18,600
	Milton Keynes	826	20,300	19,300	18,000
	Oxfordshire	931	41,700	33,300	35,100
	Portsmouth	851	19,400	16,900	17,500
	Reading	870	12,700	10,400	9,800
	Slough	871	11,200	10,200	8,400
	Southampton	852	20,400	18,400	18,600
	Surrey	936	57,400	63,200	59,400
	West Berkshire	869	11,800	8,900	8,700
	West Sussex	938	66,900	59,000	56,900
	Windsor and Maidenhead	868	9,800	8,300	7,800
	Wokingham	872	14,400	13,000	12,500
	Total		648,400	568,100	550,000
South West	Bath and North East Somerset	800	11,900	10,000	10,400
	Bournemouth	837	16,000	13,500	13,700
	Bristol	801	41,300	33,300	32,000
	Cornwall (Includes Isles of Scilly)	908	70,000	55,300	53,200
	Devon	878	62,400	57,300	55,300
	Dorset	835	33,600	28,800	28,800

Table 2: FE and Skills Participation by local authority, 2005/06 to 2007/08

Region	Local authority	LA code	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
	Gloucestershire	916	49,500	41,100	41,100
	North Somerset	802	19,600	15,900	14,300
	Plymouth	879	27,600	21,100	21,600
	Poole	836	12,400	9,100	8,900
	Somerset	933	55,500	48,800	46,600
	South Gloucestershire	803	19,500	15,900	16,400
	Swindon	866	16,600	18,600	18,500
	Torbay	880	11,600	10,300	10,600
	Wiltshire	865	35,900	33,500	34,100
	Total		483,400	412,500	405,300
England	Total		4,778,600	4,126,800	4,070,300
Other			101,900	81,200	77,600
Grand total			4,880,400	4,208,000	4,147,900

Notes:
1. Volumes are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. These figures include FE, University for Industry, WBL (including apprenticeships, Entry to Employment), Train to Gain and Adult Safeguarded Learning.
3. Final 2007/08 data will be published in March 2009.
4. This table uses learner volumes as a measure for comparative purposes. Full-year numbers are a count of the number of learners that participated at any point during the year.
5. Learners that are included in different data collections e.g. a learner undertaking an apprenticeship and a Train to Gain qualification, will be counted twice in this table.
6. Local authority is based on the home postcode of the learner, for learners participating in England.

Students: Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what financial support his Department offers to part-time students with children. [257618]

Mr. Lammy: This Government were the first to introduce statutory support for part-time undergraduate students in 2000. In 2004/05 we introduced a package comprising two non-repayable, income assessed grants; a grant towards fee costs and a course grant to pay towards study costs such as travel and books. In 2006/07 we created the most generous package so far for part-time students in England, increasing the maximum fee grant by 27 per cent. and raising the income threshold for receiving support by more than the rate of inflation.

In the current academic year the maximum course grant is £255 and the maximum fee grant is £1,180. Single students with an annual household income of below £16,090 may be eligible for full fee and course grants; those with incomes up to £26,825 may be eligible for partial grants. These income thresholds are increased by £2,000 if the student has one dependent child, by £1,000 for each subsequent dependent child and by a further £2,000 if the student lives with a partner. Additional discretionary support, via the Access to Learning Fund, administered by the higher education institutions, may also be available to help part-time undergraduates with their fees, child care and other costs.

Vocational Training: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people took a Skills for Life qualification in Leeds West constituency in each year since 2005. [255472]

Mr. Simon: Table 1 shows Skills for Life participation figures in Leeds West for the academic years 2005-06 to 2007-08.

Skills for Life Participation in Leeds West constituency

	Number
2005-06	1,760
2006-07	2,860
2007-08	2,990

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The table includes learners participating on target-bearing and non-target-bearing Skills for Life qualifications.

Source:
Individual Learner Records for: FE, WBL, ASL and Ufi

Young People: Unemployed

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people aged 16 to 24 years were not in education, employment or training in each local education authority area in each year from 1997 to 2002. [247135]

Mr. Simon: The following table shows estimates of the numbers and percentage of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) for local education authorities (LEAs) in England for 2000 to 2002.

Information is only available on young people who are NEET by local education authority for 2000 onwards. These estimates are from the Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey (ALALFS), which began in March 1999. Similar information for local areas is not available prior to this date. Although the ALALFS was conducted in 1999, due to the different way in which information was collected, estimates of NEETs are not comparable with later years and so are not provided.

[1] Age used is the respondent's academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.

Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) by LEA (ages 16-24)

	Number			Percentage		
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
England	686,000	704,000	730,000	13	14	14
Barking and Dagenham	5,000	5,000	6,000	23	21	25
Barnet	5,000	3,000	4,000	10	9	13
Barnsley	5,000	5,000	6,000	26	21	25
Bath and North East Somerset	1,000	2,000	1,000	8	7	6
Bedfordshire	4,000	4,000	4,000	13	12	8
Bexley	2,000	3,000	3,000	12	13	11
Birmingham	23,000	25,000	22,000	20	22	17
Blackburn with Darwen	4,000	4,000	3,000	20	20	19
Blackpool	3,000	3,000	2,000	22	16	15
Bolton	6,000	4,000	4,000	19	12	13
Bournemouth	1,000	2,000	2,000	7	9	9
Bracknell Forest	1,000	2,000	1,000	9	14	9

Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) by LEA (ages 16-24)

	Number			Percentage		
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
Bradford	10,000	13,000	13,000	19	23	21
Brent	7,000	5,000	4,000	19	11	10
Brighton and Hove	3,000	3,000	4,000	10	9	11
Bristol	5,000	4,000	5,000	11	8	12
Bromley	4,000	3,000	3,000	13	13	13
Buckinghamshire	2,000	4,000	6,000	4	8	11
Bury	3,000	3,000	4,000	16	15	18
Calderdale	4,000	3,000	3,000	19	18	15
Cambridgeshire	6,000	8,000	5,000	11	14	10
Camden	3,000	3,000	4,000	12	15	13
Cheshire	9,000	10,000	6,000	15	15	9
Cornwall	6,000	6,000	5,000	13	13	13
Coventry	5,000	4,000	6,000	16	10	15
Croydon	5,000	5,000	5,000	15	14	13
Cumbria	4,000	6,000	6,000	10	12	14
Darlington	2,000	2,000	2,000	20	16	17
Derby	4,000	4,000	5,000	13	15	18
Derbyshire	9,000	11,000	11,000	13	15	16
Devon	8,000	6,000	7,000	15	12	13
Doncaster	8,000	6,000	8,000	23	19	25
Dorset	3,000	4,000	3,000	9	11	8
Dudley	4,000	7,000	4,000	12	18	11
Durham	10,000	8,000	9,000	20	17	19
Ealing	7,000	5,000	4,000	19	15	9
East Riding of Yorkshire	3,000	3,000	3,000	11	11	12
East Sussex	5,000	4,000	5,000	11	10	12
Enfield	2,000	3,000	6,000	5	11	22
Essex	11,000	13,000	23,000	9	11	19
Gateshead	4,000	3,000	4,000	18	16	18
Gloucestershire	2,000	6,000	7,000	5	10	12
Greenwich	4,000	4,000	4,000	17	15	19
Hackney	4,000	8,000	3,000	18	29	12
Halton	2,000	4,000	3,000	18	27	21
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,000	2,000	2,000	10	10	11
Hampshire	10,000	9,000	10,000	10	8	10
Haringey	6,000	6,000	5,000	25	19	21
Harrow	2,000	2,000	1,000	9	9	3
Hartlepool	2,000	3,000	3,000	23	26	23
Havering	1,000	3,000	3,000	7	12	10
Herefordshire	2,000	1,000	2,000	10	8	15
Hertfordshire	9,000	9,000	8,000	9	9	9
Hillingdon	4,000	3,000	3,000	18	11	10
Hounslow	2,000	3,000	3,000	8	10	12
Isle of Wight	2,000	2,000	3,000	18	17	17
Islington	4,000	5,000	4,000	17	20	18
Kensington and Chelsea	1,000	2,000	2,000	8	13	9
Kent	13,000	17,000	18,000	11	14	13
Kingston upon Hull	6,000	8,000	6,000	18	23	16
Kingston upon Thames	1,000	1,000	2,000	5	7	9
Kirklees	8,000	7,000	8,000	17	15	19
Knowsley	3,000	4,000	4,000	17	25	22
Lambeth	3,000	3,000	5,000	8	8	16
Lancashire	14,000	14,000	13,000	13	13	12
Leeds	6,000	9,000	7,000	7	10	8
Leicester	6,000	5,000	7,000	14	13	16
Leicestershire	4,000	5,000	5,000	7	8	8
Lewisham	4,000	5,000	5,000	13	16	16
Lincolnshire	8,000	7,000	9,000	13	12	14

Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) by LEA (ages 16-24)

	Number			Percentage		
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
Liverpool	11,000	9,000	12,000	19	17	20
Luton	5,000	4,000	5,000	21	14	17
Manchester	8,000	11,000	11,000	13	17	20
Medway	3,000	4,000	4,000	10	14	14
Merton	3,000	1,000	2,000	13	7	13
Middlesbrough	5,000	3,000	4,000	25	21	22
Milton Keynes	3,000	2,000	3,000	12	8	11
Newcastle upon Tyne	5,000	5,000	6,000	15	16	14
Newham	9,000	9,000	9,000	24	22	23
Norfolk	8,000	9,000	9,000	11	13	12
North East Lincolnshire	4,000	4,000	4,000	18	21	22
North Lincolnshire	3,000	2,000	3,000	18	15	16
North Somerset	1,000	2,000	2,000	4	10	11
North Tyneside	4,000	5,000	3,000	19	22	14
North Yorkshire	4,000	4,000	5,000	11	8	11
Northamptonshire	9,000	7,000	6,000	15	11	12
Northumberland	3,000	5,000	5,000	12	17	19
Nottingham	7,000	6,000	6,000	19	16	13
Nottinghamshire	10,000	10,000	10,000	13	14	13
Oldham	5,000	5,000	5,000	24	21	22
Oxfordshire	6,000	6,000	5,000	8	10	8
Peterborough	3,000	3,000	4,000	16	16	18
Plymouth	3,000	5,000	5,000	10	19	15
Poole	2,000	2,000	2,000	13	12	14
Portsmouth	3,000	3,000	3,000	10	10	11
Reading	2,000	3,000	3,000	9	13	12
Redbridge	3,000	5,000	4,000	11	18	16
Redcar and Cleveland	3,000	4,000	3,000	22	25	22
Richmond upon Thames	1,000	1,000	1,000	7	10	7
Rochdale	5,000	4,000	5,000	22	18	21
Rotherham	3,000	5,000	5,000	12	18	16
Rutland	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Salford	4,000	7,000	5,000	16	22	18
Sandwell	7,000	5,000	6,000	22	17	20
Sefton	4,000	4,000	5,000	17	14	16
Sheffield	8,000	8,000	10,000	14	14	15
Shropshire	4,000	3,000	2,000	15	11	9
Slough	2,000	3,000	2,000	10	12	14
Solihull	2,000	3,000	2,000	11	11	7
Somerset	5,000	3,000	5,000	11	6	11
South Gloucestershire	2,000	1,000	2,000	8	6	7
South Tyneside	4,000	4,000	4,000	23	20	20
Southampton	4,000	3,000	5,000	11	9	12
Southend on Sea	3,000	3,000	2,000	18	19	15
Southwark	5,000	5,000	5,000	18	19	18
St Helens	4,000	2,000	2,000	20	12	12
Staffordshire	8,000	6,000	9,000	11	8	11
Stockport	2,000	2,000	2,000	8	10	7
Stockton-on-Tees	3,000	2,000	4,000	18	13	22
Stoke-on-Trent	5,000	5,000	5,000	18	15	19
Suffolk	6,000	10,000	7,000	10	16	11
Sunderland	8,000	7,000	4,000	24	21	12
Surrey	6,000	9,000	7,000	6	9	8
Sutton	2,000	2,000	1,000	16	8	7
Swindon	3,000	2,000	1,000	15	9	7
Tameside	3,000	3,000	3,000	13	14	13
Telford and Wrekin	3,000	2,000	3,000	16	14	13
Thurrock	2,000	2,000	2,000	12	12	12

Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) by LEA (ages 16-24)

	Number			Percentage		
	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
Torbay	2,000	2,000	2,000	18	17	13
Tower Hamlets	8,000	9,000	10,000	21	22	25
Trafford	3,000	3,000	3,000	12	11	13
Wakefield	7,000	5,000	5,000	21	15	14
Walsall	4,000	5,000	5,000	13	17	18
Waltham Forest	4,000	5,000	6,000	12	18	21
Wandsworth	2,000	4,000	5,000	7	13	16
Warrington	3,000	3,000	3,000	16	17	16
Warwickshire	7,000	5,000	7,000	14	11	16
West Berkshire	1,000	1,000	1,000	9	7	7
West Sussex	5,000	4,000	7,000	8	6	10
Westminster	3,000	4,000	3,000	12	13	14
Wigan	6,000	6,000	5,000	18	18	15
Wiltshire	5,000	2,000	3,000	13	4	7
Windsor and Maidenhead	2,000	1,000	2,000	13	11	13
Wirral	6,000	4,000	5,000	21	13	16
Wokingham	2,000	2,000	1,000	9	11	7
Wolverhampton	6,000	6,000	6,000	19	20	18
Worcestershire	5,000	4,000	5,000	12	10	9
York	2,000	2,000	2,000	8	9	7

[1] Figures have been suppressed where the sample size is too small.

Source:
Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Day Care

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent research his Department has undertaken into the average hourly costs of childcare in *(a)* London and *(b)* the UK for different age groups of children. [257317]

Kitty Ussher: The Department for Work and Pensions regularly collects information on the hourly child care costs, by region and age of child, through two surveys: the Families and Children Study and the Family Resources Survey.

The Families and Children Study is a longitudinal survey of about 7,000 families with dependent children in Great Britain. The Family Resources Survey collects information on the incomes and circumstances of private households in the United Kingdom.

Research is also conducted by the Department for Children, Schools and Families to assess the hourly costs of childcare, by region and age of child, in England. The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey is a repeated cross sectional survey of childcare and early years providers. The Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents is a repeated cross sectional survey of approximately 7,200 parents.

Children: Maintenance

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many orders for the confiscation of *(a)* driving licences and *(b)* travel documents were made by the Child Support Agency in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; [255878]

(2) how many applications the Child Support Agency made to the courts for the confiscation of *(a)* driving licences and *(b)* travel documents in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; [255879]

(3) how many applications from the Child Support Agency for the confiscation of *(a)* a driving licence and *(b)* travel documents were refused by the courts in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; [255880]

(4) how many served orders for the confiscation of *(a)* a driving licence and *(b)* travel documents resulted in the full payment of child support arrears in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [255881]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many orders for the confiscation of (a) driving licences and (b) travel documents were made by the Child Support Agency in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [255878] and

How many applications the Child Support Agency made to the courts for the confiscation of (a) driving licences and (b) travel documents in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [255879] and

How many applications from the Child Support Agency for the confiscation of (a) a driving licence and (b) travel documents were refused by the courts in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [255880] and

How many served orders for the confiscation of (a) a driving licence and (b) travel documents resulted in the full payment of child support arrears in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [255881]

The entire system of child maintenance, including the Child Support Agency, is, as of 1 November 2008, the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

Information on the number of enforcement actions undertaken by the Agency is published in table 21 of the Quarterly Summary of Statistics and is available in the House of Commons Library and online at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/publications/statistics.html.

Currently, under Section 39A of the Child Support Act 1991, the Commission may apply to a magistrates' court or sheriff to impose a sanction in cases where other legal enforcement action has failed. It is up to the courts to decide which, if either, of the available sanctions is most appropriate. Those sanctions are driving licence disqualification or a committal sentence; the courts do not currently have the power to confiscate travel documents in child support cases.

In the last two years the courts issued 505 suspended or full committal sentences, and 19 suspended or full driving licence disqualifications in relation to child maintenance cases.

The Commission may make representations to the court as to which sanction it considers appropriate in the circumstances but we do not keep a record of how many times, or in what proportion of cases, this right has been exercised. The courts issued four full driving licence disqualifications in 2006-07 and five in 2007-08. Of these, 66% showed an improvement in the debt figure owed, with two cases paying off the full amount owed to their children.

Sections 27 to 30 of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 enables the Commission to make an application to the court for a specific sanction. The available sanctions will be driving licence disqualification, imprisonment, passport confiscation or imposition of a curfew, the latter two of which will be new powers for the courts. These powers are not yet commenced.

The Welfare Reform Bill 2009 contains powers to enable the Commission, without application to the court, to disqualify non-resident parents who wilfully refuse to maintain their children from holding or obtaining a passport or driving licence.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Council Tax Benefits: Winchester

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many outstanding unprocessed *(a)* council tax benefit and *(b)* housing benefit claims there were in Winchester in each quarter of the last three years; and what the average number of days taken to process (i) council tax benefit and (ii) housing benefit applications was in Winchester in each quarter of the last three years. [258090]

Kitty Ussher: The available information is in the following tables.

Total number of housing benefit and council tax benefit claims outstanding on the last day of the quarter in Winchester city council (ie claims where a decision on outcome is still to be made)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2005-06	133	199	[1]	148
2006-07	181	149	95	109
2007-08	110	110	46	94

Average number of calendar days taken to process council tax benefit applications by Winchester city council

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2005-06	28	27	23	23
2006-07	20	19	17	14
2007-08	16	16	16	16

Average number of calendar days taken to process housing benefit applications by Winchester city council

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2005-06	28	26	24	23
2006-07	20	20	17	14
2007-08	17	16	17	17

[1] The information for the third quarter of 2005-06 was not available.

Notes:

1. Outstanding claims figures cannot be split between housing benefit and council tax benefit.
2. Housing benefit and council tax benefit claim processing times are measured in calendar days from the day a claim is received to the date a decision is made.
3. Claim processing performance data is supplied to DWP by local authorities and is un-audited.

Crisis Loans

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received a crisis loan in each *(a)* region and *(b)* JobCentre Plus district in each of the last five years. [252590]

Kitty Ussher: The available information is provided in the following tables.

Crisis loan initial awards by region and year

Region	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
East of England	70,540	74,390	92,850	111,650
East Midlands	40,640	34,720	47,240	67,850
London	109,910	109,260	128,190	135,280
North East	52,410	53,950	65,280	110,010
North West	155,770	157,140	170,030	240,780
Scotland	209,260	223,600	219,830	266,310
South East	123,480	122,500	104,320	177,740
South West	54,130	56,830	62,120	67,100
Wales	48,960	54,500	51,160	79,730
West Midlands	60,970	52,780	50,200	76,000
Yorkshire and Humberside	74,290	76,320	80,700	98,630

Jobcentre Plus social fund budget area (ordered by region)	Crisis loan initial awards in 2007-08
East of England	
Essex	36,270
Norwich Benefit Delivery Centre	75,380
East Midlands	
East Midlands North	31,400
South East Midlands	36,450
London	
Central and East London	40,060
London South	46,440
North and North East London	24,580
West London	24,200
North East	
Northumbria	35,470
South Tyne and Wear Valley	46,350
Tees Valley	28,190
North West	
Chorlton Benefit Delivery Centre	140,560
Greater Liverpool and Cheshire	100,220
Scotland	
Inverness Benefit Delivery Centre	95,780
Springburn Benefit Delivery Centre	170,530
South East	
Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Surrey	64,310
Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent and Sussex	113,430
South West	
South West Central	67,100
Wales	
Llanelli Benefit Delivery Centre	34,330
South East Wales	45,400
West Midlands	
West Midlands Social Fund	76,000
Yorkshire and Humberside	
Bradford	28,860

Jobcentre Plus social fund budget area (ordered by region)	*Crisis loan initial awards in 2007-08*
Sheffield	69,770

Notes:
1. Regions are Government office regions. Data by region are available only from April 2004. Awards are recorded in the region where they are administered. Until January 2005, a small area of the East of England region was administered for social fund purposes from a district within the London region. Until March 2005, a small area of the East Midlands region was administered for social fund purposes from a district within the North West region.
2. In recent years there have been many changes to the boundaries of Jobcentre Plus districts. In some cases, a district has been split and the parts merged with other districts. For the districts involved in such a situation it is not possible to give comparable data for the last five years. The last split took place in August 2006. Since then some districts have merged, so to provide data for the year 2007-08, it has been organised on the basis of the current Jobcentre Plus social fund budget area structure.
3. Figures are for awards, not for the number of people who received an award. (Some people received more than one award.)
4. Figures are for initial awards only. Awards made after review are not included.
5. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received a crisis loan in England and Wales in each of the last five years, broken down by the smallest administrative area for which figures are available. [254662]

Kitty Ussher: The available information is provided in the following tables:

Crisis loan applications received in England and Wales by region and year

Region	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
East of England	89,930	97,480	118,490	167,620
East Midlands	47,060	41,390	59,290	104,370
London	150,050	148,540	171,620	183,790
North East	67,900	72,140	87,770	157,910
North West	205,750	203,960	217,670	331,960
South East	149,670	149,330	126,800	238,940
South West	69,790	70,350	83,210	97,470
Wales	67,160	73,670	72,750	124,140
West Midlands	82,110	75,910	76,160	140,110
Yorkshire and Humberside	101,510	109,150	114,180	159,310

Crisis loan initial awards made in England and Wales by region and year

Region	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
East of England	70,540	74,390	92,850	111,650
East Midlands	40,640	34,720	47,240	67,850
London	109,910	109,260	128,190	135,200
North East	52,410	53,950	65,280	110,010
North West	155,770	157,140	170,040	240,700
South East	123,600	122,500	104,320	177,740
South West	54,130	56,830	62,120	67,100
Wales	48,990	54,500	51,160	79,730
West Midlands	60,970	52,760	50,200	76,000
Yorkshire and Humberside	74,290	76,320	80,200	98,630

Notes:
1. Regions are Government office regions. Data by region are available only from April 2004. Applications and awards are recorded in the region where they are administered. Until January 2005, a small area of the East of England region was administered for social fund purposes from a district within the London region. Until March 2005, a small area of the East Midlands region was administered for social fund purposes from a district within the North West region.
2. In recent years there have been many changes to the boundaries of Jobcentre Plus districts. In some cases, a district has been split and the parts merged with other districts. For the districts involved in such a situation it is not possible to give comparable data for the last five years. The smallest administrative area for which comparable data is available (for the last four rather than five years) is region.
3. Figures are for applications received, not for the number of people who made an application, and for awards made, not the number of people who received an award. (Some people made more than one application or received more than one award.)
4. Figures are for initial awards only. Awards made after review are not included.
5. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new recruits his Department employed in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09; how many of these were taken on as (i) permanent, (ii) temporary and (iii) agency staff; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11. [254424]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows the total number of individuals recruited in each of the categories for the years 2005-06 to 2007-08 and until December 2008 for the year 2008-09. The figures cover the core Department and its Agencies.

Staff category	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*[1]2008-09*
Permanent	4,694	4,618	5,814	5,428
Temporary	6,027	4,613	2,579	3,752
Agency	437	344	667	923
Total	11,158	9,575	7,060	8,083

[1] At December 2008.

Notes:
For 2005-06 and 2006-07 temporary staff includes all fixed term appointments and staff on short term contracts.
For 2007-08 and 2008-09 temporary staff includes fixed term appointments whose contract is for a period of less than 12 months and all staff on short term contracts.

Estimates of future recruitment are currently only available for 2009-10 when the forecast is for around 12,000 recruits. This figure is subject to change as workforce plans are further developed. It is not possible to break this figure down into categories.

Industrial Health and Safety: Wales

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions have taken place with the Welsh Assembly Government on work under its national action plan to reduce suicide and self harm in Wales 2008-2013 with his Department to encourage employers to be alert to the risk of suicide amongst staff and to encourage and facilitate uptake of help and support; and if he will make a statement. [247145]

Jonathan Shaw: We have had no discussions with the Welsh Assembly government on work under their national action plan to reduce suicide and self harm in Wales 2008-13. Officials have, however, had several conversations on related subjects such as mental health and the workplace. We could specify these only at disproportionate cost.

Jobcentre Plus: Greater London

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Jobcentre Plus offices in *(a)* Feltham, *(b)* Orpington and *(c)* Brixton Hill are planned to be closed. [247310]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 14 January 2009]*: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of new jobseeker's allowance claimants expected to move onto the benefit as a result of (i) losing employment, (ii) moving off income support, (iii) failing a work capability assessment and (iv) other reasons in each of the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [241015]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1995W.

Natural Gas: Engineers

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many registered gas engineers there were in each of the last 10 years; and how many were *(a)* deregistered, *(b)* fined and *(c)* imprisoned in each of the last 10 years. [241705]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is set out as follows.

Table 1: Number of registered gas installers and installers deregistered

	Registered installers	Removed from register
1999	48,730	62
2000	44,221	10
2001	44,470	19
2002	43,117	27
2003	44,161	10
2004	42,930	29
2005	47,357	13
2006	49,744	15
2007	51,249	17
2008	54,926	6

Table 2: Fines imposed

£	Number of prosecution cases	Of which: Number of individuals prosecuted
1999-2000	55	47
2000-01	46	36
2001-02	30	24
2002-03	39	37
2003-04	30	26
2004-05	24	22
2005-06	15	13
2006-07	17	15
2007-08	16	13

Custodial sentences

Between 1998-99 and 2007-08, 11 individuals received custodial or suspended sentences prison sentences relating to gas installation work. Only one was a registered gas installer.

Notes

1. The figures in table 1 relate to gas installation businesses registered with CORGI under the under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998. The figures have been provided by CORGI.

2. The figures in table 2 are prosecutions by the Health and Safety Executive for breaches of the 1998 and predecessor Regulations that resulted in fines being imposed. Figures to show how many of those prosecutions were for unregistered gas work alone could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

New Deal for Musicians

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claimants on the New Deal for Musicians Programme entered immediately into sustainable employment upon leaving the programme in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district in each month since the programme's inception; and if he will make a statement. [241001]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2003W.

Older Workers

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 502W, on the 65 plus work force, what percentage of the overall population the given figures represent. [215294]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell: dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question, with reference to the Answer of 5 November

2008, Official Report, column 30WR, asking what percentage of the overall population the given figures on the workforce aged 65 and over represent. (257294)

According to the Office for National Statistics labour force projections published in January 2008, the workforce aged 65 and over as a percentage of the population aged 16 and over will be 1.4 per cent in 2012, 1.5 per cent in 2015 and 1.5 per cent in 2020.

Further information on the methodology behind these labour force projections is available from the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/article.asp?ID=1340&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=272

Pension Credit

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many pensioner households received guaranteed credit in each year since 2005; [257006]

(2) how many pensioner households received pension credit in each year since 2005. [257007]

Mr. Rosie Winterton: The information is in the following table:

Number of households in receipt of pension credit

	Type of pension credit			
	Total	*Guarantee credit only*	*Both guarantee and savings credit*	*Savings credit only*
August 2005	2,406,000	772,000	1,517,000	467,000
August 2006	2,728,130	787,300	1,356,810	608,810
August 2007	2,759,720	816,620	1,325,950	599,130
August 2008	2,723,130	695,740	1,261,620	592,130

Notes:
1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pension credit applications were not processed within 10 days of receipt in (a) each year since 2005 and (b) 2008-09 to date. [257008]

Mr. Rosie Winterton: The information requested is in the following table:

Pension credit Actuarial Group

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*January YTD 2008-09*
Target	[1]AACT 10 Days	AACT 10 Days	AACT 11 Days	AACT 15 Days
Total processed	627,740	530,301	393,097	283,813
Not processed within Target	52,003	68,162	81,102	68,260
% not processed within target	12	20	30	20
[2]AACT	8.8 Days	11.5 Days	17.6 Days	14.5 days

Notes:
[1] YTD - Year To Date
[2] AACT - Actual Average Customer Time

Source:
Pension Service Legacy System

Pension Schemes

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government have taken to ensure that under the new pension auto enrolment scheme due to start in 2012 each £1 invested by an individual saver, their employer and HM Revenue and Customs will net £1 of value (investment and inflation). [257042]

Mr. Rosie Winterton: Our reforms contain a number of measures to boost the value of pension saving:

From 2012, employers will be required to automatically enrol their workers into a qualifying workplace pension arrangement and contribute to that arrangement. Employer contributions will be a minimum of percent on a band of earnings, and around 1 per cent. in the form of tax relief. Overall contributions, including the employee contribution, will be at least 8 per cent.

The new personal accounts scheme will be one of the pension schemes available to employers to meet the employer duty from 2012, and is designed to be low cost to minimise the impact of charges on the value of saving.

A more generous and simpler state pension to provide a solid foundation for saving. By 2050 just 30 per cent. of pensioner households are projected to be entitled to pension credit, compared to 45 per cent. today.

There are also measures to boost the value of saving within the existing pension and benefits system:

Pension rules allow up to 25 per cent. of a pension pot to be taken as a tax free lump sum.

In addition the 'trivial commutation' rules allow individuals with small pension funds to take the full amount as a lump sum (£16,500 in aggregate private pension saving in 2008-09, of which up to 25 per cent. may be tax free).

The savings credit was designed to reward those who have made small savings for their retirement.

Capital disregards in the benefit system mean that small amounts of capital do not affect benefit entitlement.

Some working age benefits and tax credits discount some or all of the value of pension contributions when calculating benefit entitlement.

Those people who see a lower impact on their net retirement income due to interactions with the benefit system will still get the full value of their private savings, and many will also be receiving generous top ups from the state to boost their total income, due to their needs in retirement. This could be due to circumstances such as needing extra support, for example due to disability.

The report of the Savings Incentive Work programme "Saving for retirement: Implications of pensions reforms on financial incentives to save for retirement showed" that, on standard assumptions, over 95 per cent. of savers modelled could expect to get more than £1 plus inflation back for each £1 contributed, and a large majority could expect double that. It also showed that for a range of case studies the reforms improve the payback on saving. The report also explored a number of measures proposed by stakeholders to further improve returns which suggested that the Government have struck a good balance between the competing objectives of

affordability, maximising saving and alleviating poverty—on balance the package does not need to be changed.

Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the weekly income, to the nearest whole pound, from the basic state pension and pension credit for a single person who began work in 2012 and who retired at 68 with a full history of national insurance contributions and had *(a)* no savings and *(b)* non-pensions savings of (i) £1,000, (ii) £2,000, (iii) £3,000, (iv) £4,000, (v) £5,000 and (vi) £10,000. [249442]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is projected that a single person aged 25 in 2012, who earned median earnings throughout their working life would receive £159 basic state pension plus state second pension on reaching state pension age of 68 in 2055. They would not be entitled to pension credit. This figure is not affected by different non-pension savings scenarios. Figures are in 2008-09 earnings terms.

Poverty: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in poverty in Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency in *(a)* January 2007, *(b)* January 2008 and *(c)* January 2009. [257532]

Kitty Ussher: Child poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall number of children in relative poverty at Government Office region level or for inner or outer London. This means information for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland is not available.

Redundancy

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure that his Department has the capacity to provide effective and timely assistance and support to those made redundant. [252692]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what steps he is taking to ensure that his Department has the capacity to provide effective and timely assistance and support to those made redundant. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The support we can provide begins as soon as a business announces redundancies and involves help for the employer and employees. In Scotland this help is delivered by way of the Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE) initiative. PACE is a Scottish Government initiative, in which Jobcentre Plus is an active participant, which provides a framework for a consistent and co-ordinated public sector response to dealing with companies in difficulty, including redundancy. The key aim of PACE is to help people who have been made redundant into alternative employment or training, as quickly as possible. This help can include workplace briefings by Jobcentre staff, skills assessments, and advice on how to look for a new job.

Support is also available through the Rapid Response Service (RRS) administered across Great Britain by Jobcentre Plus. This provides access to funding to help individuals made redundant where no other help exists or is insufficient to get them back into work. The budget for this service was doubled this year, from £3m to £6m, and will be doubled again next year to £12m. This will enable us to deal more effectively with situations involving 20 or more redundancies, or where there is a group of smaller redundancies in one locality. Although this funding has not yet been called upon in Scotland, any bid will be administered in line with the local PACE Partnership.

We have also announced that more people who are made redundant will get help through Programme Centres. These provide people with different kinds of help such as assistance with CV-writing and gaining jobsearch skills. Access to Programme Centres was previously restricted to those furthest from the labour market. Advisers will now have the discretion to allow any customers to access this help as soon as they become unemployed. This will be useful for people who have been in work for a long time and have no recent experience of job hunting.

We are also extending Local Employment Partnerships to provide help for newly redundant people. Local Employment Partnerships are simple deals we have agreed with employers, from local to national level, whereby we prepare customers for work and employers provide guaranteed job interviews, work placements, mentoring and work trials. Through these, Jobcentre Plus is already working successfully with over 13,000 employers, and has helped over 100,000 people into work.

To enable Jobcentres to manage the increase in register sizes, we are recruiting additional staff and are looking at extending office opening hours and how we might use partner premises where appropriate to create the additional capacity we need to help the increasing number of customer who need our help. We have also expanded our Rapid Reclaim arrangements. These enable customers who were in receipt of benefit at any time in the 26 weeks immediately prior to redundancy, to quickly access benefits via an abbreviated new claims process.

Vocational Training: Redundancy

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees have been offered early access under Jobcentre Plus's rapid response service to *(a)* work-based learning for adults, *(b)* programme centres and *(c)* rapid response service focused training (i) 12 weeks before the date of redundancy, (ii) between 12 weeks before the date of redundancy and the date of redundancy and (iii) between the date of redundancy and 12 weeks after that date. [241006]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available.

Winter Fuel Payments

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households with more than *(a)* £100,000 and *(b)* £200,000 annual income were in receipt of a winter fuel payment in the most recent year for which figures are available. [255975]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Winter fuel payments were designed to give older people reassurance that they could turn up their heating in winter. Eligibility is not based on income. The winter fuel payment for 2008-09 is £250 for households with someone aged 60-79, and £400 for households with someone aged 80 and over.

Information based on the Department's Family Resources Survey, shows that in 2006-07, winter fuel payments were made to less than 50,000 households with net income before housing costs of more than £100,000 per annum. Higher up the income distribution, clearly, the number is less than that. 2006-07 is the latest year for which information is available.

50,000 households represents less than 0.5 per cent. of all households where at least one adult is aged 60 and over.

Net income before housing costs is gross income less income tax payments, national insurance contributions, contributions to occupational and private pension schemes, local taxes, maintenance and child support payments, and parental contributions to children living away from home.

Winter Fuel Payments: Maladministration

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's policy on recovering cold weather payments made in error is; and if he will make a statement. [249451]

Kitty Ussher: Customers are asked to repay overpayments of Cold Weather payments arising as a result of customer error, but only where it is cost-effective to do so.

The Department does not currently seek to recover Cold Weather payments made as a result of official error.

HEALTH

Care Homes: Hampshire

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of care home residents were asked to pay a top-up fee in *(a)* Winchester and *(b)* Hampshire in each of the last five years. [258224]

Phil Hope: Information about top-up fees is not collected centrally. However, according to the Office of Fair Trading report, "Survey of Older People in Care Homes", published in May 2005, 33 per cent. of the 382 United Kingdom local authority funded residents interviewed said part of their fees were paid as a third party contribution or top-up.

Care Homes: Standards

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care homes in each region did not comply with the national *(a)* privacy and dignity standard 10.1, *(b)* medicines management standard 9.6, *(c)* nutrition standards 12.2 and 15.4 and *(d)* protection from abuse standard 18.1 in each year since the standards were established. [257172]

Phil Hope: We are informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that its inspectors assess the performance of care homes against each national minimum standard (NMS) and rate them on a four-point scale. A score of four indicates that a standard has been exceeded. A score of three shows that it has been met. A score of two denotes that the standard has not been met with minor shortfalls—this indicates that one of the numerous subsections in the standard has not been completely met. A score of one means the standard has not been met. CSCI assesses whether an entire standard has been met.

Tables showing the scores of care homes against the NMS for medication, privacy and dignity, meals and mealtimes and protection for care homes for older people, broken down by CSCI region, for each year since the standards were introduced, have been placed in the Library.

Childbirth

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many births there were at *(a)* under 20 weeks, *(b)* between 20 and 23 weeks, *(c)* between 24 and 27 weeks, *(d)* between 28 and 31 weeks and *(e)* between 32 and 36 weeks gestation in 2007-08. [258140]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell dated February 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many premature births there were at (a) under 20 weeks, (b) between 20 and 23 weeks, (c) between 24 and 27 weeks, (d) between 28 and 31 weeks and (e) between 32 and 36 weeks gestation in 2007-08.

Figures on premature births in England and Wales are only available for 2005. These figures are not routinely published by ONS as information on gestational age is not collected at birth registration. Since 2005, ONS has had access to NHS numbers for babies records which include information on gestational age and this has been linked to birth registration records.

(a) Figures on live births under 20 weeks gestation are not available.

(b) There were 312 live births under 22 weeks gestation. Of these, 100 live births had a birth weight of 1,000 grams and above. This recording is implausible and raises concerns about the accuracy in the recording of gestational age, birth weight or both. There were 435 live births at 22-23 weeks gestation.

(c) There 2,431 live births between 24 and 27 weeks gestation.

(d) There were 5,825 live births between 28 and 31 weeks gestation.

(e) There were 39,538 live births between 32 and 36 weeks gestation.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the survival rates were for babies born at *(a)* under 20 weeks, *(b)* between 20 and 23 weeks, *(c)* between 24 and 27 weeks, *(d)* between 28 and 31 weeks and *(e)* between 32 and 36 weeks gestation in each year since 1997. [258141]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell dated February 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the survival rates were for premature babies born at (a) under 20 weeks, (b) between 20 and 23 weeks, and (c) between 24 and 27 weeks, (d) between 28 and 31 weeks and (e) between 32 and 36 weeks gestation in each year since 1997.

Survival rates for premature babies in England and Wales are only available for 2005. These figures are not routinely published by ONS as information on gestational age is not collected at birth or death registration. However, since 2005, ONS has had access to NHS numbers for babies records which include information on gestational age and this has been linked to birth and infant death registration records.

Survival rates for babies born under 20 weeks gestation are not available. Figures are however available for babies born under 22 weeks gestation and 22 to 36 weeks gestation that survived to age one. These are shown in the following table.

Survival to age 1 of babies born in England and Wales by gestation weeks, 2005

Gestation (weeks)	*Survival to age 1 (percentage)*
Under 22 weeks and birth weight under 1,000g	1.4
Under 22 weeks and birth weight 1,000g and over[1]	75.0
22-23	12.0
24-27	70.2
28-31	94.8
32-36	98.9

[1] There were 100 live births born under 22 weeks with a birth weight of 1,000 grams and above. This recording is implausible and raises concerns about the accuracy in the recording of gestational age, birth weight or both.

Choose and Book

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of GP referrals to first outpatient appointments were made using Choose and Book in each *(a)* primary care trust and *(b)* strategic health authority in the latest period for which figures are available. [257674]

Mr. Bradshaw: Latest figures for the percentage of general practitioner (GP) referrals to first out-patient appointment made using choose and book in each primary care trust and strategic health authority are shown in the following table.

	December 2008 (percentage)
Strategic health authority name	
North East	54
North West	51
Yorkshire and the Humber	47
East Midlands	69
West Midlands	47
East of England	45
London	30
South East Coast	60
South Central	64
South West	75
Primary care trust name	
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	60
Barking and Dagenham	66
Barnet	12
Barnsley	89
Basildon	67
Bath and North East Somerset	94
Bedfordshire	30
Berkshire East Teaching	97
Berkshire West	50
Bexley Care Trust	53
Birmingham East and North	48
Blackburn with Darwen Teaching	94
Blackpool	62
Bolton	99
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching	70
Bradford and Airedale Teaching	46
Brent Teaching	22
Brighton and Hove City Teaching	43
Bristol	61
Bromley	25
Buckinghamshire	67
Bury	57
Calderdale	65
Cambridgeshire	69
Camden	22
Central & Eastern Cheshire	45
Central Lancashire	43
City and Hackney Teaching	38
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	66
County Durham	54
Coventry Teaching	58
Croydon	36
Cumbria	38
Darlington	69
Derby City	67
Derbyshire County	78
Devon	77
Doncaster	66
Dorset	75
Dudley	53
Ealing	38
East and North Hertfordshire	36
East Lancashire	57
East Riding of Yorkshire	52
East Sussex Downs and Weald	25
Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching	69
Enfield	42
Gateshead	55
Gloucestershire	64
Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching	30
Greenwich Teaching	30
Halton and St Helens	30
Hammersmith and Fulham	31
Hampshire	30
Haringey Teaching	31
Harrow	30
Hartlepool	63
Hastings and Rother	23
Havering	61
Heart of Birmingham Teaching	43
Herefordshire	59
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale	72
Hillingdon	40
Hounslow	30
Hull Teaching	62
Isle of Wight NHS	28
Islington	46
Kensington and Chelsea	47
Kingston	49
Kirklees	42
Knowsley	42
Lambeth	30
Leeds	25
Leicester City Teaching	72
Leicestershire County and Rutland	65
Lewisham	17
Lincolnshire Teaching	60
Liverpool	55

	December 2008 (percentage)
Luton	67
Manchester	50
Medway	52
Mid Essex	70
Middlesbrough	68
Milton Keynes	74
Newcastle	80
Newham	65
Norfolk	53
North East Essex	68
North East Lincolnshire PCT	67
North Lancashire Teaching	60
North Lincolnshire	67
North Somerset	68
North Staffordshire	65
North Tees PCT	57
North Tyneside	53
North Yorkshire and York	66
Northamptonshire Teaching	65
Northumberland Care Trust	65
Nottingham City	75
Nottinghamshire County Teaching	60
Oldham	75
Oxfordshire	67
Peterborough	70
Plymouth Teaching	60
Portsmouth City Teaching	76
Redbridge	58
Redcar and Cleveland	66
Richmond and Twickenham	70
Rotherham	60
Salford	79
Sandwell	60
Sefton	73
Sheffield	67
Shropshire County	57
Solihull	70
Somerset	61
South Birmingham	57
South East Essex	63
South Gloucestershire	78
South Staffordshire	57
South Tyneside	57
South West Essex	65
Southampton City	70
Southwark	56
Stockport	63
Stoke on Trent	61
Suffolk	60
Sunderland Teaching	70
Surrey	59
Sutton and Merton	58
Swindon	57
Tameside and Glossop	62
Telford and Wrekin	67
Torbay Care Trust	60
Tower Hamlets	58
Trafford	79
Wakefield District	63
Walsall Teaching	59
Waltham Forest	59
Wandsworth	70
Warrington	59
Warwickshire	57
West Essex	60
West Hertfordshire	47
West Kent	35
West Sussex	49
Western Cheshire	47
Westminster	31
Wiltshire	100
Wirral	72
Wolverhampton City	53
Worcestershire	34

Note:
Percentage of GP referrals to first out-patient appointments made using choose and book.

Civil Servants: Pay

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* permanent non-civil servants and *(c)* temporary or agency staff are employed at each (i) grade and (ii) salary range on the 18 week referral to treatment team. [258137]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 23 February 2009]*: The 18 weeks referral to treatment commitment is programme managed by a mixture of civil servants, secondees and temporary staff. The majority of these staff work on this area as part of other wider responsibilities. A breakdown of these staff is shown in the following table:

Civil servants - by civil service pay band from national pay range minimum to inner London pay range maximum

Grade	Number	Salary range (£)
Senior Civil Servant Pay Band 2	1	81,600-160,000
Senior Civil Servant Pay Band 1	4	57,300-116,000
Grade 6	1	52,265-72,636
Grade 7	4	41,481-59,961
Senior Executive Officer	3	30,690-44,473
Higher Executive Officer	2	24,611-36,219
Executive Officer	1	19,445-28,935
Administrative Officer	1	15,530-22,678

Permanent non-civil servants (by national health service pay band unless otherwise stated)

Grade	Number	Salary range (£)
Very Senior Manager (Senior Civil Servant Pay Band 1 equivalent)	2	[1]57,300-116,000
Band 9	4	73,617-93,098
Band 8D	5	62,337-77,179
Band 8C	2	52,007-64,118
Executive Officer (civil service equivalent)	1	19,445-28,935

[1] A percentage of the trust Chief Executive's salary. (See following note)

Note:
See Appendix E of 'Pay Framework for Very Senior Managers (VSM) in Strategic and Special Health Authorities, Primary Care Trusts and Ambulance Trusts' (October 2008) - a copy of which has been placed in the Library. The two VSM fall within the Senior Civil Servant pay band 1 equivalent range.

Temporary or agency staff (by NHS pay band or civil service pay band equivalent)

Grade	Number	Salary range (£)
Band 9 (NHS equivalent)	1	73,617-93,098
Band 8D (NHS equivalent)	2	62,337-77,179
Band 8C (NHS equivalent)	3	52,007-64,118
Band 8B (NHS equivalent)	2	43,211-53,432
Band 6 (NHS equivalent)	1	24,103-32,653

Temporary or agency staff (by NHS pay band or civil service pay band equivalent)

Grade	Number	Salary range (£)
Band 5 (NHS equivalent)	1	20,225-26,123
Grade 7 (civil service equivalent)	2	41,481-59,961
Higher Executive Officer (civil service equivalent)	1	24,611-36,219
Administrative Officer (civil service equivalent)	1	15,530-22,678

Temporary NHS clinical advice/patient representation from the charity sector

Grade	Number	Sessional day rate range (£)
NHS Medical Consultants/ GPs/Patient representatives	6	300-800

Death Rate

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the mortality rate for *(a)* four-limb deficient thalidomiders and the *(b)* the general public is; [257353]

(2) how many NHS trusts are equipped to measure the blood pressure of an upper-limb deficient thalidomide survivor. [257354]

Dawn Primarolo: We have made no estimate of the difference between the mortality rate for four limb deficient thalidomiders and the mortality rate for the general public.

Information on the number of national health service trusts equipped to measure the blood pressure of an upper limb deficient thalidomide survivor is not collected centrally.

Dementia

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for the statement that the level of diagnosis and treatment of people with dementia is generally low in the UK and that there is a 24-fold variation between primary care trusts, as referred to on page 17 of the national dementia strategy; and if he will place in the Library a copy of such evidence. [257558]

Phil Hope: The source of the statement referred to on page 17 in the Dementia Strategy publication "Living well with dementia: A National Dementia Strategy" is from the Dementia UK report, published in 2007 by the Alzheimer's Society. A copy of the Dementia UK report has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how the £150 million he has allocated to fund the National Dementia Strategy will be allocated to each year of the strategy; and how much will be allocated to *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital expenditure in each year; [257562]

(2) from which budget the £150 million he has allocated to fund the National Dementia Strategy will be taken; and by what mechanism it will be allocated to the NHS; [257563]

(3) how the £150 million he has allocated to fund his National Dementia Strategy will be broken down between each of the 17 objectives in the strategy. [257566]

Phil Hope: The £150 million is revenue, not capital expenditure. It is being made available as part of primary care trusts' (PCTs) overall general allocations. These are increasing by 5.5 per cent. in each of 2009-10 and 2010-11, a total increase of £8.6 billion over the two years of which the dementia funding is part. PCTs have flexibility over the use of these resources in line with the operating framework. Total expenditure in each year on dementia, and on each of the 17 objectives that are not central budgets, will therefore be determined by the national health service locally. National estimates of expenditure on each objective are set out in the impact assessment published on the Department's website alongside the National Dementia Strategy. This information is contained with "Living well with dementia: A National Dementia Strategy", which has already been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many dementia advisers there are; how many he plans to recruit in each year; and by what date he plans to complete the proposed complement of additional advisers; [257567]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average annual cost of a dementia adviser. [257568]

Phil Hope: The role of dementia advisor will be an entirely new one. As such, the role will be piloted in the first year of the strategy. Subsequent decisions about the nature, number and funding of dementia advisers will be made locally by primary care trusts, depending on local circumstances.

Dementia: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date his Department plans to publish its reviews of the inappropriate use of anti-psychotic drugs for people with dementia. [257738]

Phil Hope: The work of the review will be concluded in spring 2009.

Dementia: Research

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much research funding has been allocated to studies linked to dementia in each financial year since 1997-98 for which figures are available; and how much he plans to allocate in each financial year up to 2010-11. [257737]

Dawn Primarolo: Both the Department and the Medical Research Council (MRC) support research into dementia. Annual expenditure figures are shown in the following table.

Expenditure on dementia research

£ million

	Department	Medical Research Council	Total
1997-98	0.4	5.5	5.9
1998-99	3.2	6	9.2
1999-2000	1	7.2	8.2
2000-01	4.7	8.2	12.9
2001-02	2.9	6.6	9.5

Expenditure on dementia research

£ million

	Department	Medical Research Council	Total
2002-03	1.6	6.6	8.2
2003-04	1.1	7.4	8.5
2004-05	19	6.2	25.2
2005-06	18.3	6	24.3
2006-07	22.8	6.4	29.2
2007-08	22.2	10.2	32.2

The Departmental figures for the years from 1997-98 to 2003-04 relate to national research programme expenditure. They do not include the part of the research and development allocations made annually at that time to national health service (NHS) providers and spent on dementia research. That information was not collected prior to 2004-05.

The more recent departmental figures are the aggregate of NHS support for degenerative neurological disorder research and comparable expenditure from National Institute for Health Research funding streams, including the cost of the dementias and neurodegenerative diseases research network.

The MRC expenditure figure for 2007-08 includes spend on some projects not previously included in annual totals.

The usual practice of the Department's National Institute for Health Research and of the MRC is not to ring-fence funds for expenditure on particular topics: research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. Future levels of expenditure on dementia research will be determined by the success of relevant bids for funding.

Dental Services: Cornwall

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were seen by dentists in Cornwall in each of the last 10 years. [256456]

Ann Keen: This information is not available in the format requested.

The number of patients seen in the previous 24 months in England, as at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 30 June 2008 is available in table D3 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics, Q1 2008/09" report. Information is provided by the primary care trust (PCT) and by the strategic health authority (SHA). This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006.

The "NHS Dental Statistics, Q1 2008/09" report, was published on 27 November 2008 and is available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q1

This publication has already been placed in the Library.

The patients seen measure is not available under the old dental contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. The closest equivalent measure to patients seen is the number of patients registered with an NHS dentist. However, this is not directly comparable to the patients seen data under the new contractual arrangements.

The number of patients registered with an NHS dentist, in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in annex A of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information is provided by PCT and by SHA.

The "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006" report, was published on 23 August 2006 and is available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many treatments have been carried out by dentists in Cornwall in each year since 1998. [256460]

Ann Keen: The number of courses of treatment performed in England in 2006-07 and 2007-08 are available in table A4 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007/08" report. Information is provided by the primary care trust and the strategic health authority. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006.

Validated information at a regional level under the old contractual arrangements could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007/08" report was published on 21 August 2008 and is available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Dental Services: Durham

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of levels of access to NHS dentistry services in the City of Durham. [257981]

Ann Keen: The number of patients seen in the previous 24 months in England, as at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 30 June 2008 is available in table D3 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics, Quarter 1: 30 June 2008" report. Information is provided by primary care trust and by strategic health authority.

This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report, published on 27 November 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q1

Dental Services: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there were with practices in City of York constituency in each of the last 15 years. [257978]

Ann Keen: The numbers of national health service dentists, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 are available in annex E of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". Information is available by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT). Annex G contains information by

parliamentary constituency. Validated information is not available for earlier years.

This measure counted the number of NHS dentists recorded on PCT lists as at 31 March each year. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

The numbers of dentists with NHS activity during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 are available in table G1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007/08" report. Information is provided by SHA and by PCT but is not available by constituency. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

Further work is currently being undertaken to determine whether the new definition used under the new dental contractual arrangements can be applied to the years under the old contractual arrangements to produce a consistent time series.

Both sets of published figures relate to headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people from City of York constituency there were on the lists of NHS dentists in City of York constituency in each of the last 15 years. [257979]

Ann Keen: Information is not available for years prior to 1997.

The number of patients registered with an national health service (NHS) dentist, in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in annex A of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and by strategic health authority (SHA). Annex C contains information by parliamentary constituency.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements that were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services, 'patients seen' over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The number of patients seen in the previous 24 months in England, as at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 30 June 2008 is available in table D3 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics, Quarter 1: 30 June 2008" report. Information is provided by PCT and SHA but is not available by constituency.

This report, published on 27 November 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q1

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the (*a*) display energy certificates and (*b*) advisory reports for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [256049]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department will place in the Library a copy of the display energy certificates and their associated advisory reports in respect of each property occupied by the Department and its agencies.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has allocated for staff bonuses in 2008-09. [252247]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department total paybill for 2008-09 is forecast to be £140 million of which 1.3 per cent. has been used for non-consolidated performance payments to staff. The median payment made was £536.

All non-consolidated performance payments are funded within existing pay bill controls, have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs. The purpose of such payments is to ensure that those staff making the greatest contribution to the work of the Department are suitably rewarded.

For grades below the Senior Civil Service, 2008-09 is the first year that non-consolidated performance payments have been made. For the Senior Civil Service, the size of the non-consolidated performance pay pot is based on recommendations by the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Lord Crisp has claimed in travel expenses in the course of producing his report on global health. [256554]

Mr. Bradshaw: According to departmental records, Lord Crisp undertook international travel to the following countries between May 2006 and November 2006 to inform his 'Global Health Partnerships' report: South

Africa, Malawi, Ethiopia, India, Ghana, USA and Switzerland. For this he claimed £12,600 in travel and subsistence.

Drugs: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency's 24-hour anti-counterfeiting hotline was established; how much it cost to run in the last 12 months; how many calls it has received since its inception; and how many of these have led to the discovery each year of counterfeit drugs; [256556]

(2) what assessment of the risk from counterfeit medicines and devices the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency has made in each of the last 12 months; [256557]

(3) how many instances of counterfeit medicines or devices in the supply chain have been discovered in each of the last four years; [256707]

(4) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's anti-counterfeiting strategy. [256708]

Dawn Primarolo: The supply of counterfeit medicines is a growing problem worldwide and one which the Government are taking very seriously.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has therefore introduced a 24-hour anti-counterfeiting hotline in November 2007 as part of the Agency's Anti-Counterfeiting strategy. The Strategy was launched in November 2007. It sets out a three year plan and contains a commitment to audit activities carried out under it. A review is planned for the end of the three year period. The cost of the designated telephone is currently £65.00 per quarter, which is met from the Agency's overall telecommunications budget and it is manned by MHRA personnel as part of their normal duties. To date, 64 reports have been received (via e-mail, website, telephone and letter). All were responded to and none have proved to be counterfeit.

The MHRA has analysed in detail all of the cases of counterfeit medicines which have been discovered in the United Kingdom supply chain. This study has also contributed to the European Commission's proposals to tackle counterfeit medicines which are currently subject to public consultation. It has also contributed to a comprehensive review of the UK supply chain which has also been released for public consultation.

A 'watch list' of counterfeit medicines and medical devices which may appear in the supply chain has been established and circulated to Customs, police and other regulators to be aware of, and to deal with, potential threats.

The number of instances that counterfeit medicines and Devices have been found in the supply chain in each of the last four years is in the following table. The figures given are for every individual instance and may feature the same type of medicine or medical device on more than one occasion.

	Medicines	*Devices*
2005-06	1	4
2006-07	2	5
2007-08	5	2
2008-09	0	0

There have been no reports of counterfeit medicines discovered in the regulated supply chain since May 2007.

Eating Disorders

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure there is appropriate treatment and support available for individuals who have an eating disorder. [258198]

Phil Hope: We take the issue of eating disorders, especially among young people, seriously. This is why the Department asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to produce clinical guidelines on core interventions in the treatment and management of anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and related eating disorders. This guidance was published in 2004.

The Department currently supports the eating disorder charity, beat, through direct funding worth £131,000 over three years, 2006-09. Since 2001-02, real terms investment in adult mental health services increased by 44 per cent., almost £1.7 billion, putting in place the services and staff needed to transform mental health services. The national health service (NHS) spent £5.53 billion on these services in 2007-08, with real term investment increasing by 3.74 per cent. between 2006 to 2007 and 2007 to 2008.

We have thus made very substantial resources available to the NHS from which to provide treatments and services for the population. However, the responsibility for the provision of all NHS services, including the provision of support and treatment for eating disorders, rests with primary care trusts.

Emergency Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average *(a)* cost and *(b)* number of staff in an emergency operations centre is. [257696]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally. Arrangements for ambulance service operations centres are a matter for the local national health service. The hon. Member may wish to approach his local NHS organisations for further information.

General Practitioners: Wirral

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints the Healthcare Commission has received on GP services in Wirral West constituency in the last five years. [256838]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. However, this information can be obtained direct from the Healthcare Commission.

Genetics: Data Protection

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the evidence of his Department's chief scientific adviser to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee on 21 January 2009, when his Department first considered the inclusion of DNA information on the NHS care record; what consideration has been given to the use of

DNA information on the care record for patient identification; what discussions there have been in his Department on the form in which the care record service could hold such information; and what estimate he has made of the date by which the DNA of the majority of individuals will be held on the care record. [256714]

Mr. Bradshaw: Decisions about the necessity and relevance of recording particular information, including data relating to the patient's DNA, on health records, whether those held within the NHS care records service (NHS CRS) or elsewhere, is a matter for individual clinicians.

Access to health records is only permitted to clinical staff who have a legitimate relationship with the patient for which consent may be implied, for example because they are providing NHS health care or treatment, or who have express consent from the patient for other reasons, for example clinical research.

Within the NHS CRS, both detailed care records and summary care records, for those who choose to have one, will potentially be updated each time patients receive NHS care, and for obvious reasons the precise information held will differ from patient to patient.

Health and Social Care

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to improve the coordination of assessments carried out by those in the health and social care sectors; and if he will make a statement. [257437]

Phil Hope: A consultation published on 22 January and running to 17 April 2009 details proposals to improve information sharing around assessments and care and support planning. The Common Assessment Framework for Adults will look to enable the sharing of information, with the consent of the individual, between health, social care and wider community support services. A report of responses to the consultation will be published in the summer 2009, and the comments received are being used to inform the practical approaches being tested and evaluated over the next three years in nine local authority led partnerships.

Health and Social Care: Elderly

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons real terms social care expenditure on older people has fallen, as reported in his Department's report Personal Social Services Expenditure and Unit Costs England, 2007-08. [258174]

Phil Hope: The data published by the NHS Information Centre on adult personal social services expenditure and unit costs, England, 2007-08, set out expenditure as reported by councils on personal social services and does not record the reasons for changes in expenditure. A copy of the publication has been placed in the Library. Expenditure on personal social services is a matter for each individual council and local discretion, through engagement with their democratically accountable members and the public, in order to deliver services that meet local needs and pressures.

Health Services: Dementia

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many memory clinics there are; and how many memory clinics he intends to establish by what date under the provisions of the National Dementia Strategy; [257560]

(2) how many staff he expects to be employed in each memory clinic, as referred to in the National Dementia Strategy; [257653]

(3) what estimate he has made of the average *(a)* initial start-up costs and *(b)* annual operating costs of a memory clinic; and how much he has allocated to memory clinics in each financial year until 2010-11. [257739]

Phil Hope: Decisions about the nature, number and funding of memory services will be made locally by primary care trusts, depending on local circumstances.

Health Services: Rural Areas

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what studies his Department has undertaken into the costs of administering healthcare in rural locations. [254724]

Mr. Bradshaw: The cost of administering health care in rural locations has been considered by the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA). ACRA is an independent body that oversees the development of the weighted capitation formula, used to inform primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocations, and makes recommendations to ministers on potential changes to the funding formula prior to each allocations round. ACRA's latest report has been placed in the Library and at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_091484

Both ACRA and its predecessor, the Resource Allocation Group, have commissioned independent research into how the weighted capitation formula takes account of the issues faced in rural areas, both in terms of additional need for health care and the additional cost of providing health care in rural areas. In particular, 'Combining Age Related and Additional Needs (CARAN) Report' and 'Review of Specific Cost Approach to Staff Market Forces Factor', which consider the impact of rurality on health care needs and costs respectively.

In addition, 'A Study of Costs of Providing Health Services in Rural Areas', led to the introduction of the emergency ambulance cost adjustment , in recognition of the geographical cost differences found for emergency ambulance services.

These research reports have also been placed in the Library and can be accessed at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Financeandplanning/Allocations/DH_4108515

Hepatitis

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group have been diagnosed with acute hepatitis (i) A, (ii) B, (iii) C, (iv) D, (v) E and (vi) G in each year since 1997. [254997]

Dawn Primarolo: The available information is shown in the following tables. However, data for acute hepatitis C are not available, as surveillance data collected by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) do not distinguish between current and past infections or between recently acquired and chronic infections. The HPA does not collect data on hepatitis D as hepatitis D is a defective virus that replicates only in the presence of acute or chronic hepatitis B infection. The HPA also does not routinely collect data on hepatitis G as extensive worldwide investigation has failed to identify any association between the hepatitis G virus and hepatitis and its clinical significance is unknown.

Laboratory confirmed cases of hepatitis A, England and Wales, by age group, 1997 to 2007

Age group/ year	m	f	nk	t
1997				
<14	130	115	7	252
15-24	133	54	<5	189
25-34	298	68	<5	368
35-44	162	41	<5	207
45-54	90	37	0	127
55-64	29	16	<5	46
>=65	33	41	0	74
Unknown	25	8	<5	35
Total	900	380	18	1,298
1998				
<14	100	85	8	193
15-24	137	56	<5	196
25-34	240	70	<5	311
35-44	146	35	0	181
45-54	63	28	<5	92
55-64	28	20	0	48
>=65	29	27	<5	57
Unknown	14	12	0	26
Total	333	333	14	1,104
1999				
<14	169	167	11	347
15-24	167	107	9	283
25-34	200	102	<5	304
35-44	114	71	<5	187
45-54	69	45	<5	115
55-64	34	18	0	52
>=65	38	34	<5	74
Unknown	17	5	6	28
Total	808	549	33	1,390
2000				
<14	95	95	<5	193
15-24	162	76	6	244
25-34	162	84	<5	249
35-44	87	41	<5	131
45-54	53	22	<5	77
55-64	23	19	<5	43
>=65	30	39	<5	70
Unknown	22	19	<5	42
Total	634	395	20	1,049
2001				
<14	74	70	6	150
15-24	135	60	<5	197
25-34	129	44	<5	176
35-44	65	28	0	93
45-54	31	33	0	64
55-64	15	9	0	24
>=65	25	27	<5	56
Unknown	24	11	<5	36
Total	498	282	16	796
2002				
<14	79	54	8	141
15-24	326	135	<5	462
25-34	323	107	<5	434
35-44	99	42	0	141
45-54	32	24	0	56
55-64	18	28	0	46
>=65	32	33	0	65
Unknown	<5	7	<5	11
Total	911	430	16	1,357
2003				
<14	<5	<5	0	<5
15-24	14	<5	<5	19
25-34	29	6	<5	39
35-44	17	<5	<5	21
45-54	13	<5	<5	17
55-64	10	<5	0	13
>=65	7	0	<5	8
Unknown	<5	<5	<4	<5
Total	95	19	11	125
2004				
<14	0	0	0	0
15-24	12	12	12	6
25-34	15	6	<5	25
35-44	14	<5	5	23
45-54	19	9	<5	30
55-64	12	8	<5	22
>=65	11	6	<5	18
Unknown	0	0	<5	<5
Total	83	45	22	150
2005				
<14	<5	0	<5	<5
15-24	24	11	<5	37
25-34	35	16	5	56
35-44	28	11	<5	42
45-54	39	14	<5	57
55-64	40	10	6	56
>=65	63	8	0	71
Unknown	<5	<5	<5	7
Total	234	73	22	329
2006				
<14	<5	0	<5	6
15-24	10	6	8	24
25-34	18	9	8	35
35-44	15	9	<5	28
45-54	23	8	8	39
55-64	44	11	5	60
>=65	71	24	<5	97
Unknown	<5	0	<5	<5
Total	187	67	38	292

Laboratory confirmed cases of hepatitis A, England and Wales, by age group, 1997 to 2007

Age group/ year	m	f	nk	t
2007				
<14	0	<5	0	<5
15-24	8	5	<5	17
25-34	15	9	11	35
35-44	14	5	<5	23
45-54	11	<5	5	20
55-64	11	7	<5	20
>=65	31	9	6	46
Unknown	<5	0	<5	<5
Total	92	40	33	165

Note:
1. Where fewer than five cases were reported for a category, the table indicates the number of cases reported as <5 rather than the actual number in order to reduce the risk of deductive disclosure of an individual's identity.

Laboratory cases of acute hepatitis B, England and Wales, 1999-2003
Source:
HPA

Age group (years)	m	f	nk	t
1999				
<1	<5	<5	<5	<5
1-4	<5	<5	<5	<5
5-9	<5	<5	<5	<5
10-14	<5	<5	<5	6
15-24	107	92	6	205
25-34	164	72	<5	240
25-44	109	27	<5	138
45-54	63	11	<5	74
55-64	28	5	<5	34
>=65	18	7	<5	28
Not known	17	<5	<5	21
Total	512	223	17	752
2000				
<1	<5	<5	<5	<5
1-4	<5	<5	<5	<5
5-9	<5	<5	<5	5
10-14	<5	<5	<5	<5
15-24	98	80	6	184
25-34	192	56	10	258
25-44	99	31	<5	131
45-54	61	14	<5	75
55-64	25	8	<5	35
>=65	14	6	<5	20
Not known	9	4	<5	14
Total	503	204	20	727
2001				
<1	<5	<5	<5	<5
1-4	<5	<5	<5	<5
5-9	<5	<5	<5	<5
10-14	<5	<5	<5	<5
15-24	71	73	<5	147
25-34	140	51	<5	195
25-44	96	31	<5	130
45-54	52	7	<5	62
55-64	23	<5	<5	26
>=65	15	5	<5	20
Not known	11	<5	<5	15
Total	411	173	15	599
2002				
<1	<5	<5	<5	<5
1-4	<5	<5	<5	<5
5-9	<5	<5	<5	<5
10-14	<5	<5	<5	5
15-24	112	92	<5	208
25-34	208	77	<5	289
25-44	158	46	<5	206
45-54	69	16	<5	86
55-64	42	7	<5	51
>=65	17	7	<5	24
Not known	12	5	<5	21
Total	622	256	17	895
2003				
<1	<5	<5	<5	<5
1-4	<5	<5	<5	<5
5-9	<5	<5	<5	<5
10-14	<5	<5	<5	<5
15-24	67	52	5	124
25-34	156	70	5	231
25-44	137	35	<5	172
45-54	67	19	<5	87
55-64	37	9	<5	47
>=65	20	10	<5	30
Not known	<5	<5	<5	8
Total	494	200	15	709

Notes:
1. Surveillance of hepatitis B is based upon reports of confirmed acute hepatitis B received from laboratories in England. Since 2003, the completeness of data on whether hepatitis B infections are acute or chronic infection has decreased and therefore figures since then are not reliable. The HPA is working to improve the quality of information on acute hepatitis B reporting and provisional data for 2007 should be available later this year.
2. Where fewer than five cases were reported for a category, the table indicates the number of cases reported as <5 rather than the actual number in order to reduce the risk of deductive disclosure of an individual's identity.

Laboratory confirmed cases of acute hepatitis E, England and Wales, 2003 - 2007
Source:
HPA

Laboratory confirmed cases of acute hepatitis E, England and Wales, 2003 - 07

Age group	m	f	nk	t
2003				
<14	<5	<5	0	<5
15-24	14	<5	<5	19
25-34	29	6	<5	39
35-44	17	<5	<5	21
45-54	13	<5	<5	17
55-64	10	<5	0	13
>=65	7	0	<5	8
Unknown	<5	<5		<5
Total	95	19	11	125
2004				
<14	0	0	0	0
15-24	12	12	6	30
25-34	15	6	<5	25
35-44	14	<5	5	23
45-54	19	9	<5	30
55-64	12	8	<5	22
>=65	11	6	<5	18
Unknown	0	0	<5	<5
Total	83	45	22	150

Laboratory confirmed cases of acute hepatitis E, England and Wales, 2003 - 07

Age group	m	f	nk	t
2005				
<14	<5	0	<5	<5
15-24	24	11	<5	37
25-34	35	16	5	56
35-44	28	11	<5	42
45-54	39	14	<5	57
55-64	40	10	6	56
>=65	63	8	0	71
Unknown	<5	<5	<5	7
Total	234	73	22	329
2006				
<14	<5	0	<5	6
15-24	10	6	8	24
25-34	18	9	8	35
35-44	15	9	<5	28
45-54	23	8	8	39
55-64	44	11	5	60
>=65	71	24	<5	97
Unknown	<5	0	<5	<5
Total	187	67	38	292
2007				
<14	0	<5	0	<5
15-24	8	5	<5	17
25-34	15	9	11	35
35-44	14	5	<5	23
45-54	11	<5	5	20
55-64	11	7	<5	20
>=65	31	9	6	46
Unknown	<5	0	<5	<5
Total	92	40	33	165

Notes:
1. Where fewer than five cases were reported for a category, the table indicates the number of cases reported as <5 rather than the actual number in order to reduce the risk of deductive disclosure of an individual's identity.
2. Most cases of hepatitis E are associated with travel outside of the United Kingdom.

Source:
HPA

Hospitals: Finance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 172W, on hospitals: finance, which of the schemes listed in the table *(a)* are no longer being proceeded with and *(b)* have had their capital value (i) reduced and (ii) increased. [255891]

Mr. Bradshaw: The updated table is shown as follows.

Financial close/tender award date/	NHS trust	Capital value reported July 2007 (£ million)	Operational date	Procurement route	Current situation	Capital value as at February 2009 if different from 2007 (£ million)
2006	Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals	67	Q2 2008	Private Finance Initiative (PFI)	Operational date was 28 August 2008	—
	Ipswich Hospital	36	Q4 2011	PFI	Operational date was 3 June 2008	—
	Bath and the London	1,000	Q4 2013	PFI	—	—
	St. Helens Hospitals	338	Q4 2008	PFI	Operational date was 22 October 2008	—
	University Hospital Birmingham	627	Q1 2010	PFI	—	—
	South West Essex Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT)	30	Q3 2008	PFI	Operational date was 18 August 2008	—
	Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals	51	Q4 2007	Public capital	Operational date expected Q1 2009	—
	Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children	75	Q3 2011	Public capital	—	—
	United Bristol Healthcare/North Bristol	64	Q1 2009	Public capital	—	—
2007 to date	Taunton and Somerset	21	Q1 2009	PFI	Operational date expected Q3 2009	—
	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals	29	Q1 2009	Public capital	Operational date expected Q3 2008	—
	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	29	Q2 2009	PFI	—	—
	University Hospital of North Staffordshire	306	Q4 2012	PFI	—	375
	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals	343	Q2 2010	PFI	—	353
	Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals	336	Q1 2012	PFI	—	—

Financial close tender award date[1]	NHS trust	Capital value reported July 2007 (£ million)	Operational date	Procurement route	Current situation	Capital value as at February 2009 if different from 2007 (£ million)
2007 onwards	South Essex Partnership	39	Q2 2009	PFI	Operational date expected Q2 2009	32
	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys	78	Q4 2008	PFI	Operational date expected Q1 2010	75
	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	40	Q4 2008	PFI	Operational date expected Q2 2009	—
	Tameside and Glossop Acute Services	109	Q3 2009	PFI	Operational date expected Q4 2010	—
	Mid Essex Hospital Services	143	Q2 2010	PFI	Operational date expected Q3 2010	148
	North Middlesex University Hospital	111	Q2 2010	PFI	—	144
	Salford Royal Hospitals	190	Q1 2011	PFI	—	—
	Derbyshire Mental Health	29	Q1 2009	PFI	Operational date expected Q2 2009	36
	Northamptonshire Healthcare	36	Q3 2008	PFI	Operational date expected Q1 2010	—
	Walsall Hospitals	141	Q4 2009	PFI	Operational date expected Q1 2010	169
2008	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells	225	Q4 2010	PFI	—	304
	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys/County Durham PCT	40	Being finalised	PFI	Operational date expected Q3 2009	30
	University Hospitals of Leicester	781	Q4 2012	PFI	Not being taken forward through PFI	—
2009 onwards[2]	North Bristol / South Gloucestershire PCTs	310	Q1 2014	PFI	—	475
	Southampton University Hospitals	55	Being finalised	PFI	—	61
	Hillingdon Hospital	139	Being finalised	PFI	Not being taken forward through PFI	—
	Taunton and Somerset	57	Being finalised	PFI	Not being taken forward through PFI	—
	Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital*	56	Being finalised	PFI	—	143
	North West London Hospitals	305	Being finalised	PFI	Not being taken forward through PFI	—
	Southend Hospital	109	Being finalised	PFI	Not being taken forward through PFI	—
	Papworth Hospitals	125	Being finalised	PFI	—	—
	Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals	342	Being finalised	PFI	—	368
	West Hertfordshire Hospitals*	289	Being finalised	PFI	—	280
	East and North Hertfordshire*	250	Being finalised	PFI	—	110
	Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals*	225	Being finalised	PFI	—	477
	Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital*	142	Being finalised	PFI	—	235
	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	59	Being finalised	PFI	Not being taken forward through PFI	—
	Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals	200	Being finalised	PFI	Not being taken forward through PFI	—

Financial close[1] tender award date	NHS trust	Capital value reported July 2007 (£ million)	Operational date	Procurement route	Current situation	Capital value as at February 2009 if different from 2007 (£ million)
	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals	40	Being finalised	PFI	Not being taken forward through PFI	—
	United Bristol Healthcare	80	Being finalised	PFI	Not being taken forward through PFI	—
	Mersey Care*	170	Being finalised	PFI	—	135
	Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals	200	Being finalised	PFI	Not being taken forward through PFI	—
	Leicestershire Partnership	50	Being finalised	PFI	Not being taken forward through PFI	—
	Leeds Teaching hospitals	600	Being finalised	PFI	Not being taken forward through PFI	—
	West London Mental Health*	243	Being finalised	Public capital	—	—

[1] 'Tender award date' is the equivalent of financial close for public capital funded schemes.
[2] It is not yet known what schemes are likely to reach financial close or award tender during 2009.
Note:
Several trust schemes (marked with *) have still to develop and submit their outline business cases, which sets out their intended scope and procurement options. The values shown for those schemes are the latest the Department has collected from the strategic health authorities.

Measles

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of measles in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Teesside and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [257540]

Dawn Primarolo: The way to reduce the number of confirmed cases of measles recorded each year is to increase the number of children vaccinated with the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

In addition to the routine MMR vaccination programme, on 6 August 2008 the Department launched a national MMR vaccine catch-up campaign. The aim of the campaign is to immunise all children between one and 18 years of age who are unvaccinated or only partially vaccinated with MMR vaccine.

To support the campaign the Department has provided extra funding to primary care trusts (PCTs) with PCTs outside London having their funding limits increased by £30,000 and London PCTs' funding limits increased by £60,000. The Department has also sourced additional supplies of vaccine, provided technical support to general practitioners to help them identify children who have not received the MMR vaccine and provided additional online reports to PCTs to help them monitor the effectiveness of their catch-up programmes. The Department has also sent all general practitioner surgeries new measles leaflets and posters.

The Department has held meetings with both strategic health authorities and PCT immunisation co-ordinators, regional directors of public health and directors of performance to emphasise the importance of reducing measles cases through improving vaccination uptake.

A public relations campaign will be rolled out from March 2009. Key messages will include how serious and infectious measles is and how it's never too late to have the MMR vaccine.

Middlesbrough PCT, Redcar and Cleveland PCT and Stockton-on Tees Teaching PCT are implementing the national MMR vaccine catch-up campaign and have three key strategies:

a local service level agreement with GPs to help with the catch-up plan especially with pre-school age children;

sending a letter to all parents of school leavers offering an MMR vaccine booster for those who have not received two MMR vaccine doses; and

a local radio advertising campaign promoting MMR vaccinations.

Meat Hygiene Service: Inspections

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of inspections carried out by the Meat Hygiene Service was in each year since 1997. [257671]

Dawn Primarolo: The Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) undertakes not just inspection activities in abattoirs but also programmes for other Government Departments such as the Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for animal health and welfare purposes. The gross cost of the MHS and the proportion of that cost, including administrative and managerial support costs that relates to inspection, is shown in the following table.

The cost of inspection is estimated at:

£ million

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Gross cost	47.4	55.0	63.1	66.9	64.6	77.7	81.2	82.1	83.7	88.2	91.3	87.1
Of which:												

£ million

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Inspection cost	26.6	31.9	38.9	42.3	38.4	38.7	46.6	46.2	54.1	55.1	56.7	55.1

Mental Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the tariff uplift breakdown for 2009-10, published by his Department on 5 February 2009, when he plans to develop a tariff for mental health services. [257643]

Mr. Bradshaw: A programme of work is underway to develop and make available for use national contract 'currencies' for mental health activity by 2010-11. This is in line with the commitment made in High Quality Care for All - NHS Next Stage Review Final Report (Department of Health, June 2008), which has already been placed in the Library.

The currencies being developed will allow national comparison and benchmarking. Once they are in place, they will facilitate an informed decision on whether to introduce a national tariff for mental health services. Therefore, no date has yet been set for the introduction of a tariff for mental health services.

NHS Hospital Foundation Trusts

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which applications for NHS Hospital Foundation Trust status have been deferred from the initial date for consideration. [257454]

Mr. Bradshaw: The decision to authorise an NHS foundation trust (NHS FT) is made by the Board of Monitor. An authorisation decision may be deferred if the issues preventing a successful application are likely to be resolved or addressed within a reasonable period of time.

I am informed by the chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the independent regulator of NHS FTs) that a total of 19 applications for NHS FT status have been deferred, of which 13 were subsequently authorised, three are currently under assessment, two have withdrawn and one is awaiting reactivation.

Trust	Deferred	Proposed authorisation date	Current Status	Subsequent authorisation date, if authorised
Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Deferred	April 2005	Authorised	August 2006
Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	Deferred	June 2007	Authorised	July 2008
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	Deferred	July 2004	Authorised	August 2006
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Deferred	August 2006	Authorised	October 2006
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	Deferred	October 2008	Awaiting reactivation	
The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Deferred	July 2007	Authorised	October 2008
Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Deferred	April 2005	Authorised	June 2006
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Deferred	August 2006	Authorised	June 2007
Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Deferred	July 2004	Authorised	December 2006
Medway NHS Foundation Trust	Deferred	November 2007	Authorised	April 2008
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Deferred	April 2005	Authorised	June 2006
North Staffs Combined Healthcare NHS Trust	Deferred	May 2006	Withdrawn	
Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Trust	Deferred	November 2007	Under assessment	
Portsmouth Hospital NHS Trust	Deferred	July 2007	Withdrawn	
The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	Deferred	April 2004	Authorised	June 2005
Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust	Deferred	August 2007	Authorised	August 2008
Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Deferred	January 2005	Authorised	June 2006
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	Deferred	January 2005	Under assessment	

NHS Negligence

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 938W, on NHS negligence, how much of the total premium for 2009-10 will be collected *(a)* from each NHS trust and *(b)* in respect of each type of claim. [257741]

Ann Keen: We do not know how much will be collected from individual national health service trusts because the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) is still in the process of calculating actual contributions. Risk management assessments, which can discount an individual member's contribution, are still being carried out. Data on actual amounts collected will be available after 1 April 2009.

In respect of each type of claim, the NHSLA have supplied the following table. This shows the breakdown of the estimated global contribution of £713 million for 2009-10 by the NHSLA's risk categories that claims fall into.

Risk Category	*(£) Total contribution*
Nursing and other	372,315
Low[1]	5,217,893
Psychiatry/Mental Health	14,350,759
Medium[1]	20,597,730
High[1]	91,888,822
Ambulance	3,258,790
Neurosurgery	10,335043
Neurology	7,775,245
Trauma and orthopaedics	50,727,480
Accident and emergency	45,846,498
General surgery	52,080,154
Anaesthetics	18,032,986
Obstetrics	392,516,185
Total	713,000,000

[1] These cover a range of over 100 specific risk categories

NHS Plus

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS occupational health departments were members of NHS Plus in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [249271]

Ann Keen: There are 112 NHS Plus providers as at the end of 2008 and there were 104 in 2007. A list for both years has been placed in the Library. We do not have the information for 2006.

NHS: Dental Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date he expects the conclusions of his Department's independent review of NHS dentistry to be published. [257561]

Ann Keen: We expect the findings of the independent review team will be published in early summer 2009.

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what monitoring procedures are in place to ensure that primary care trusts are providing sufficient NHS dentistry services. [257982]

Ann Keen: The Dental Services Division of the Business Services Authority collects data on the numbers of patients who receive national health service care or treatment from a dentist one or more times during a 24-month period broken down by primary care trust. The latest data are contained in 'NHS Dental Statistics for England Quarter 1: 30 June 2008', a copy of which has already been placed in the Library.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what capital expenditure allocations to NHS organisations have been agreed for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; which organisation will receive the funding in each case; and what the purpose of the funding is in each case. [255341]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the amounts of capital resources so far allocated to strategic health authorities, national health service trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in 2008 to 2009 has been placed in the Library.

The allocations data provided show the total capital resources allocated up to the end of Quarter 3, December 2008. Allocations include capital funding for locally prioritised capital expenditure and programme capital for centrally announced initiatives and reflect adjustments for capital grants to third parties.

Some organisations are showing a negative capital allocation. Negative allocations can arise where there are planned asset disposals and the selling organisation does not plan to reinvest the total value of the disposal in capital assets in the selling organisation's books in the year of disposal.

Allocations for 2009-10 are being set as part of NHS trusts' and PCTs' financial plans. This financial planning process is ongoing. 2010-11's capital allocations for NHS trusts and PCTs will be set under a similar process.

The Department does not hold information on the capital investment plans of NHS foundation trusts.

NHS: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has carried out on the effectiveness of Clinell in the elimination of bacteria and viruses in NHS hospitals. [257304]

Ann Keen: The Department has not undertaken any research on the efficacy of Clinell in preventing viral and bacterial infections in hospitals. However, the Rapid Review Panel has concluded that more research and development is required before Clinell wipes are ready for evaluation in practice.

NHS: Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average number of sick days taken per member of staff was in each NHS trust in each of the last five years. [256367]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available has been placed in the Library.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce levels of sick leave in the NHS. [256449]

Ann Keen: National health service employing organisations are responsible for taking appropriate local action to reduce levels of sick leave.

The Department recently published 'The NHS Constitution' which included a pledge to staff in the

NHS "to provide support and opportunities for staff to maintain their health, well-being and safety". A copy of the publication has already been placed in the Library.

To support work on this pledge there will be a review of the health and well-being of the NHS work force as part of the Government's response to Dame Carol Black's report on the health of the United Kingdom's working-age population.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimates his Department has made of the cost of sick leave to the NHS in the latest period for which figures are available. [256450]

Ann Keen: Sickness absence in 2005 was reported to amount to 4.5 per cent. of available working time. It was estimated that each 0.1 percentage point reduction would give a theoretical saving of £35 million.

NHS: Wheelchairs

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost to the NHS of a motorised wheelchair for someone without arms and legs is; and if he will make a statement. [257501]

Phil Hope: Each wheelchair will need to be specifically tailored to each user's needs, and so the price will vary accordingly.

NHS Supply Chain has a framework agreement to supply motorised wheelchairs to the national health service. Prices on this framework agreement range from £865 to £5,400.

Personal Injury: Compensation

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 411W, on personal injury: compensation, (1) on how many occasions a check produced evidence of error or misleading information in 2007-08; [255769]

(2) on how many occasions a check led to prosecution in 2007-08. [255770]

Mr. Bradshaw: In 2007-08, the Compensation Recovery Unit (CRU) undertook 60,440 checks on the initial statements of insurers and their agents where no NHS treatment was recorded in respect of the NHS injury costs recovery scheme. From these checks, 5364 claims were subsequently identified as having either inpatient or outpatient treatment where costs are recoverable under the scheme.

The CRU initiates these checks at the beginning of the recovery process to ensure that claims will be correct when it comes to settlement. There were no resulting prosecutions in 2007-08.

Rapid Review Panel

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the operational cost of the Rapid Review Panel was in the last 12 months; [257302]

(2) what the average time taken by the Rapid Review Panel to complete a review of a potential new product for use in the NHS is; [257303]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Rapid Review Panel in reducing infectious diseases in NHS hospitals. [257410]

Ann Keen: The operational costs of the Rapid Review Panel (RRP) for the last 12 months were £24,210.

The RRP meets quarterly and the deadline for applications is approximately four weeks prior to the meeting date. Once the panel has met the reports are published on the RRP's website within two weeks. Thus, the time taken to review a product will vary according to when the application was made in relation to the meeting date but generally a product will be reviewed within three months.

It is not possible to directly link the RRP work to infection rates as their role is to identify whether or not products submitted to the RRP have the potential to help the national health service reduce infections. However, the panel has undertaken 235 assessments since its first meeting and eight products have demonstrated sufficient basic research and development, validation and recent in use evaluations to enable the RRP to make a recommendation that the product should be made available to NHS bodies. Of these eight products, seven have been made available to the NHS by the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency via the NHS Supply Chain and will be contributing to their programmes to reduce infections.

Screening: Diabetes

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department has issued on steps to be taken on the identification of an abnormal result in a test carried out under the national screening programme for diabetic retinopathy; [256776]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the national screening programme for diabetic retinopathy in reducing the risk of sight loss among people with diabetes. [256781]

Ann Keen: The English national screening programme for sight threatening retinopathy (NSP) was established to support local delivery of diabetic retinopathy screening. It has published guidance on the steps to be taken on the identification of an abnormal result in a test carried out under the national screening programme for diabetic retinopathy. This guidance is contained in the NSP's workbook, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

The NSP has also set national quality standards for screening programmes to measure the effectiveness of all screening programmes, also available in the Library. These include standards for the timely referral, assessment and treatment of patients with screen positive results and the reduction of new blindness due to retinopathy. The effectiveness of local screening programmes against these standards is being assessed as part of the external quality assurance process being undertaken by the NSP. In addition, the NSP is developing a project which aims to determine which type of delivery of the programme is most effective in the detection of sight threatening diabetic retinopathy.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* syphilis, *(b)* HIV infection and *(c)* gonorrhoea have been diagnosed in (i) England, (ii)

the North East and (iii) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. [257541]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on diagnoses of syphilis, HIV and gonorrhoea in genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics are only collected by strategic health authority (SHA). Data for syphilis, HIV and gonorrhoea for England and the North East SHA since 1998 to 2007, the latest year for which figures are available, are given in the following table.

Infection	*Area of diagnoses*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
HIV	England	2,659	2,952	3,651	4,835	5,945	6,926	7,065	7,161	6,822	7,109
	North East[1]	23	31	39	54	99	149	141	154	133	160
Syphilis	England	131	211	322	717	1,196	1,538	2,034	2,491	2,422	2,437
	North East	7	5	[2]	[2]	17	67	92	80	87	122
Gonorrhoea	England	12,535	15,549	20,494	22,398	24,357	23,492	20,779	17,702	17,309	17,202
	North East	409	616	593	545	744	666	588	554	482	453

[1] Includes individuals diagnosed in the North East, where smaller geography is not reported.
[2] Figures between 1 to 4 have been masked to protect deductive disclosure in accordance with Office for National Statistics guidelines.
Notes:
HIV
1. Numbers will rise as further reports are received.
2. Diagnoses are from reports received to end June 2008.
3. Data include individuals who have an existing infection as well as those who have a newly acquired infection and therefore the data do not present incidence of infection.
4. Areas when presented are area of diagnoses and not of residence, there is evidence that a large proportion of individuals are diagnosed outside of their PCT of residence.
Syphilis and Gonorrhoea
1. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
2. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed.
3. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
4. Data are unavailable for 2008.
5. Syphilis figures include diagnoses of primary and secondary infection only.
Source:
Health Protection Agency, HIV and AIDS new diagnoses and KC60 returns.

Slaughterhouses

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abattoirs have closed in each of the last five years. [257421]

Dawn Primarolo: According to the Food Standards Agency, the total number of abattoirs in the United Kingdom that have ceased operating in each of the last five years is as shown in the following table:

Year	*Number closed*
2004	38
2005	29
2006	34
2007	23
2008	17

Social Care: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information he holds on disbursements of the social care reform grant by each local authority. [256792]

Phil Hope: In January 2008, the Department published Local Authority Circular (LAC) (2008) 1.

This Local Authority Circular sets out information to support the transformation of social care set out in "Putting People First", including the details of the social care reform grant. This new ring-fenced grant provides £520 million from 2008-11 to support councils to help redesign and reshape their systems. Annex A provides a copy of the Social Care Reform Grant Determination to Local Authorities.

A copy of the Local Authority Circular has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/LocalAuthorityCirculars/DH_081934

Social Services: Complaints

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many independent review panels were held in 2006 to 2008; and what assessment he has made of levels of complainant satisfaction with the process; [258472]

(2) how many social care complaints were independently investigated in 2006-07; and how many were found to be valid; [258473]

(3) how many complaints which were independently investigated under the social care complaints procedure which progress to stage 2 overturned the findings at the local resolution stage in the most recent period for which information is available. [258475]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Surgery

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the period of time between a surgical operation and further surgery required by a patient is counted for the purposes of performance against waiting time targets. [257644]

Mr. Bradshaw: The 18 week commitment covers all consultant-led elective services from the time the patient is referred for treatment to the start of their first definitive hospital treatment. On completion of an 18 week referral to treatment period, a new 18 week clock starts upon the decision to start a substantively new or different treatment that does not already form part of that patient's agreed care plan.

Vioxx

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cost to the NHS of prescribing the drug Vioxx has been in each year since the drug became available on the NHS; [256530]

(2) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each (i) age group and (ii) health authority have been prescribed Vioxx in each year since 1999; and how many in each category have suffered (A) heart attacks and (B) fatal heart attacks while prescribed Vioxx in each such year. [256539]

Phil Hope: Information is not collected on either the gender or number of people prescribed a medicine, only on the number of prescription items dispensed. Information on the estimated number and net ingredient cost for Vioxx items dispensed in the community in England, by age group, from 1999, when the drug was licensed in the UK, is provided in the following table.

Estimated number of prescription items (000s)1 Net ingredient cost

	Estimated number of prescription items (thousand)[1]				*Net ingredient cost*
	Children aged under 16 and 16-18 in full-time education	*Elderly aged 60 and over*	*Adults aged 16 to 59 (ex 16-18 in full time education)*	*Total*	*NIC (£000)*
1999	0.7	91.4	70.5	162.6	3,998.5
2000	2.5	453.4	328.6	784.5	20,156.0
2001	3.7	823.8	442.3	1,269.8	33,691.8
2002	4.7	1,170.6	605.5	1,780.8	47,202.8
2003	5.8	1,394.4	728.4	2,128.6	57,055.8
2004	5.3	1,207.0	619	1,831.3	50,547.0
2005	[2]—	0.5	0.4	0.9	21.0
2006	[2]—	0.1	[2]—	0.1	2.5
2007	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—

[1] Estimates are based on a 1 in 20 sample of all exempt prescriptions dispensed by community pharmacists, appliance contractors and dispensing doctors.
[2] Data have not been reported where 50 or fewer prescription items are estimated to have been dispensed during the period.
Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) data

Prescribing activity for individual primary care trusts (PCTs) for 2004—the most recent year reportable prescribing took place, has been placed in the Library. From 2005 to 2007 less than 50 items were dispensed in the community each year in a significant number of PCTs. Releasing actual figures may potentially allow the identification of individual patients. NHS Prescription Services retains these data for 60 months on a rolling basis, therefore this information is not available at PCT level prior to 2004.

Information on the number of people who have suffered heart attacks or fatal heart attacks while prescribed Vioxx is not available.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions for being drunk and disorderly there have been in the Chelmsford division of the Essex police force area in each of the last 10 years. [254837]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Court proceedings data, and PND data, are collected centrally at police force area level and are not further broken down. Therefore data for the Chelmsford division of the Essex police force are not available.

The number of persons found guilty at all courts for being drunk and disorderly in the Essex police force area, from 1998 to 2007, is given in table 1.

Additionally, penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) are available for this offence. The number of PNDs issued to persons aged 16 and over for being drunk and disorderly in the Essex police force area, from 2004, when the scheme was implemented to 2007 is given in table 2.

Table 1: Number of persons found guilty at all courts for drunk and disorderly related offences in the Essex police force area, from 1998 to 2007[1,2,3]

	Number
1998	566
1999	587
2000	596
2001	532
2002	382
2003	185
2004	197
2005	165
2006	245
2007	185

[1] Data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Being found drunk in a highway or other Public place whether a building or not, or a licensed premises.
Licensing Act 1872 Sec 12.
Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour.
Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec 91.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Court proceedings data held by CJEA—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to persons aged 16 and over for offences of being drunk and disorderly[1] *in the Essex police force area from 2004-07*[2]

	Number
2004	738
2005	672
2006	905
2007	478

[1] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Being found drunk in a highway or other public place, whether a building or not, or on licensed premises—Licensing Act 1872, section 12;
Being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour - Criminal Justice Act 1967, section 91.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were of retailers for selling alcohol to persons under 18 years old in 2007; and what the average fine imposed was on those convicted. [255197]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and convicted at all courts, the number of persons fined and the average fine for selling alcohol to persons aged under 18, in England and Wales, for 2007 are shown in the following table.

Additionally, penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) are available for this offence. The number of PNDs issued for sales of alcohol to persons aged under 18 are also included in the table.

Number of defendants[1] proceeded against at magistrates courts[2], convicted and fined at all courts[2], and the number of persons issued with a penalty notice for disorder (PND)[3] for sale of alcohol to a person under 18, England and Wales, 2007[4]

Statute	*Description*	*Number proceeded against*	*Number found guilty*	*Number of fines*	*Average fine amount (£)*	*Number of PNDs issued[5]*
Licensing Act 2003—s. 146	Sale of alcohol to person under 18	620	479	425	375	3,583
Licensing Act 2003—s. 147	Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18	10	6	6	467	n/a
Licensing Act 1964—ss. 169A and 169B as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000—s.1; Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 s.3 (Sch. Para. 4 (1))	Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to persons under 18 for consumption—on the premises	63	40	37	276	n/a
Licensing Act 1964—S.181A (1) as added by Licensing Act 1988—s.17	Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18	—	—	—	—	n/a
Licensing Act 2003—S.147A as added by Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006	Persistently selling alcohol to children	—	—	—	—	n/a
Total		693	525	468	369	3,583

n/a = Not applicable

[1] Defendants includes persons and 'other' defendants (companies and public bodies etc.).

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Sale of alcohol to a person under 18 is an £80 PND ticket offence.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[5] Number of PNDs issued to persons aged 16 and over.

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Antisocial Behaviour: Crime Prevention

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what method her Department uses to apportion funding to local authorities to tackle anti-social behaviour. [257201]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Local authority funding generally takes the form of mainstream non-ring fenced grants or non-ring fenced area-based grant (ABG): a single capital pot designed to increase the funding flexibility and allow local areas much greater freedom to spend money in a way they see fit to support the delivery of local, regional and national priorities in their areas. The position in Wales is slightly different, whereby the funding for community safety partnerships has been consolidated into the crime reduction and antisocial behaviour national resource grant.

In both England and Wales it is for local partnerships to agree how the grants received should be allocated against locally determined priorities, including tackling antisocial behaviour.

Antisocial Behaviour: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to tackle antisocial behaviour in Enfield North constituency. [256779]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We have provided local agencies with a wide range of tools and powers to tackle antisocial behaviour to ensure they can tailor the response to each individual case. We have also provided front-line practitioners with updated guidance on providing support to victims and witnesses and the use of existing tools and powers, backed up with a programme of regional workshops.

Enfield has established a multi-agency partnership between the council and the police who co-ordinate all issues of antisocial behaviour in the borough, which includes Enfield North. The team work closely with all partners including social housing providers in an effort to tackle antisocial behaviour in the area.

Appropriate Adults

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what progress has been made in her Department's review of the role of appropriate adults; and when the new guidance on the matter is expected to be published; [251193]

(2) what assessment she has made of the merits of making it a statutory requirement that an appropriate adult be present at the police station in cases where the police have concerns about a suspect's mental state. [253686]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answers 26 January 2009 and 2 February 2009]:* Code of Practice C for the Detention, treatment and questioning of persons by police officers issued under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 requires that if an officer has any suspicion, or is told in good faith, that a person of any age may be mentally disordered or otherwise mentally vulnerable, or mentally incapable of understanding the significance of questions or replies that person shall be treated as mentally disordered or otherwise mentally vulnerable. In those circumstances, an appropriate adult must be called. The Review of PACE, published in August 2008 as a public consultation document, contained proposals on the role, training and use of appropriate adults.

We intend to publish the summary of responses to the consultation paper in March 2009.

Cannabis

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research has been *(a)* evaluated and *(b)* commissioned by her Department on the likely effects of the change in classification of cannabis on (i) the numbers in prison and (ii) the cost of arrest, prosecution and imprisonment in each of the next five years; and if she will make a statement. [245482]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* The likely effects of the reclassification of cannabis to a Class B drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 have been evaluated in the regulatory impact assessment (IA)[1] produced to accompany the Parliamentary Order. This IA is an internal evaluation. Based on existing evidence the IA makes a series of key assumptions; it forecasts potential liabilities associated with the legislative and the proposed enforcement change. The IA is published at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/em/uksiem_20083130_en.pdf

Estimates of unit costs applied to criminal justice system outcomes within the IA were obtained from the agencies involved and from relevant research where available. As a result, volumes and figures stated are broad estimates; they do not necessarily reflect actual costs in any particular situation or point in time.

In respect of prison places, the IA identifies potential additional prison places for cannabis possession offences; it estimates a potential increase in prison place requirement of 21 places over five years.

For supply, trafficking and production offences the impact assessment clearly sets out the reasons why an assessment on prison places was not made. This includes the fact that the maximum sentence prescribed by the 1971 Act will remain unchanged at 14 years.

The overall estimate change in the enforcement liability associated with cannabis possession including arrest and prosecution can be found in Table 6 of the IA as set out.

[1] Please note the Impact Assessment was re laid on 16 January 2009. A drafting error in the IA was identified on 19 December 2008. Following this, the impact assessment was withdrawn from the OPSI website on 23 December 2009. A full review of the IA was undertaken and the revised document is now in the public domain. For a full explanation of the drafting error please see response to PQ 24583. The error identified in the document does not affect the estimates of costs of arrest, prosecution or prison numbers.

Table 6: Estimated change in enforcement liability against cannabis possession

£ million

	Criminal Justice System						
Year	*Police*	*CPS*	*HMCS*[1]	*NOMS*	*Total CJS*	*Non-legal aid defence*	*Total*
Base	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	0.04	0.14	1.23	0.09	1.46	0.40	1.90
3	0.13	0.20	2.18	0.13	2.51	0.58	3.22
4	0.25	0.39	3.49	0.24	4.12	1.01	5.38
5	0.34	0.61	4.71	0.38	5.70	1.47	7.50
6	0.40	0.81	5.67	0.49	6.97	1.86	9.23
7	0.42	0.96	6.31	0.58	7.85	2.16	10.44
8	0.42	1.05	6.66	0.64	8.36	2.35	11.13

[1] HMCS costs include court costs, costs from PNDs, legal aid and central funds costs.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effect of the reclassification of cannabis on *(a)* the numbers using cannabis and *(b)* the numbers using other illegal drugs. [245483]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 13 January 2009]:* In respect of the movement to Class B alone on the numbers using cannabis there is no claim that this alone will act as a deterrent on cannabis use.

The Impact Assessment (IA)[1] on the reclassification of cannabis looks at reclassification alongside a step change in enforcement response and the potential change in the estimated population of cannabis users. Based on existing evidence the IA makes a series of key assumptions; it forecasts potential liabilities and volumes associated with the legislative and proposed enforcement response. These assumptions include a reduction in the population of serious cannabis users following recent British Crime Survey trends, desistance from users 'getting older' and increased desistance of users is assumed following more robust contact with police and the Criminal Justice System. The full IA can be found at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/em/uksiem_20083130_en.pdf

Over the seven year period examined in the impact assessment there is estimated to be a desistance of an additional 23,000 serious cannabis users under

reclassification alongside the associated enforcement response. The estimated difference in total population of serious cannabis users under reclassification and the enforcement response is set out in Table 8 of the aforementioned impact assessment.

There has been no assessment of how cannabis reclassification will impact on those using other illegal drugs.

[1] In preparing the response to this PQ a minor drafting error was identified in the Impact Assessment (IA). As a consequence the IA was withdrawn from the public domain. A revised version was re laid in Parliament on 16 January 2009.

The erroneous sentence in the IA stated:

"Over the entire period, the change option is estimated to result in the desistence of 72,000 additional serious cannabis users"

and appeared on page 15 of the original IA as found on the OPSI website. The cited figure of 72,000 was incorrectly quoted as a result of misinterpretation of the figures in Table 8 as relating to annual levels of desistance, rather than the cumulative level of desistance. The correct figure of 23,000 additionally desisting over seven years was cited in the preceding sentence and contained in Table 8 of the IA. Following the identification of this error a full review of all figures and tabular information contained in the IA has been conducted. There have been no errors in the original calculations contained within the IA.

Table 8: Estimated total population of serious cannabis offenders by year

	Population of offenders, do nothing	*Population of offenders, change*	*Difference*	*Percentage*
Base	416,769	416,769	0	0.00
2	396,179	396,491	-312	-0.08
3	376,576	373,297	3,279	0.87
4	357,914	352,153	5,761	1.61
5	340,148	331,124	9,024	2.65
6	323,240	310,103	13,138	4.06
7	307,153	289,260	17,892	5.83
8	291,849	268,836	23,013	7.89

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training police officers receive to allow them to recognise cannabis. [257043]

Jacqui Smith: All student police officers are issued with notes which cover drugs and their supply, importation and manufacture. The identification of classified drugs is also dealt with in a case study exercise.

As part of their training, it is common practice for student police officers to undertake a familiarisation exercise with samples of a variety of drugs. This helps student officers to recognise different drugs, both visually and by smell. Due care must be exercised to ensure that any illegal drugs used for training purposes are closely monitored and controlled.

Children: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to ensure that social networking sites act upon requests from adoptive parents and adoption agencies where they have a reasonable fear for the safety of the adopted child via such sites. [257324]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The Home Office Task Force on Child Protection on the Internet published good practice guidance for social networking sites last year. The guidance provides recommendations for how the managers of such sites should deal with incidents of bullying and other forms of abuse or threats to children's safety, and to make it easy for all young people and their parents or guardians to report their concerns.

This guidance is being promoted by the newly formed UK Council for Child Internet Safety and has formed the core of the new European Agreement on Social Networking. Social networking sites are expected to inform the European Commission about their individual safety policies and how they will put these principles in place by April 2009.

The guidance may be downloaded from:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/operational-policing/social-networking-guidance/

A copy has been placed in the Libraries.

Crime Prevention

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department collects on each crime and disorder reduction partnership. [257042]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office collects information relating to the community safety indicators of the new National Indicator Set for Local Government in England. Much of this information is available at CDRP level, including crime data.

The Home Office also collects specific information from CDRPs relating to particular policy areas where this is deemed necessary to support delivery. Currently this relates to quarterly information on antisocial behaviour, which is submitted on a voluntarily basis from each CDRP on local activity, and information due in April from 198 areas involved in a three-month Alcohol Related Partnership Activity campaign ending in March 2009.

Crime Prevention: International Cooperation

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken in preparation for the UN General Assembly Special Session on Narcotic Drugs; and what objectives she has set for the session. [256803]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A 1998 UN General Assembly special session on countering the world drug problem agreed a political declaration to establish goals and targets to be met over a 10 year period. A high-level segment at the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2009 will review progress against the 1998 Declaration and adopt a further declaration on future approaches to countering the world drug problem.

The Government's priorities for the review process are:

Improving and strengthening data collection and analysis by the UN as an essential basis for all UN drugs activity;

Adherence by UN drugs bodies to the UN's "Delivery as One" concept - supporting the UN's Millennium Development goal to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS, and improving access to controlled opiate-based medication for developing nations;

Encouraging of effective law-enforcement effort through greater information sharing and analysis on the manufacture, supply and consumption of drugs in order to ensure that policy decisions are based on evidence;

Recognition of the effectiveness of using intelligence in combating drug supply, in particular combating trafficking in narcotic drugs, and encouraging sharing of intelligence between law enforcement agencies;

Recognition that illicit production and trafficking of drugs fuels instability and insecurity in many parts of the world;

Strengthening regional and international co-operation in combating the illicit cultivation, manufacture, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs;

Affirmation of the need to devote particular attention to measures for the control of precursor chemicals;

Reflection of the Government's position that eradication of illicit crops in Afghanistan and elsewhere is targeted on areas where farmers have access to alternative sources of income.

Crime: Business

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of *(a)* shoplifting, *(b)* robbery of business property and *(c)* theft by an employee were recorded by police in the quarter (i) July to September 2006, (ii) July to September 2007 and (iii) July to September 2008. [257044]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is given in the following table.

Selected offences recorded by the police in England and Wales

Offence	*July to September 2006*	*July to September 2007*	*July to September 2008*
Shoplifting	70,085	71,099	79,410
Robbery of business property	2,009	1,886	1,999
Theft by an employee	4,139	3,853	4,072

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of incidents of violence against the person in each police force area in 2007-08 involved a *(a)* knife, *(b)* hitting implement, *(c)* glass or bottle, *(d)* stabbing implement, *(e)* firearm, *(f)* stone or stones, *(g)* syringe and *(h)* other implement. [256750]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The particular nature of incidents cannot be identified from the main recorded crime dataset. Available information is from the firearm offences database and relates only to violence against the person offences recorded by the police in England and Wales in which firearms (including air weapons) were reported to have been used.

Number and percentage of violence against the person offences in which firearms (including air weapons) were used: England and Wales, 2007-08

Police force area	*Number of firearm offences*	*Percentage of all violence against the person offences*
North East Region		
Cleveland	30	0.23
Durham	47	0.54
Northumbria	84	0.43
North West Region		
Cheshire	45	0.30
Cumbria	21	0.26
Greater Manchester	757	1.51
Lancashire	212	0.85
Merseyside	206	0.99
Yorkshire and the Humber Region		
Humberside	68	0.33
North Yorkshire	15	0.16
South Yorkshire	202	0.83
West Yorkshire	283	0.73
East Midlands Region		
Derbyshire	86	0.51
Leicestershire	107	0.57
Lincolnshire	50	0.53
Northamptonshire	100	0.94
Nottinghamshire	180	0.91
West Midlands Region		
Staffordshire	123	0.62
Warwickshire	66	0.88
West Mercia	130	0.83
West Midlands	507	0.95
East of England Region		
Bedfordshire	44	0.58
Cambridgeshire	23	0.22
Essex	165	0.71
Hertfordshire	92	0.69
Norfolk	36	0.36
Suffolk	38	0.40
London Region	1,334	0.77
South East Region		
Hampshire	90	0.23
Kent	99	0.39
Surrey	55	0.39
Sussex	81	0.32
Thames Valley	144	0.34
South West Region		
Avon and Somerset	107	0.39
Devon and Cornwall	126	0.54
Dorset	11	0.10
Gloucestershire	57	0.61
Wiltshire	43	0.53
Wales		
Dyfed Powys	24	0.40
Gwent	58	0.57
North Wales	65	0.59

Number and percentage of violence against the person offences in which firearms[1] (including air weapons) were used: England and Wales, 2007-08

Police force area	Number of firearm offences	Percentage of all violence against the person offences
South Wales	78	0.35
England and Wales	6,085	0.64

[1] By weapon being fired, used as a blunt instrument or in a threat.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation sponsored by her Department and directly affecting the operation of police forces was introduced since 1997. [254501]

Jacqui Smith: The principal measures in primary and secondary legislation since 1997 to 2009 which affect police forces are set out in the following lists. There were 189—an average of 16 per year. Between 1990 and 1997 there were—an average of 17 per year.

Primary legislation

1. Police Act 1997 (c. 50)
2. Police and Firemen's Pensions Act 1997 (c.52)
3. Police (Health and Safety) Act 1997 (c.42)
4. Police (Insurance of Voluntary Assistants) Act 1997 (c.45)
5. Police (Property) Act 1997 (c.30)
6. Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 (c.32)
7. Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 (c.32)
8. Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 (c.16)
9. Police Reform Act 2002 (c.30)
10. Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2003 (c.6)
11. Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (c.15)
12. Police and Justice Act 2006 (c.48)

Secondary legislation

1. The National Police Records (Recordable Offences) (Amendment) Regulations 1997 SI 1997/566
2. The Common Police Services (Scotland) Order 1997 SI 1997/695
3. The Police Grant (Scotland) Order 1997 SI 1997/721
4. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Codes of Practice No. 4) Order 1997 SI 1997/1159
5. The Police Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 1997 SI 1997/1429
6. The Contracting Out (Metropolitan Police and Civil Staffs Pensions) Order 1997 SI 1997/1736
7. The Police (Health and Safety) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 SI 1997/1774
8. The West Mercia (Police Area and Authority) Order 1997 SI 1997/1844
9. The Cheshire (Police Area and Authority) Order 1997 SI 1997/1845
10. The Cambridgeshire (Police Area and Authority) Order 1997 SI 1997/1846
11. The Essex (Police Area and Authority) Order 1997 SI 1997/1847
12. The Thames Valley (Police Authority) Order 1997 SI 1997/1848
13. The Devon and Cornwall (Police Area and Authority) Order 1997 SI 1997/1849
14. The Nottinghamshire (Police Area and Authority) Order 1997 SI 1997/1850
15. The Lancashire (Police Area and Authority) Order 1997 SI 1997/1855
16. The Kent (Police Area and Authority) Order 1997 SI 1997/1857
17. The Police (Property) Regulations 1997 SI 1997/1908
18. The Police Pensions (Provision of Information) Regulations 1997 SI 1997/1912
19. The Number of Members of Thames Valley Police Authority Order 1997 SI 1997/2293
20. The Police Act 1997 (Provisions in relation to the NCIS Service Authority) (No. 2) Order 1997 SI 1997/2391
21. The Police Authorities (Standing Orders) Regulations 1997 SI 1997/2416
22. The Police Cadets (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1997 SI 1997/2791
23. The Police Pensions (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 1997 SI 1997/2852
24. The Police (Secretary of State's Objectives) Order 1998 SI 1998/216
25. The Police Information Technology Organisation (Additional Bodies) Order 1998 SI 1998/411
26. The Police (Amendment) Regulations 1998 SI 1998/493
27. The Police Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 1998 SI 1998/577
28. The Police Grant (Scotland) Order 1998 SI 1998/611
29. The Police Grant (No. 2) (Scotland) Order 1998 SI 1998/891
30. The Number of Members of South Wales Police Authority Order 1998 SI 1998/3215
31. The Police Act 1997 (Authorisation of Action in Respect of Property) (Code of Practice) Order 1998 SI1998/3240
32. The Police Act 1997 (Notification of Authorisations etc.) Order 1998 SI 1998/3241
33. The Police (Retention and Disposal of Items seized under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994) Regulations 1999 SI 1999/269
34. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Codes of Practice No. 5) Order 1999 SI 1999/291
35. The Police (Secretary of State's Objectives) Order 1999 SI 1999/543
36. The Police (Conduct) Regulations 1999 SI 1999/730
37. The Police (Conduct) (Senior Officers) Regulations 1999 SI 1999/731
38. The Police (Efficiency) Regulations 1999 SI 1999/732
39. The Police Appeals Tribunals Rules 1999 SI 1999/818
40. The Police (Health and Safety) Regulations 1999 SI 1999/860
41. The Police Grant (Scotland) Order 1999 SI 1999/953
42. The Police (Conduct) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1999 SI 1999/1072
43. The Police (Conduct) (Senior Officers) (Scotland) Regulations 1999 SI 1999/1074
44. The Police (Secretary of State's Objectives) (No. 2) Order 1999 SI 1999/1415
45. The Legal Advice and Assistance at Police Stations (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 1999 SI 1999/2088
46. The Greater London Authority Act 1999 (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) (Police) Order 1999 SI 1999/3272
47. The Legal Advice and Assistance at Police Stations (Remuneration) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 1999 SI 1999/3299
48. The Police (Secretary of State's Objectives) (No. 3) Order 1999 SI 1999/3424
49. The Police Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 2000 SI 2000/843
50. The National Police Records (Recordable Offences) Regulations 2000 SI 2000/1139

51. The Metropolitan Police (Capital Finance) Order 2000 SI 2000/1474

52. The Greater London Authority Act 1999 (Consequential Amendments) (Police) Order 2000 SI 2000/1549

53. The Police (Amendment) Regulations 2000 SI 2000/2013

54. The Terrorism Act 2000 (Code of Practice on the Exercise of Police Powers) (Northern Ireland) Order 2001 SI 2001/401

55. The Legal Advice and Assistance at Police Stations (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2001 SI 2001/1181

56. The Sex Offenders (Notification Requirements) (Prescribed Police Stations) Regulations 2001 SI 2001/1708

57. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Codes of Practice) (Modification) Order 2001 SI 2001/2254

58. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Tape-recording of Interviews) (Amendment) Order 2001 SI 2001/2480

59. The Police (Northern Ireland) Order 2001 SI 2001/2513

60. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Drug Testing of Persons in Police Detention) (Prescribed Persons) Regulations 2001 SI 2001/2645

61. The Police (Amendment) Regulations 2001 SI 2001/3293

62. The Police Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001 SI 2001/3578

63. The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 (Consequential Amendments) (Police Ranks) Regulations 2001 SI 2001/3888

64. The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 (Central Police Training and Development Authority) (Transitional Provisions) Order 2002 SI 2002/534

65. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Codes of Practice) (Temporary Modifications to Code D) Order 2002 SI 2002/615

66. The Police Authorities (Best Value) Performance Indicators Order 2002 SI 2002/694

67. The Police (Secretary of State's Objectives) Order 2002 SI 2002/695

68. The Police (Promotion) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 SI 2002/767

69. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Visual Recording of Interviews) (Certain Police Areas) Order 2002 SI 2002/1069

70. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Codes of Practice) (Modifications to Code C and Code D) (Certain Police Areas) Order 2002 SI 2002/1150

71. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Codes of Practice) (Visual Recording of Interviews) Order 2002 SI 2002/1266

72. The Police Authorities (Selection Panel) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 SI 2002/1282

73. The Police (Retention and Disposal of Items Seized) Regulations 2002 SI 2002/1372

74. The Police (Amendment) Regulations 2002 SI 2002/1758

75. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Codes of Practice) (Modifications to Code C and Code D) (Certain Police Areas) (Amendment) Order 2002 SI 2002/1863

76. The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 (Amendment) Order 2002 SI 2002/1934

77. The Police (Property) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 SI 2002/2313

78. The Police Authorities (Three-year Strategy Plans) Regulations 2002 SI 2002/2526

79. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Visual Recording of Interviews) (Certain Police Areas) (No. 2) Order 2002 SI 2002/2527

80. The Police (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2002 SI 2002/2529

81. The Police (Retention and Disposal of Motor Vehicles) Regulations 2002 SI 2002/3049

82. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Codes of Practice) (Statutory Powers of Stop and Search) Order 2002 SI 2002/3075

83. The Police (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2002 SI 2002/3162

84. The Police Pensions (Pension Sharing) Regulations 2002 SI 2002/3202

85. The Police Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 2003 SI 2003/27

86. The Police Authorities (Best Value) Performance Indicators Order 2003 SI 2003/519

87. The Police Regulations 2003 SI 2003/527

88. The Police (Efficiency) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 SI 2003/528

89. The Police Pensions (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2003 SI 2003/535

90. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Codes of Practice) (Codes B to E) (No. 2) Order 2003 SI 2003/703

91. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Codes of Practice) (Modifications to Codes C and D)(Certain Police Areas) Order 2003 SI 2003/704

92. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Codes of Practice) (Code E) Order 2003 SI 2003/705

93. The Police (Revocation of Secretary of State's Objectives) Order 2003 SI 2003/830

94. The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 (Powers of Seizure) Order 2003 SI 2003/934

95. The Police Authorities (Best Value) Performance Indicators (Amendment) Order 2003 SI 2003/1265

96. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Remote Reviews of Detention) (Specified Police Stations) Regulations 2003 SI 2003/2397

97. The Police (Amendment) Regulations 2003 SI 2003/2594

98. The Police (Promotion) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 SI 2003/2595

99. The Police (Conduct) (Senior Officers) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 SI 2003/2596

100. The Police Appeals Tribunals (Amendment) Rules 2003 SI 2003/2597

101. The National Crime Squad (Senior Police Members) (Appeals) (Revocation) Order 2003 SI 2003/2598

102. The Police (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 SI 2003/2599

103. The Police (Efficiency) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2003 SI 2003/2600

104. The Police (Complaints) (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 SI 2003/2602

105. The Police Pensions (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2003 SI 2003/2716

106. The Police Pensions (Additional Voluntary Contributions) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 SI 2003/2717

107. The National Police Records (Recordable Offences) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 SI 2003/2823

108. The Extradition Act 2003 (Police Powers) Order 2003 SI 2003/3106

109. The Extradition Act 2003 (Police Powers)(Northern Ireland) Order 2003 SI 2003/3107

110. The Extradition Act 2003 (Police Powers: Codes of Practice) Order 2003 SI 2003/3336

111. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Codes of Practice) (Modifications to Codes C and D) (Certain Police Areas) (Amendment) Order 2004 SI 2004/78

112. The Police (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2004 SI 2004/643

113. The Police Authorities (Best Value) Performance Indicators Order 2004 SI 2004/644

114. The Police (Conduct) Regulations 2004 SI 2004/645

115. The Independent Police Complaints Commission (Staff Conduct) Regulations 2004 SI 2004/660

116. The Independent Police Complaints Commission (Transitional Provisions) Order 2004 SI 2004/671

117. The Independent Police Complaints Commission (Forces Maintained Otherwise than by Police Authorities) Order 2004 SI 2004/672

118. The Independent Police Complaints Commission (Investigatory Powers) Order 2004 SI 2004/815

119. The Independent Police Complaints Commission (Transitional Provisions) (Amendment) Order 2004 SI 2004/1092

120. The Police Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 2004 SI 2004/1491

121. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Remote Reviews of Detention) (Specified Police Stations) (Revocation) Regulations 2004 SI 2004/1503

122. The Police Pensions (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2004 SI 2004/1760

123. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Codes of Practice) Order 2004 SI 2004/1887

124. The Police Pensions (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2004 SI 2004/2354

125. The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 (Amendment) and Police Reform Act 2002 (Modification) Order 2004 SI 2004/2540

126. The Police Federation (Amendment) Regulations 2004 SI 2004/2660

127. The Police (Amendment) Regulations 2004 SI 2004/3216

128. The Police (Promotion) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 SI 2005/178

129. The Police Authorities (Best Value) Performance Indicators Order 2005 SI 2005/470

130. The Police Authorities (Lay Justices Selection Panel) Regulations 2005 SI 2005/584

131. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Codes of Practice) (Revisions to Code C) Order 2005 SI 2005/602

132. The Police Pensions (Part-time Service) Regulations 2005 SI 2005/1439

133. The Police (Retention and Disposal of Motor Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 SI 2005/2702

134. The Police (Amendment) Regulations 2005 SI 2005/2834

135. The National Police Records (Recordable Offences) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 SI 2005/3106

136. The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (Powers of Arrest) (Consequential Amendments) Order 2005 SI 2005/3389

137. The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (Amendment) Order 2005 SI 2005/3496

138. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Codes of Practice) Order 2005 SI 2005/3503

139. The Police Act 1996 (Local Policing Summaries) Order 2006 SI 2006/122

140. The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (Consequential and Supplementary Amendments to Secondary Legislation) Order 2006 SI 2006/594

141. The Police Authorities (Best Value) Performance Indicators (Amendment) Order 2006 SI 2006/620

142. The Police Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 2006 SI 2006/740

143. The Police (Injury Benefit) Regulations 2006 SI 2006/932

144. The Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 (Codes of Practice) (Temporary Modification to Code D) Order 2006 SI 2006/1081

145. The Terrorism Act 2000 (Revised Code of Practice for the Identification of Persons by Police Officers) (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 SI 2006/1330

146. The Police (Complaints and Misconduct) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 SI 2006/1406

147. The Police (Promotion) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 SI 2006/1442

148. The Police (Amendment) Regulations 2006 SI 2006/1467

149. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Code of Practice C and Code of Practice H) Order 2006 SI 2006/1938

150. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Codes of Practice) (Revisions to Code A) Order 2006 SI 2006/2165

151. The Police (Minimum Age for Appointment) Regulations 2006 SI 2006/2278

152. The Police and Justice Act 2006 (Supplementary and Transitional Provisions) Order 2006 SI 2006/3365

153. The Police Pensions Regulations SI 2006/3415

154. The Police (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2006 SI 2006/3449

155. The Police and Criminal Evidence (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 2007 SI 2007/288

156. The Police (Amendment) Regulations 2007 SI 2007/1160

157. The Police (Fingerprints) Regulations 2007 SI 2007/1162

158. The Police Pension Fund Regulations 2007 SI 2007/1932

159. The National Police Records (Recordable Offences) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 SI 2007/2121

160. The Police Federation (Amendment) Regulations 2007 SI 2007/2751

161. The Police Reform Act 2002 (Standard Powers and Duties of Community Support Officers) Order 2007 SI 2007/3202

162. The Police Authorities (Particular Functions and Transitional Provisions) Order 2008 SI 2008/82

163. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Codes of Practice) Order 2008 SI 2008/167

164. The Police (Promotion) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 SI 2008/273

165. The Police and Justice Act 2006 (Supplementary and Transitional Provisions) (Amendment) Order 2008 SI 2008/619

166. The Police Authority Regulations 2008 SI 2008/630

167. The Metropolitan Police Authority Regulations 2008 SI 2008/631

168. The Police Authorities (Best Value) Performance Indicators Order 2008 SI 2008/659

169. The Police Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 2008 SI 2008/1887

170. The Police (Retention and Disposal of Motor Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 SI 2008/2096

171. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Codes of Practice) (Revisions to Code A) Order 2008 SI 2008/2638

172. The Police (Performance) Regulations 2008 SI 2008/2862

173. The Police Appeals Tribunals Rules 2008 SI 2008/2863

174. The Police (Conduct) Regulations 2008 SI 2008/2864

175. The Police (Amendment) Regulations 2008 SI 2008/2865

176. The Police (Complaints and Misconduct) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 SI 2008/2866

177. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Codes of Practice) (Revisions to Code A) (No. 2) Order 2008 SI 2008/3146.

Dogs: Crime

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in combating crime involving dogs; and if she will make a statement. [256875]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* There has been no recent assessment of this Act by the Home Department. This Government are determined to curb the use of dogs by criminals and, in particular, gangs. Our proposed amendments to the Police and Crime Bill 2009 will build on existing legislation, to further target the use of dogs by gangs. The amendment

will give the courts power to stop an individual taking charge of a dog in a public place if it is being used to support gang related activity.

Domestic Violence

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the merits of bringing forward proposals to reduce levels of financial abuse in domestic settings; if she will review the Domestic Violence National Action Plan in respect of such proposals; and if she will make a statement. [252446]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government do recognise the financial and economic impact that happens within domestic violence relationships. We are working with stakeholders and the British Banker's Association to ensure that both domestic violence victims and their advisers are more fully informed of their options. We will be considering this issue when developing our Delivery Plan in the future and recently produced a leaflet including some advice on this issue. From the information received on domestic violence cases we are not able to identify the financial abuse aspect.

Driving Under Influence

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of causing death by careless driving when under the influence of *(a)* drugs and *(b)* alcohol have been recorded by police since 2004. [257090]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not currently available. For the period up until 2007-08, the Home Office collected data on recorded offences of 'Causing death by dangerous or careless driving (including while under the influence of drink or drugs)'. However, it has not been possible to determine from the information held centrally which, if any, of these offences were committed while the offender was under the influence.

However, with effect from April 2008, offences of 'Causing death by careless driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol' have been collected separately and figures for 2008-09 will be available in July 2009.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what qualifications the initial assessors referred to in Part 3 of the Drugs Act 2005 are required to have for the role of establishing drug misuse; whether all police stations have at least one qualified initial assessor; and what estimate she has made of the cost of maintaining and training an initial assessor in the last 12 months for which information is available. [256541]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The current specification of the qualifications for initial assessors who deliver interventions under the drug interventions programme is given in the Home Office operational guidance for implementation of testing on arrest, required assessment and restriction on bail. That guidance defines initial assessors as

'somebody who is competent to carry out the initial assessment and will, in almost all instances, be a CJIT (criminal justice integrated team) worker, who will also be employed to carry out voluntary assessments in the same area. All such workers will have, or be working towards, the relevant drug and alcohol national occupational standards (DANOS) competencies'.

In the majority of cases, CJIT workers will carry out initial assessments within custody suites. CJIT workers are employed by drug action teams and substance misuse action teams who are responsible for delivering drug interventions programme services in their areas.

There is no national estimate of the training and maintaining costs of local initial assessors.

Emergency Calls

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent operators for 999 calls there were in each year since 1997; and how many such calls there were in each of those years. [254593]

Jacqui Smith: Data provided from the Home Office's collection relate to the volume of 999 calls since 2005-06, and are given in the following table. Previous data were published as part of HMIC's Annual Report and can be found at:

http://inspectorates.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmic/inspections/annual-reports/

Data for the number of operators dealing specifically with 999 calls are not collected centrally.

Emergency calls received 2005-06 to 2007-08[1]

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Avon and Somerset	266,480	344,717	290,600[2]
Bedfordshire	89,623	97,357	99,700
Cambridgeshire	125,637	142,520	142,806
Cheshire	153,818	153,233	146,632
Cleveland	99,179	104,779	104,190
Cumbria	55,002	59,629	58,766
Derbyshire	138,626	159,363	155,505
Devon and Cornwall	252,408	268,763	261,396
Dorset	93,634	85,140	94,421
Durham	85,431	99,623	94,883
Dyfed-Powys	57,975	52,026	46,709
Essex	237,440	265,394	258,882
Gloucestershire	76,279	467,709	78,263
Greater Manchester	747,224	751,545	650,254
Gwent	97,320	109,401	104,386
Hampshire	275,073	290,987	284,982
Hertfordshire	169,080	168,388	166,416
Humberside	154,598	156,655	154,706
Kent	236,267	234,421	242,194
Lancashire	247,794	266,505	249,028
Leicestershire	155,602	151,539	148,103
Lincolnshire	83,855	88,617	86,525
London, City of	2,166,655	2,282,646	n/a
Merseyside	363,036	374,864	330,640
Metropolitan Police	2,124,000	2,278,003	2,444,417
Norfolk	102,324	104,119	102,293
Northamptonshire	129,349	117,115	116,005
Northumbria	258,920	264,349	269,816
North Wales	107,322	108,884	107,334
North Yorkshire	89,329	97,884	93,902
Nottinghamshire	260,436	265,992	264,515
South Wales	265,312	292,558	279,760
South Yorkshire	264,318	246,170	238,372
Staffordshire	157,108	167,932	166,868
Suffolk	95,663	100,351	96,836
Surrey	150,942	166,496	156,977

Emergency calls received 2005-06 to 2007-08[1]

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Sussex	255,257	272,173	258,740
Thames Valley	331,222	354,667	333,767
Warwickshire	79,476	87,490	81,869
West Mercia	n/a	n/a	136,080
West Midlands	669,615	708,764	679,005
West Yorkshire	436,169	485,859	430,250
Wiltshire	100,162	n/a	96,893

n/a = Data not available.
[1] Provisional data that have not been validated by police forces.

Freedom of Information

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average it took her Department to respond to the requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in 2008. [251763]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available statistics on the timeliness of FOI requests received by the Home Office up to the third quarter of 2008 are published on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the letter to her of 20 October from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms A Mlay. [241694]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 16 December 2008.

National Security

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the appropriateness of the current official threat level. [248350]

Mr. Coaker: The current threat level for international terrorism is set at SEVERE.

The Home Office do not make any assessments into the threat level. The threat level for international terrorism is assessed and set by the joint terrorism analysis centre (JTAC). The Security Service is responsible for assessing the level and nature of the threat arising from domestic terrorism, principally the Irish-related terrorist threat.

More information on how the threat level is assessed can be found on the JTAC website at:

http://www.intelligence.gov.uk/threat_levels.aspx

Offences Against Children: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of progress in securing the co-operation of internet service providers in deploying the blocking list of known child pornography web sites by the Internet Watch Foundation. [257036]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government warmly welcome the work done by industry to block images of child sexual abuse, resulting in 95 per cent. of consumer broadband lines being covered by blocking. The Government would like to thank the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) for their work to manage the creation of their list of sites that should be blocked. The UK now hosts less than 1 per cent. of the total number of child abuse image sites on the internet, and when one is identified it is quickly closed down.

Offensive Weapons: Greater Manchester

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal weapons were confiscated by the Greater Manchester police force in each year since 1997. [244798]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* This information is not held centrally.

Police: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made towards delivering the policing pledge in Enfield. [256780]

Mr. Coaker: All police forces across England and Wales, including the Metropolitan police, have now implemented the national Policing Pledge. This means that every citizen in Enfield and throughout England and Wales has a clear minimum standard of what to expect from their police force. The focus for forces now is ensuring that local pledges are in place and that the public know what they are entitled to.

The Policing Green Paper made it clear that the Home Office will now adopt a more strategic role, strengthening grassroots accountability and enhancing the role of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in providing public assurance about the quality of policing in all forces. Locally, if the public do not feel the commitments embodied in the pledge are being met they can raise this with the police themselves or through their police authority.

Police: ICT

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forces *(a)* have adopted fully and *(b)* are piloting ExISS release 1; how much was spent on the programme in 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [256683]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

ExISS release 1 consists of the police to magistrates court and the police to Crown Prosecution Service links.

As of 18 February 2009, out of 43 police forces, 39 had completed deployment of the police to magistrates court link. 34 police forces had completed deployment of the police to Crown Prosecution Service link with a further eight police forces partially deployed. One police force was in the advanced stages of deployment planning for both release 1 links. No police force is piloting the link, all are either deployed or in the deployment phase.

In the year 2007-08 there was a capital spend of £9 million on the programme.

It should be noted that in addition to the programme to deploy ExISS release 1 to the 43 'Home Office' police forces, a further project is under way to deploy to the British Transport police, managed by the British Transport police themselves, with a target for deployment later in 2009.

The primary aim of ExISS release 1 is to ensure that the links between the applications are being fully utilised in order for police, magistrates court and CPS staff to reduce the amount of re-keying of information that has already been entered into a partner organisation's application. By the end of the financial year 2008-09 it is expected that 40 police forces will have fully deployed ExISS release 1, and by the end of calendar 2009 all 43 forces will have fully deployed ExISS release 1. By the end of calendar 2008 ExISS release 1 had delivered £2.7 million of benefit to the agencies.

Police: Internet

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of the police portal has been to date, including any costs associated with the termination of the contract for the creation of the portal. [256095]

Mr. Coaker: The police portal provided a national communications channel for the Police Service. It was procured in January 2001 and the total annual cost of running this service was just under £2 million per annum up to 31 March 2007 when the contract with the service provider expired. A replacement portal service was planned but owing to a number of issues the contract was terminated.

Legal costs of £1,352,000 (inclusive of solicitors, barristers, experts, mediation costs and court fees) were incurred by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) in connection with legal proceedings associated with the termination of the contract for a replacement portal service.

The proceedings were settled out of court towards the end of 2008 to the mutual satisfaction of both parties. The issues being debated between NPIA and its supplier were set out in publicly available court documents. The terms of the settlement are confidential.

Police: Pay

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the salary range is of the chief constable of each constabulary for each year since 1997. [252942]

Mr. Coaker: Until September 2003, chief constables were paid according to a series of pay scales based on the population of the force area. Information on salaries paid to each chief constable from 1997 to September 2003 is not available centrally. From September 2003, the salaries for each chief constable post in England and Wales is contained in Home Office Circulars, which can be found on the Home Office website at:

http://www.knowledgenetwork.gov.uk/HO/circular.nsf/ViewTemplatepercent20Forpercent20HOCircularsWeb?OpenForm

I am also placing copies of the relevant Home Circulars in the House of Commons Library.

Police: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average total *(a)* direct staff cost, *(b)* operational support cost, *(c)* business support cost and *(d)* cost excluding sustaining overhead for providing police assistance was for (i) a road traffic accident, (ii) public disorder, (iii) a missing person incident, (iv) a sudden or suspicious death and (v) other activities not related to crime was under the activity-based costs model in 2007-08. [256690]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information on the average cost of providing policing assistance in 2007-08 for road traffic accidents, missing person incidents, and sudden or suspicious deaths is set out in the following table:

Average costs of dealing with non-crime incidents

£

	Total Direct Staff Cost (a)	*Total Operational Support Cost (b)*	*Total Business Support Cost (c)*	*Total Cost Excluding Overheads (d)*
(i) Road Traffic Accident	167	112	68	347
(iii) Missing Person Incident	270	195	107	573
(iv) Sudden or Suspicious Death[1]	589	382	240	1,212

[1] These figures exclude Dorset, Essex, the Metropolitan Police, Staffordshire, Suffolk and Thames Valley, from whom data were not available.

Notes:

1. Sudden deaths will only be those reported and later deemed to be non suspicious. All confirmed suspicious deaths amount to crime and would fall within crime data.
2. Consistent costing information is not available for (ii) public disorder and for (v) other non-crime incidents.
3. Unit costs are rounded.

Police: Surveillance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 729W, on police: surveillance, if she will place in the Library a redacted copy of the Guidance on the Lawful and Effective Use of Covert Techniques, removing restricted text. [256773]

Mr. Coaker: We are currently considering the publication of a non-restricted version of the guidance for other public authorities. If this proves practicable than I will be happy to place a copy of this guidance in the Library of the House.

Prostitution

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of women convicted of loitering and soliciting who will be ordered to attend meetings under the provisions of clause 16 of the Policing and Crime Bill in the first year of operation of the legislation. [257282]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has published an impact assessment on this measure, which is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/iapolicecrimebill08/iaprostitutionreferral?view=Binary

This estimates that up to 321 orders will be made in the year following implementation of this legislation.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what resources she plans to make available to implement orders requiring attendance at meetings in clause 16 of the Policing and Crime Bill in the first year of its operation; and who will be responsible for the supervision of women convicted of loitering or soliciting under the terms of the proposed legislation. [257293]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We are currently considering this issue and will outline our plans in due course.

Clause 16 provides for the court to appoint a supervisor in relation to an offender subject to an order. The intention is that the supervisor will normally be based in a dedicated support project for those involved in prostitution, where such a project exists in a local area.

However, the role of the supervisor has not been defined in order to allow flexibility in how the order is delivered, and allow courts to appoint the most appropriate person.

Public Order

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place for regular assessments of threats to public order; how frequently such assessments are carried out; when the last such assessment was made; and what consideration she has given to assessing the threat to public order arising from the current economic situation. [251623]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* The police are very experienced at public order policing and look at all information available to them, including economic factors, at a local and national level, continually, to ensure the police response is the best it can be. The police at the current time possess no information relating to a wave of potentially violent mass protests.

Rape: Convictions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to increase the conviction rate in rape cases; and what assessment she has made of effectiveness of those steps. [255433]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government are committed to increasing the conviction rate for rape. In order to do so the Government have focused their effort on improving the response of the criminal justice system by implementing changes to the ways in which the Police and Crown Prosecution Service investigate and prosecute such cases and by providing special measures in court to ensure that victims are confident to come forward and report an offence, and see it through to conviction. The Government have also provided support for victims through services such as sexual assault referral centres and independent sexual violence advisors.

There are a number of different ways of calculating conviction rates. In respect of cases that are prosecuted as rape that result in a conviction for rape, the conviction rate in 2007 was 37 per cent. This is the highest it has been for 10 years.

Rape: Victim Support Schemes

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of *(a)* the ratio of rape crisis centres to the female population and *(b)* the average waiting list of rape crisis centres in (i) London, (ii) Birmingham, (iii) Manchester, (iv) Newcastle upon Tyne and (v) Norwich; and if she will make a statement. [255615]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government do not collect this information.

Security Guards: Licensing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of appeals against the suspension or revocation of a licence by the Security Industry Authority have been upheld by the courts in each of the last five years. [257051]

Jacqui Smith: Information on the outcome of appeals against the suspension or revocation of a licence has only been collected since April 2008. Data on previous years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Between 1 April 2008 and 31 January 2009, 57 appeals against revocation were lodged, of which six of those that went to a hearing were upheld by the courts.

In the same period seven appeals against suspension were lodged against revocation, of which two of those that went to a hearing were upheld by the courts.

In addition, information about appeals lodged in relation to revocations on the basis of Right to Work checks which have taken place since late 2007 has been recorded separately. In 2007-08, there were 86 appeals lodged against revocation on the basis of Right to Work, of which one of those that went to a hearing was upheld by the courts. Between 1 April 2008 and 31 January 2009, 242 appeals were lodged against revocation on the basis of Right to Work, of which three of those that went to a hearing were upheld by the courts.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many private security licences have been revoked by the Security Industry Authority; [257052]

(2) how many people are listed on the Security Industry Authority's register of licence holders as having a valid licence. [257053]

Jacqui Smith: As at 16 February 2009 the total number of licences revoked by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) was 11,676. The number of valid licences was 299,171.

Statistics for valid and revoked licences are shown on the SIA's website at:

http://www.the-sia.org.uk/home/licensing/stats_2.htm

and are updated every week.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many private security licences are currently suspended by the Security Industry Authority. [257054]

Jacqui Smith: As at 12 February 2009, 220 licences were suspended by the Security Industry Authority.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time to process a licence application from *(a)* British citizens, *(b)* other EEA nationals and *(c)* non-EEA nationals by the Security Industry Authority was in each of the last five years. [257055]

Jacqui Smith: This information is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many offences under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 of *(a)* working without a licence, *(b)* breaking licence conditions and *(c)* deploying unlicensed operatives have been identified by the Security Industry Authority's enforcement activity in each of the last five years; [257057]

(2) how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for offences of (i) working without a licence, (ii) breaking licence conditions and (iii) deploying unlicensed operatives under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 in each of the last five years. [257058]

Jacqui Smith: Data on offences identified by the Security Industry Authority are not available.

The following table provides annual data on the numbers of prosecutions and convictions for the offences of working without a licence and deploying unlicensed operatives under the Private Security Industry Act 2001.

Data on the numbers and prosecutions and convictions for breaking licence conditions are not available. This is because offences under section 9(4) of the Private Security Industry Act 2001 cannot be separately identified.

Data for 2008 will be available in late 2009.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the 2001 Private Security Industry Act, England and Wales, 2004-07[1,2]

		2004		2005		2006		2007	
Offence	*Statute*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Offence of using unlicensed security operative	Private Security Industry Act 2001 s.5(1)(4)	—	—	3	—	13	8	12	8
Offence of using unlicensed wheel clampers operative	Private Security Industry Act 2001 s.6(1)(4)	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	1
Conduct prohibited without a licence	Private Security Industry Act 2001 s.3(1)(6)	6	6	159	65	141	84	235	179

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Sexual Offences

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to gather specific information from local police forces on the ages of victims of sexual crimes in order to *(a)* centrally record and *(b)* centrally analyse the data. [255719]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office is currently developing a new system for receiving recorded crime data from police forces. This is designed to enable forces to submit information in the form of individual crime records. Data, once validated, will give the Home Office access to more detailed information about victims of crimes, including the age of victims. We expect this system to become fully operational during 2009-10.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 were recorded in 2007-08, broken down by offence; what percentage of such offences was proceeded against at court; and what percentage resulted in *(a)* a conviction and *(b)* a sanction detection. [256689]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information is not available in the form requested.

Table 1 gives the number of offences recorded in 2007-08 for the offence classifications which came into force with the introduction of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. It also gives the number of offences detected by means of a sanction detection. Table 2 shows the numbers of defendants proceeded against and found guilty at all courts for 2007 and is taken from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform

The figures given in table 2 relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Recorded crime and court proceedings statistics are from two different databases and recorded in quite different ways. Recorded crime data are provided on a financial year basis and count offences whereas court

proceedings data are on a calendar year basis and count offenders. Therefore, these two separate data-sets are not directly comparable.

Table 1: Offences recorded under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and detected by means of a sanction detection—2007-08

Offence	Number of offences	Number of sanction detections
Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over	1,315	351
Sexual assault on a male child under 13	1,118	354
Rape of a female aged 16 and over	7,613	1,567
Rape of a female child under 16	2,418	680
Rape of a female child under 13	1,472	591
Rape of a male aged 16 and over	334	49
Rape of a male child under 16	235	109
Rape of a male child under 13	427	175
Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over	15,790	4,082
Sexual assault on a female child under 13	3,976	1,445
Sexual activity involving a child under 13	1,836	659
Sexual activity involving child under 16	3,100	1,035
Causing sexual activity without consent	217	57
Incest or familial sexual offences	1 125	429
Sexual activity etc with a person with a mental disorder	128	43
Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography	110	38
Trafficking for sexual exploitation	56	25
Abuse of position of trust of a sexual nature	327	234
Sexual grooming	272	124
Other miscellaneous sexual offences	8,727	2,420

Table 2: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, England and Wales 2007[1,2,3]

Offence	Proceeded against	Found
Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over	125	74
Sexual assault on a male child under 13	130	77
Rape and attempted rape of a female aged 16 and over	1,290	421
Rape and attempted rape of a female child under 16	648	276
Rape and attempted rape of a female child under 13	227	93
Rape and attempted rape of a male aged 16 and over	52	17
Rape and attempted rape of a male child under 16	72	24
Rape and attempted rape of a male child under 13	73	41
Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over	2,225	1,154
Sexual assault on a female child under 13	582	342
Sexual activity involving child under 13	337	206
Sexual activity involving child under 16	692	620
Causing sexual activity without consent	53	19
Incest or familial sexual offences	131	99

Table 2: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, England and Wales 2007[1,2,3]

Offence	Proceeded against	Found
Sexual activity etc. with a person with a mental disorder	30	19
Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography	43	27
Trafficking for sexual exploitation	25	15
Abuse of position of trust of a sexual nature	51	50
Sexual grooming	41	51
Other miscellaneous sexual offences	1,071	763

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] The found guilty column can often exceed the number proceeded against when a conviction takes place in a different month to when the proceeding was originally brought, or for a different offence.

Sexual Offences: Victim Support Schemes

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many local authorities have a specialist support service for women who have suffered sexual violence. [255616]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government do not collect this information.

Stop and Search

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1252W, on stop and search, how many of the resultant arrests were *(a)* made under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2000, *(b)* of people aged 18 years or under and *(c)* of people aged 18 years or under and made under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2000. [256434]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of persons arrested under terrorism legislation and for other reasons following stops and searches under section 44 (sections 1 and 2) of the Terrorism Act 2000, from 1999-2000 to 2006-07 (latest available) are provided in the following table. It is not possible to separately identify arrests under the Terrorism Act 2000 from other terrorism legislation from the information reported to the Home Office.

The data on stops and searches under terrorism legislation reported to the Home Office do not separately identify the age of persons searched.

Searches of pedestrians, vehicles and occupants under sections 44(1) and 44(2) of the Terrorism Act 2000[1] and resultant arrests, 1999-2000 to 2006-07, England and Wales

Number

	Stops and searches in order to prevent acts of terrorism			
		Resultant arrests		
	Total searches	Total arrests	Arrests for terrorism offences	Arrests for other reasons
1999-2000	1,900	18	1	17
2000-01	6,400	45	1	44
2001-02	10,200	189	20	169

Searches of pedestrians, vehicles and occupants under sections 44(1) and 44(2) of the Terrorism Act 2000[1] and resultant arrests, 1999-2000 to 2006-07, England and Wales

Number

	Stops and searches in order to prevent acts of terrorism			
			Resultant arrests	
	Total searches	*Total arrests*	*Arrests for terrorism offences*	*Arrests for other reasons*
2002-03	32,100	380	19	361
2003-04	33,800	491	19	472
2004-05[2]	37,000	468	64	404
2005-06	50,000	563	105	458
2006-07	41,900	480	28	452

[1] Formerly sections 13A and 13B of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989 and repealed under the Terrorism Act 2000 (which came into force on 19 February 2001).
[2] Figures updated since publication of the 2004-05 Bulletin.

Terrorism

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the possible effects of the Israeli military attack on Gaza on future levels of terrorism in the UK. [248497]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not conduct assessments into the threat from international terrorism.

The Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) is responsible for analysing all-source intelligence on the activities, intentions and capabilities of international terrorists who may threaten UK and allied interests worldwide.

Its responsibilities include setting and analysing the threat level for international Terrorism to the UK and its assets, and providing detailed reports on trends, terrorist networks and capabilities.

More information on JTAC can be found here:

http://www.intelligence.gov.uk/agencies/jtac.aspx

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on the *(a)* prepare, *(b)* prevent, *(c)* protect and *(d)* pursue strands of the Contest counter-terrorism strategy in each of the last three years. [254793]

Mr. Coaker: The £2.5 billion Counter Terrorism and Intelligence budget supports a wide range of activities broader than the Contest strategy. In many cases within the Home Office those activities are in support of more than one strand and details spent under each strand is not currently available.

Terrorism: Internet

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK-based websites have been closed down because they contained extremist material inciting terrorism in the last five years. [254791]

Mr. Coaker: The legislation that allows a request to be made that unlawfully terrorism-related material is modified or removed from the internet is section 3 of the Terrorism Act 2006. Section 3 allows for the service of a notice by a constable where he or she is of the opinion that unlawfully terrorism-related material is available on an electronic service such as a website, on the person(s) responsible for that material. The notice requires that the unlawfully terrorism-related material is removed or modified within two working days.

However, the preferred route of the police is to use informal contact with the communication service providers to request that the material is removed. To date no Section 3 notices have been issued as this informal route has proved effective but statistics covering the number of sites removed through such informal contact are not collected.

Theft: Motor Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department has had on the potential of stolen vehicle slowdown technology to assist in stopping vehicles; and if she will make a statement. [256993]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB) is currently undertaking a range of work to identify new means of stopping vehicles. Investigation of existing products has found no commercial off-the-shelf solution that would meet police needs. HOSDB is therefore now looking at different technologies that might be used. The objective is to provide the police with equipment that meets their needs, is safe, affordable and is proportionate to the safety threat posed by a vehicle that has refused to stop and is under police pursuit. We are aware too of the developing potential of remote vehicle slowdown and stopping technology and are keeping in touch with progress to ensure we are able to benefit from advances in this area.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on stolen vehicle slowdown technology to assist the police in stopping vehicles; and if she will make a statement. [256994]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB) is currently undertaking a range of work to identify new means of stopping vehicles. Investigation of existing products has found no commercial off-the-shelf solution that would meet police needs. HOSDB is therefore now looking at different technologies that might be used. The objective is to provide the police with equipment that meets their needs, is safe, affordable and is proportionate to the safety threat posed by a vehicle that has refused to stop and is under police pursuit. We are aware too of the developing potential of remote vehicle slowdown and stopping technology and are keeping in touch with progress to ensure we are able to benefit from advances in this area.

Tobacco: Young People

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences by *(a)* confectioners and tobacconists and *(b)* other retailers selling tobacco products to those aged under 16 were recorded in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; how many police cautions were issued in each case; how many fines were imposed in each case; and what the average fine imposed in each year was. [256752]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information on the number of recorded offences of retailers selling tobacco products to those aged under 16 years is not collected centrally. This is a summary offence and is not included in the police recorded crime statistics.

Statistics on the number of police cautions issued, the number of fines imposed and the average fines have been provided by the Ministry of Justice. The figures cover calendar years and are given in the following table.

Offenders[1] cautioned and fined for selling tobacco etc to persons under 16[2]

	Number of police cautions issued	*Number of fines imposed*	*Average fine amount (£)*
2006	3	51	330
2007	1	49	324

[1] These data are on a principal offence basis.
[2] Children and Young Persons Act 1933 sec 7 as amended by the Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991 sec 1.
Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Community Energy Saving Programme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget of the Community Energy Saving Programme is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the next five years. [255854]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) proposes a new carbon reduction obligation on energy suppliers and electricity generators.

The overall target for the CESP obligation will be specified in the legislation in terms of a carbon points score. We are proposing to set the overall target at a level that we estimate will require the obligated companies to deliver around £350 million worth of measures over the period of the obligation, achieving carbon savings of around 3.9 million tonnes.

The Government are consulting on the timescale for the new CESP obligation, with the proposal that it should run until 2012.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to advise staff of pension options available to them in relation to added years or additional voluntary contributions. [253268]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of their pension on retirement if they continue in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement prompts the member to consider boosting their pension and provides details of the civil service pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including options for making additional voluntary contributions and a calculator to work out costs for added pension (previously added years).

New entrants are informed of pension options in the employment offer and are provided with a pension information pack.

Cabinet Office provides leaflets that explain added pension and additional voluntary contributions for members. The information is also available in scheme booklets. These are available on the civil service pensions website or on request from the member's pensions administrator.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), which was formed on 3 October 2008, consists of posts taken from the existing Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (DEFRA), plus corporate services. DECC staff can access the BERR and DEFRA internal HR intranets to access information on a range of issues. This includes comprehensive information on how staff can boost their pension through added pension and additional voluntary contributions (AVCs).

Departmental Public Consultation

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consultations have been initiated by his Department since 6 October 2008, including the dates given for responses and the intended dates for report. [256037]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* Since 6 October 2008, DECC has initiated the following public consultations:

Consultation	*Start date*	*Closes*	*Intended date of response*
The Environmental Permitting Regulations, Phase 2 (EPP2)	16 February 2009	18 May 2009	15 September 2009
Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP)	12 February 2009	8 May 2009	Summer 2009
Heat and Energy Saving Strategy Consultation	12 February 2009	8 May 2009	End of 2009.
Proposed amendments to the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target 2008-2011	12 February2009	14 April 2009	Summer 2009
The Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study	26 January 2009	23 April 2009	To be announced in due course
Offshore Energy SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Environmental Report	26 January 2009	22 April 2009	To be announced in due course

Consultation	Start date	Closes	Intended date of response
The Justification of Practices involving Ionising Radiation Regulations 2004: Consultation on the Nuclear Industry Association's Application to Justify New Nuclear Power Stations	17 December 2008	25 March 2009	A draft decision document, containing responses to this current consultation, is provisionally intended to be published in September 09. This itself is subject to consultation and the final Justification decision is not expected to be made until January
Consultation on offshore electricity transmission: a further joint Ofgem/DECC regulatory policy update	20 November 2008	9 January 2009	Spring 2009
Carbon units, the net UK carbon account and carbon accounting (under the Climate Change Act)	28 October 2008	19 January 2009	Alongside laying of carbon accounting Statutory Instrument at fiscal Budget 2009

Departmental Redundancy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* voluntary and *(b)* compulsory redundancies there have been in his Department since its creation. [255149]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None since its creation in October.

Electricity: Local Government

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make it his policy to provide guidance to local authorities on the sale of surplus electricity generated by such authorities back to the National Grid; and if he will make a statement. [253579]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* The Government want local authorities to be able to play a full role in development of renewable heat and electricity.

The Local Government Act (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, as amended by the Energy Act 1989, includes a provision preventing local authorities from selling electricity which is produced otherwise than in association with heat.

As announced in the consultation on heat and energy savings strategy, launched on 12 February, we will consult soon on whether and how those restrictions should be changed, with any amendments enacted through secondary legislation.

Electricity: Small Businesses

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average amount a small business spent on its electricity supply in the last 12 months. [256680]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not hold any data on electricity prices paid by small businesses. Data on prices are collected based on energy consumption levels, which do not always correspond to business size. Energy expenditure as a share of turnover varies widely from around 1 per cent. to over 20 per cent. depending upon the nature of the business.

Energy prices for non-domestic consumers by consumption band are published quarterly in Table 3.4.1 of 'Quarterly Energy Prices', the latest edition of which was published in December 2008 and is available online at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file49203.pdf

Energy Saving Trust

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which Minister in his Department oversees the *(a)* Carbon Trust and *(b)* Energy Saving Trust; and if he will make a statement. [256856]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I oversee the Carbon Trust and my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change is responsible for the Energy Savings Trust.

Energy Supply: Competition

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 118W, on energy supply, whether he received advice on competition issues from officials prior to the meeting he held with the main energy supply companies on 17 November 2008. [255957]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I am told that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy regularly requests and receives oral and written advice on a number of issues relating to competition in the energy supply markets, and did so prior to that meeting.

Energy Supply: Unfair Practices

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to eradicate sales malpractices by gas and electricity suppliers. [255331]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) is responsible for regulating gas and electricity supply, including the sales practice of suppliers. It is open to Ofgem to take enforcement action where it considers there has been a breach of any relevant licence condition or other obligations. In December 2008, Ofgem announced that it was fining Npower £1.8million for breach of its licence obligations for failing to take sufficient action to prevent mis-selling of energy contracts to customers.

Energy: Meters

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the number of domestic *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity meters in UK households that are (i) less than five years old and (ii) between five and 10 years old. [255980]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Around 5 per cent. of the domestic meter stock is replaced or newly installed each year—around one million gas and 1.35 million electricity meters. On that basis, five million gas and 6.75 million electricity meters will be less than five years old, and a further five million gas and 6.75 million electricity meters will be between five and 10 years old.

Energy: Prices

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether Ofgem has received notifications from energy supply companies of intentions to reduce domestic energy prices since British Gas last reduced its prices to domestic consumers. [253911]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Ofgem had anticipated moves to reduce prices prior to British Gas' announcement and expects further moves from other suppliers. Scottish and Southern Electricity plc has already announced that it will reduce its prices for domestic gas and electricity customers on 30 March 2009, and E.On has also made an announcement. However, there is no legal requirement for suppliers to share details of price movements with the regulator prior to their being announced publicly.

From February, Ofgem will publish the first of its quarterly reports showing the relationship between wholesale energy costs and retail prices, which should improve transparency for customers.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average cost of household energy in each of the last 10 years in each *(a)* Government Office region, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* constituency. [257601]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC does not hold billing information by Government office region, local authority or constituency.

However, DECC does hold information on the average annual gas and electricity bills a household is likely to incur in each PES (public electricity supplier) area and gas LDZ (local distribution zone). These bills are based on standard consumption levels of 3,300 kWh for electricity and 18,000 kWh for gas for customers paying their bill on receipt(standard credit). As the PES and LDZ regions do not exactly match data for electricity and gas are shown separately.

Average annual electricity bills[1] for standard credit customers from 1998 until 2008

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
East Midlands	261	254	240	233	228	228	239	266	321	372	396
Eastern	263	251	241	230	227	226	231	262	316	368	393
London	263	258	252	246	244	249	252	288	339	371	392
Merseyside and North Wales	280	278	271	261	260	261	274	286	357	396	422
North East	287	284	264	253	253	250	256	288	341	402	429
North West	260	257	249	239	237	235	243	270	327	380	407
Northern Ireland	326	326	308	317	325	325	329	338	360	377	394
Northern Scotland	280	277	272	266	271	275	291	304	338	380	401
South East	258	251	243	235	235	241	243	280	328	360	383
South Wales	304	297	285	282	281	283	292	315	364	403	422
South West	280	274	271	266	264	269	273	308	362	395	420
Southern	257	255	254	253	254	255	264	285	335	368	380
Southern Scotland	273	272	268	267	266	266	286	316	369	408	425
West Midlands	253	252	245	239	237	238	247	279	333	391	414
Yorkshire	256	252	250	241	239	239	248	279	335	396	417
UK	269	264	257	250	249	250	257	285	338	383	405

[1] For consumption of 3,300 kWh per annum

Average annual gas bills[1] for standard credit customers from 1998 until 2008

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
East Midlands	316	303 -	292	290	309	312	331	383	473	552	572
Eastern	318	305	296	291	309	321	332	383	474	551	575
London	318	305	295	293	309	320	334	388	480	556	572
North East	309	304	294	290	309	318	332	385	474	557	563
North West	314	304	295	294	312	317	330	383	474	555	578
Northern	315	301	290	292	312	319	333	380	468	553	564
Scotland	313	307	297	294	311	320	332	384	469	547	563
South East	314	305	296	295	311	324	333	387	478	554	572
South West	312	306	299	297	312	322	334	389	478	554	571
Southern	316	307	299	296	311	322	336	390	472	547	565
Wales	313	297	291	291	306	318	335	391	460	534	553
West Midlands	317	307	297	296	313	324	333	389	480	556	571
Great Britain	315	305	295	293	310	320	333	386	474	552	570

[1] For consumption of 18,000 kWh per annum

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the oudget of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme is. [255988]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The total budget for the Low Carbon Buildings Programme is £86 million. Phase One of the programme was launched in April 2006; it has a budget of £36 million and is currently only open to household applications. Phase Two was announced in the Budget 2006 and provides an additional £50 million of funding for applications from the public sector, communities and not-for-profit organisations.

Office For Nuclear Development

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many secondees from the nuclear industrial sector *(a)* within the UK and *(b)* abroad have been recruited to the Office of Nuclear Development; for what period each is seconded; who pays their salary; and what criteria were used in their appointment. [253931]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Office for Nuclear Development (OND) currently employs five secondees from the nuclear industrial sector, or from commercial organisations which have been involved directly in, or in giving advice to clients involved in, the nuclear industry. The organisations who have seconded staff into the OND are Allen and Overy, CH2M Hill, Clifford Chance KPMG, and WS Atkins.

Each secondee was recruited from an organisation operating within the UK, although one individual is a non-UK national. The length of secondments in the OND currently ranges from six months to three years.

Individuals' salaries continue to be paid by their seconding organisations, but the Department reimburses seconding organisations at a rate appropriate to the equivalent civil service grade.

Secondees were appointed on the basis of their experience and ability to contribute to the work and objectives of the OND, and on our being satisfied that there is no conflict of interest in their working for the OND.

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Prosecutions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 there were in respect of *(a)* noise, *(b)* graffiti and fly-posting and *(c)* waste and litter in (i) each local authority and (ii) each police basic command unit in 2007-08. [256684]

Maria Eagle: The information requested covering the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for noise, waste offences and littering in England and Wales for 2007 by police force area, are provided in the following table. Offences of graffiti and fly-posting are not separately identifiable from other criminal damage offences (for example vandalism and damaging property) from the information reported to the Ministry of Justice.

It is not possible to separately identify prosecutions taking place in (i) local authority area and (ii) basic command units within police force areas in England and Wales from the information reported to the Ministry of Justice.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for waste disposal offences, littering and noise offences, by region, and police force area in England and Wales, 2007[1,2,3,4]

	Proceeded against				
Statute	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec.33(8)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec.33(9)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec.33(6)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec.87*	*Noise Act 1996*
Force					
Avon and Somerset	2	0	9	14	0
Bedfordshire	4	2	1	1	0
Cambridgeshire	13	0	2	49	0
City of London	0	0	0	1	0
Cheshire	3	7	0	5	0
Cleveland	12	3	3	102	0
Cumbria	3	2	1	24	0
Derbyshire	3	0	9	33	0
Devon and Cornwall	19	6	5	91	0
Dorset	2	0	1	9	0
Durham	1	0	0	15	0
Essex	4	0	10	54	0
Gloucestershire	0	0	5	20	0
Greater Manchester	49	16	54	887	0
Hampshire	1	0	5	12	0
Hertfordshire	5	1	9	2	0
Humberside	17	0	8	50	0

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for waste disposal offences, littering and noise offences, by region, and police force area in England and Wales, 2007[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Proceeded against				
Statute	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec.33(1)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec.33(9)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec.33(6)*	*Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec.87*	*Noise Act 1996*
Kent	3	18	4	30	0
Lancashire	18	22	9	57	0
Leicestershire	9	2	6	37	0
Lincolnshire	13	2	1	11	0
Merseyside	8	0	17	66	0
Metropolitan Police	47	4	86	61	0
Norfolk	0	0	0	5	0
North Yorkshire	6	1	6	0	2
Northamptonshire	2	0	0	15	0
Northumbria	22	1	0	711	0
Nottinghamshire	2	0	18	63	0
South Yorkshire	9	0	22	101	0
Staffordshire	0	0	4	8	0
Suffolk	5	0	0	8	0
Surrey	4	0	6	2	0
Sussex	6	2	3	1	0
Thames Valley	35	0	9	5	0
Warwickshire	1	0	0	5	0
West Mercia	5	0	12	13	0
West Midlands	53	8	19	178	0
West Yorkshire	4	0	37	262	1
Wiltshire	0	0	7	1	0
Dyfed-Powys	2	0	12	8	0
Gwent	3	0	26	9	0
North Wales	0	1	5	10	0
South Wales	8	1	35	27	0
England and Wales	403	99	466	3,063	3

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes some offences of fly-posting and graffiti, but cannot separately identify such offences.
[4] Corresponding offence descriptions for statutes are as follows:
Depositing, causing the deposition or permitting the deposition, treating, keeping or disposing of controlled (but not special) waste in or on land without a licence.
Depositing, causing the deposition or permitting the deposition of controlled special waste in or on land without a licence.
Contravening conditions of a waste management licence.
Depositing litter.
Noise exceeds permitted level after service of notice and other summary offences.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis—Ministry of Justice

Bail Accommodation and Support Service

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any category of *(a)* defendant and *(b)* convicted offender is to be excluded from receiving assistance under the Bail Accommodation and Support Service. [257639]

Mr. Hanson: Those charged with or convicted of sex offences, those charged with or convicted of arson of buildings, those who are considered to pose a significant risk to the public or to staff and those under 18 years of age are excluded from this service.

Additionally defendants will only be released into the service if they are granted bail. The court may refuse bail if it is considered that the defendant would if granted bail abscond, offend or interfere with witnesses.

Offenders are excluded unless they are eligible for and are granted home detention curfew or are given a placement in the service as part of a community order as an intensive alternative to custody. The home detention curfew scheme applies primarily to prisoners serving sentences of at least three months but less than four years. Prisoners subject to the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, prisoners serving public protection sentences and foreign national prisoners who are liable to removal are statutorily excluded from release under the home detention curfew scheme. In addition, prisoners serving sentences for certain serious violent offences and prisoners with any history of sexual offending are presumed unsuitable unless there are exceptional circumstances. Prisoners must pass a risk assessment to be released on HDC and are not referred to ClearSprings unless the Governor considers the prisoner is suitable for release.

Full details of the eligibility criteria for HDC and the assessment process are contained in Prison Service Order 6700 home detention curfew and details of the bail accommodation and support service are contained in Prison Service Instructions 29/2007 and 49/2007 which are available on the HM Prison Service website.

Data Protection: Fines

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 amending the Data Protection Act 1998 to grant the Information Commissioner powers to fine organisations which have deliberately or recklessly breached data protection rules were first scheduled to enter into force; when he expects them to enter into force; and for what reason the commencement has been delayed. [257633]

Mr. Wills: We are committed to bringing these provisions into force as soon as possible. We will continue to work with the Information Commissioner's Office to provide the Commissioner with the powers he needs to impose appropriate penalties on organisations who fail to comply with the data protection principles.

Departmental Catering

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks suppliers have been used by his Department in each of the last three years; and how much his Department paid to each such supplier in each of those years. [248389]

Maria Eagle: The data in the following tables show spend on food and drink by supplier at the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) since its creation on 1 May 2007. The majority of spend is on food for use in HM Prison Service and includes food for resale to staff and catering for prisoners and staff. The remainder represents food for catering across other parts of the Ministry of Justice. 93.4 per cent. of Ministry of Justice spend on food in 2007-08 were through nationally contracted suppliers.

National contracted suppliers are shown separately in each section. These are the suppliers that are expected to be used on a continuous basis. Those marked with an asterix are used in the current financial year. All other contracts have expired and have been subsumed into other contracts by application of MOJ food procurement policy.

Ad-hoc supplier spend includes a combination of off-contract spend, food bought for resale (e.g. staff canteens) and the use of the Government Procurement Card (for ad-hoc purchases, e.g. unavailable within national contracts or emergency requirement). These figures may also include some non-food items as there are suppliers within this list that sell non-food items which are however primarily a food provider.

It was only possible to identify the use of these suppliers following implementation of an e-procurement system in 2007. By the nature of these purchases, it is not expected that these suppliers will be used in the future.

Food:

Nationally contracted suppliers[1], 2007-08

Supplier name	£
Angro Fresh (UK) Ltd.	189,647.60
Bristol Fruit Sales	73,791.39
British Bakeries*	3,439,344.57
Case N. H. Ltd.*	7,058,339.94
Dairy Farmers of Britain	470,840.59
Histon Produce Co. Ltd.	29,669.46
John Palin (Wholesale) Ltd.	103,745.50
K. Fresh Ltd	155,083.50
Lakeland Dairies	22,472.64
M. J. Morris and Son Ltd.	74,447.54
Minor Weir and Willis Ltd.	428,211.19
R. S. Cockerill (York) Ltd.	86,338.54
Redbridge Produce and Flowers Ltd.	160,980.44
S. T. Holmes	385,601.91
Thomas Baty (Newcastle upon Tyne) Ltd.	22,350.08
Yeardley Food Sales*	11,773,293.97

[1] Contracts that did not expire in financial year 2007-08 are marked with an asterix.

Ad-hoc suppliers, 2007-08

Supplier name	£
A. D. M. Milling Ltd.	2,219.26
Aldington Abattoir	9,268.72
Aldridges	14,858.56
Allied Bakeries	2,263.10
Alpha Foods (Notts) Ltd.	166,739.08
Anglo Dutch Meats (Charing) Ltd.	1,583.56
Aubrey Allen Ltd.	12,249.00
Bakerlow Ltd.	1,025.10
Barry Gibbons Dairy Produce Ltd.	2,038.65
Beesons Butchers	1,448.40
Brambledown Farm Shop	19,640.72
C+D Oil Ltd.	9,902.45
Central Supplies (Brierley Hill) Ltd.	316,310.86
Choices from Fine Dining	2,675.46
Church Farm Foods	3,383.50
Churchill Food Products Ltd.	4,291.31
Classic Fresh Foods	4,433.96
Coastline Produce Ltd.	7,194.98
Corbans Restaurant and Bar	1,559.67
Coultons Bread Ltd. T/A Happy Bread	22,526.62
Cream of the Crop	4,453.45
D and M Wholesalers	20,783.46
Dairy Crest Ltd.	26,114.83
Dalestorth Bakery Ltd.	1,193.46
Deli Central	4,362.97
Drinkwaters	4,570.90
E. B. and J. H. Franks	1,185.00
E. C. Longworth	1,783.54
Emerson and Wests of Market Harborough Ltd.	1,917.05
European Freeze Dry	9,792.00
Five Winds Farm	7,373.48
Fresh 'N' Fruity	3,278.30
Fryers Catering Services	6,845.00
G. and J. Collins	133,938.92
Ginsters	1,597.92
Godden Butchers	17,874.11
Golden Vale Dairies Ltd.	5,516.00
Hopwells Ltd.	18,446.49
Hunts Bakery	1,676.23
Island Farm Eggs	5,357.80
James Burrows Ltd.	3,994.92
Jan Marie Bakery	865.00
Jennings Butchers	1,204.86
JSL Meats	32,138.77
K and B Meats Ltd.	20,484.62
Kirby and West Ltd.	2,937.78
Le Pain Nouveau Ltd.	2,559.60
Little Angus Ltd.	9,273.00
M. Leggate and Sons	1,386.75
Major International Ltd.	14,927.11

Ad-hoc suppliers, 2007-08

Supplier name	£
Maldon Fruit	13,522.45
Manor House Produce Ltd.	1,870.25
Market Garden Prod	5,457.09
Michael Mcdonald	1,401.10
Morris of Coppull	20,582.02
N. G. Woodcock T/A Quality Meats	2,742.09
Nestle Chilled. Sales	1,375.11
Newport Butchers and Bak	1,078.24
North Country Quality Foods Ltd.	5,986.23
North Surrey Bakers	6,876.64
Old Stables Farm	5,585.90
Passion for Food	1,319.75
Pershore Produce (Fruit and Vegetables) Ltd.	4,160.30
Potts Bakers	1,710.56
R. A. Fyfe and Sons Butche	6,782.85
R. Foster and Son Ltd.	1,287.16
Rags (UK) Ltd.	7,299.70
Reeve the Baker	2,869.70
Robinsons the Master Bakers	1,041.79
Rochesters Provisions	3,400.63
Rye Spice Co. Ltd.	1,496.88
Salvatori	9,586.30
Sandy's Bakehouse Ltd.	51,764.05
Silverdale Chilled Foods Ltd.	19,027.61
Sleaford Quality Foods Ltd.	3,494.54
Start Fresh Ltd.	4,177.88
Steers the Grumpeours Ltd.	3,053.30
Summer Garden	1,033.27
Sunnyside Distribution Ltd.	960.84
T. D. Radcliffe	64,305.70
Tavern Fayre	46,121.54
The Bakery	852.50
The Chilled Food Co. T/A Stevens Food	2,565.06
The County Loaf	8,760.24
The Donut Cake Co. Ltd.	1,755.32
The Fresh Food Co.	3,230.23
The Fruit Basket	1,945.17
The Good Food Chain Ltd.	1,778.23
The Uppercrust Pie Co. Ltd.	3,570.56
The Yorkshire Meat Co. Ltd.	10,038.36
Thompson R. H. and Co. Ltd.	5,400.00
Three Counties Frozen Foods	5,745.44
Tindale and Stanton Ltd. — in Administration	105,964.92
Tom Mitchell (Cornwall) Ltd.	55,359.17
Total Produce (Cardiff)	13,857.69
Tps Chilled Foods	1,055.76
Trotters Family Bakers	20,565.35
W and J Parker (Wholesale) Ltd.	5,465.22
Walkers	1,615.91
Waterfields (Leigh) Ltd.	15,358.94
Wealer Foods Ltd.	10,084.94
Wenlock Food Services Ltd.	4,695.65
Wenspeare Butchers Ltd.	1,149.68

Ad-hoc suppliers, 2007-08

Supplier name	£
A. C. Ward and Son Ltd.	492,464.19
A. F. Blakemore and Son Ltd.	1,135.75
Abbey Cards	2,022.47
Allsports International Ltd.	69,702.45
ASDA Stores Ltd.	75,624.40
B. A. Cash and Carry	1,747.58
Cadbury Trebor Basset	960.00
Carlisle Mini Market	1,163.04
Charles of Cheddar Ltd.	151,595.46
Cnp Professional Limit	5,414.40
Deebee	5,913.07
Eyke Stores	10,114.17
Farmfoods	1,585.13
First Choice Wholesale Foods Ltd.	13,275.85
Freemans Confectionery Supplies Ltd.	335,194.35
Goodness Foods Ltd.	4,531.98
Grantham Village Shop	4,459.91
H and M Bottomley Ltd.	946.83
Haji Cash and Carry	1,416.02
Holland and Barr Direct	7,211.25
Howarth J. and C. (Wholesale) Ltd.	23,023.99
Hyperama Cash and Carry	3,202.60
I. A. Harris and Sons Ltd.	7,779.52
Iceland	8,310.93
Jill M. Jones	1,585.74
K. K. News	15,938.10
Kaiser 4 Cash and Carry Ltd.	875.98
Makro Self Service	96,618.30
North Cave News Agency	4,514.87
Overton Stores	3,464.97
Patel R. J.	11,283.13
Peacocks of Richmond	1,178.66
Proctor's Quality Produce Ltd.	4,503.10
Raynor Foods Ltd.	17,947.20
S. and A. Convenience Ltd.	6,762.87
Sainsbury's	66,656.38
Somerfield	3,755.67
Spar (Penny Rd) Ltd.	1,629.77
Suma Wholefoods	7,038.20
Tesco	154,675.76
The Corner Shop	7,329.31
The Village Stores	2,350.04
Thomas Ridley and Son Ltd.	71,336.12
Tropicana Health and Fitness	19,603.05
Turner and Wrights Ltd.	4,321.63
Vicky's Convenience Store	14,876.09
Vitality Group Ltd.	8,089.23
W. M. Morrison plc.	27,254.03
Waitrose	69,546.18
Western Wholesale Ltd.	9,689.91
Wing Yip Ltd.	3,865.03

Food and Drinks:

Nationally contracted suppliers[1], 2007-08

Supplier name	£
Bfs Group Ltd. (trading as 366.1)*	23,910,359.78
Chequer Foods Ltd.	223,112.29
DBC Foodservice	420,026.00

[1] Contracts that did not expire in financial year 2007-08 are marked with an asterix.

Drinks:

Nationally contracted suppliers

No separate national drink contracts existed in 2007-08 as they were encompassed within other national contracts.

Ad-hoc suppliers, 2007-08

Supplier name	£
A. G. Barr plc	12,967.50
Bebida Beverage Solutions Ltd.	1,576.25
Discount Coffee Ltd.	985.11
Fresh Ground Coffee Service	2,350.74

Office supplies, 2007-08

Supplier name	£
Freshmount Coffee Co. Ltd.	9,208.36
Kraft Foods UK Ltd.	15,811.28
Majestic Wine Warehouses Ltd.	8,286.02
Mars Drinks	37,335.96
Mike Coffee South West Ltd.	1,551.40
Mountain Spring Water Co. Ltd. (The)	1,332.75
Oddbins	1,967.85
Springfield Soft Drinks	22,325.31
Tchibo Coffee International Ltd.	10,209.85
The County Arms	1,680.00
The Crown Wetheral	2,445.46
The Drury Tea and Coffee Co. Ltd.	4,570.00
The Silver Spring Mineral Water Co.	17,503.74
Thorny Work	1,876.60
Tom Trading Ltd.	5,181.80
Wenlock Spring Water	7,915.85
Wetherells Contract Ltd.	1,458.00

Departmental Marketing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [243715]

Mr. Straw: Since Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007 and to end March 2008 the total figure for spend on advertising was £6.3 million. Figures are available only on a full financial year basis and it is not possible to provide accurate data for December 2007 to December 2008.

A breakdown of these figures is given in the answer to the right hon. Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1671W. Approximately £6 million of the total £6.3 million was spent on recruitment advertising, principally by Her Majesty's Prison Service.

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many staff in his Department or its predecessors were on sick leave for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days in each of the last five years; [256331]

(2) what the average number of days sick leave per staff member in his Department and its predecessors was in each of the last five years; [256386]

(3) were recorded as having been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December in each year since his Department was established; [256642]

Mr. Straw: For the year 2007-08 the average number of days of sick absence per person in the Ministry of Justice was 10.4 days.

Due to a machinery of government change the Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007. The figures for its predecessor the Department for Constitutional Affairs are contained in the following table.

Department for Constitutional Affairs sickness absence rate

	Working days lost	Average staff in post	Working days lost per person
2003-04	128170	12158	10.5
2004-05	124390	12643	9.8
2005-06	174096	16702	10.4
2006-07	276166	25395	10.9

Absence data for 2003 to 2007 for the Prison Service and National Offender Management Service headquarters are contained in the following table.

Prison Service sickness absence rates

	Working days lost	Average staff in post	Working days lost per person
2003-4	628623	47224	13.3
2004-5	616367	48607	12.7
2005-6	589211	48419	12.2
2006-7	573071	49216	11.6

While the MoJ does monitor long term sickness absence it does not record it centrally in these categories and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Dovegate Prison: Fines

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what financial penalties the operators of Dovegate prison have incurred in respect of failures to meet contractual obligations in each year since it opened; and in each case *(a)* what penalty was imposed, *(b)* when it was imposed and *(c)* what action was taken to remedy the breach. [257467]

Mr. Hanson: There is a mechanism contained within the Dovegate contract that allows the authority to recover the cost of services which have not been provided but have been agreed by the parties under the terms of contract.

The financial deduction is dealt with under a "performance measure" that means events or circumstances in respect of which there may be a reduction in the amount payable to the contractor. If the contractor fails to achieve the required and previously agreed output then "performance points" are levied. Fines are not imposed on the contractor. Performance points have a financial value which is a pre-estimated loss (between authority and contractor) of services not provided. Any claim for services not provided is deducted from the monthly operating fee invoice.

Driving Offences: Fines

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of drivers with foreign-registered cars did not pay fines for motoring offences in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* the last 12 months. [256395]

Maria Eagle: Financial penalties for motoring offences can take the form of a fixed penalty notice issued by the police or a fine imposed by the courts.

Information held centrally by the Home Office on fixed penalty notices issued by the police does not identify where a vehicle is registered. In addition it is not possible from the information held by the Ministry of Justice to identify separately the payment rate of court fines arising from specific offences.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions of uninsured drivers there were in each police force area in 2007-08; and what the average penalty imposed was. [256686]

Maria Eagle: The number of proceedings at the magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, and the average fine imposed, by police force area, for the years 2006 and 2007 are shown in the following table.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of proceedings at magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1], and average fine imposed[2] by police force area, England and Wales, 2006-07[3, 4]

	2006		2007	
Police force area	*Proceedings*	*Average fine (£)*	*Proceedings*	*Average fine (£)*
Avon and Somerset	11,834	155	8,613	155
Bedfordshire	4,356	183	3,641	210
Cambridgeshire	4,107	182	3,013	186
Cheshire	4,463	195	5,069	224
Cleveland	4,013	210	2,676	216
Cumbria	2,654	186	2,289	193
Derbyshire	4,352	372	4,962	379
Devon and Cornwall	7,500	150	6,125	161
Dorset	5,177	176	5,000	186
Durham	3,285	132	3,276	138
Essex	6,507	202	6,799	217
Gloucestershire	2,838	140	2,471	156
Greater Manchester	26,516	181	19,870	186
Hampshire	6,529	141	6,119	150
Hertfordshire	7,641	216	5,655	216
Humberside	5,085	194	3,271	200
Kent	8,154	221	7,142	223
Lancashire	15,246	183	13,228	191
Leicestershire	5,912	152	4,144	163
Lincolnshire	5,242	196	3,910	202
London, City of	1,575	214	1,416	245
Merseyside	7,807	147	8,782	156
Metropolitan Police	46,132	179	46,095	195
Norfolk	4,054	165	3,671	167
Northamptonshire	3,859	172	2,155	175
Northumbria	10,347	148	8,665	153
North Yorkshire	3,270	185	3,163	193
Nottinghamshire	5,994	147	5,675	159
South Yorkshire	10,307	143	7,414	157
Staffordshire	6,328	256	4,993	257
Suffolk	3,799	162	2,787	168
Surrey	4,173	217	5,879	236
Sussex	5,074	169	5,209	185
Thames Valley	10,329	217	9,325	226
Warwickshire	3,512	230	2,899	229
West Mercia	7,042	218	5,608	223
West Midlands	29,998	211	21,502	209
West Yorkshire	21,641	146	15,666	147
Wiltshire	4,466	228	3,122	217
Dyfed-Powys	2,413	191	2,273	206
Gwent	3,088	172	2,244	174
North Wales	5,057	173	3,741	175
South Wales	11,805	158	9,702	167
England and Wales	353,481	185	299,559	194

[1] An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 143 (2).
[2] Magistrates courts data only. Fines given at the Crown court total nationally (England and Wales) less than 10 each year.
[3] It is known that for some police force areas the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis unit.

Driving under Influence

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group were convicted for driving under the influence of alcohol in each police authority area in each of the last five years. [256658]

Maria Eagle: Tables giving available information held by the Ministry of Justice on convictions at all courts for offences of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs for the years 2003 to 2007 (latest available), broken down by sex, age group and police force area have been placed in the House Library. Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009. The data provided covers both drink and drugs offences combined, as volumes of convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs cannot be provided separately.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what percentage of people eligible to vote in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* ward of each constituency were registered to vote in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2008; [257318]

(2) what percentage of those eligible to vote were registered to vote in each local authority in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last 12 years; [257320]

(3) how many electors there were in each ward of *(a)* the Vale of Clwyd and *(b)* Denbighshire in each of the last 12 years. [257319]

Mr. Wills: Figures in relation to the percentage of people eligible to vote in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* ward of each constituency were registered to vote in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2008 and the percentage of those eligible to vote were registered to vote in each local authority in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last 12 years are not available. This is because the Office for National Statistics (ONS) does not hold data for the population eligible to vote in parliamentary elections, which includes British citizens resident overseas and excludes foreign citizens (from

outside the British Commonwealth and Republic of Ireland) resident within England and Wales.

In addition, it is not known how many electors there were in each ward of *(a)* the Vale of Clwyd and *(b)* Denbighshire in each of the last 12 years. However, I am aware that in response to a recent parliamentary question—17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 889 ONS provided the actual number of electors registered in each ward during this period.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the likely levels of compliance with requirements for individual voter registration by members of different social groups; [257463]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effect of individual voter registration on *(a)* levels of voter registration and *(b)* the accuracy of the register; and if he will make a statement. [257713]

Mr. Wills: As my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice) explained in answer to similar questions from the hon. Gentleman on 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1096W, and 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 242W, the Government have not made any assessment of the impact that individual voter registration is likely to have on the levels of registration and the accuracy of the register. We are aware that any new system of electoral registration in Great Britain would need to be tailored to current circumstances, and in particular would need to address the challenge of under-registration.

The Government are committed to the principle of individual registration. But this would be a far-reaching reform, and it would need to be undertaken with great care—both to make sure a new system is robust, and to ensure that it properly tackles the problem of under-registration.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people eligible but not registered to vote in each of the last 11 years, broken down by region; [257708]

(2) what the average rate of voter registration is in the 100 *(a)* least and *(b)* most deprived wards; what assessment he has made of the effects of individual voter registration on the rate of registration in such wards; and if he will make a statement. [257722]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects of individual voter registration on the level of voter registration. [257743]

Mr. Wills: As my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice) explained in answer to these questions from the hon. Gentleman on 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 887W, the Government have not made any estimate of the number of people eligible but not registered to vote in each of the last 11 years, as such information is not available. However, the Electoral Commission estimated that 3.5 million eligible electors were not registered to vote in their report, 'Understanding Electoral Registration', which was published in 2005.

It is not known what the average rate of voter registration is in the 100 *(a)* least and *(b)* most deprived wards, as this information is not collected by Government. However, any new system of electoral registration in GB would need to be tailored to current circumstances, and in particular would need to address the challenge of under-registration.

Electoral Register: Local Government

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of trends in the annual expenditure of local authority electoral registration officers over the last 10 years; [257464]

(2) if he will assess the merits of ring-fencing funds allocated to local government for registration of voters. [257718]

Mr. Wills: As my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice) explained in answer to a similar question from the hon. Gentleman on 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 241W there are no current plans to ring-fence funding for electoral registration activities. Funding is included in the local authority formula grant issued by central Government. Once these funds are allocated, decisions on how it is utilised are a matter for the local authorities concerned. There is also a parallel protocol which states that unless there is an exceptional reason to do so, money provided to local authorities for discharging their statutory responsibilities should not be 'ring-fenced'.

There has been no assessment of the trends in the annual expenditure of local authority electoral registration officers over the past 10 years. However, as part of its work in developing Performance Standards for electoral services, the Electoral Commission launched its financial information survey across Great Britain on 10 September 2007. Electoral Registration Officers and Returning Officers were asked to complete the survey and return it by 31 July 2008. The Commission is currently analysing this information in conjunction with CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants) and will publish results in due course.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of funding of local authority registration officers in relation to their objectives to increase voter registration; what assessment he has made of the relationship between additional funding and increased voter registration; and if he will make a statement; [257709]

(2) how much of the funding allocated to local authorities for registration for elections taking place in 2008-09 has been spent on voter registration. [257719]

Mr. Wills: As my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice) explained in answer to this question from the hon. Gentleman on 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 242W, as part of the development of the Electoral Administration Act 2006, which included a new duty to undertake work to ensure all eligible people were registered to vote, a need for additional resources was identified. Monies were made available to support this work as part of the funding provided for the implementation of the Act.

Section 67 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 allows the Electoral Commission to set and monitor performance standards for electoral services. As part of

its work in developing performance standards for electoral services, the Commission launched its financial information survey across Great Britain on 10 September 2007. Electoral registration officers and returning officers were asked to complete the survey and return it by 31 July 2008. The Commission is currently analysing this information in conjunction with CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants) and will publish results in due course. It will be for the Commission to decide whether it wishes to collect and publish financial information in relation 2008-09.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment his Department has made of the reasons for any variation in levels of electoral registration between different local authorities; [257726]

(2) if he will commission research on the effects on electoral registration rates of levels of functional illiteracy in the population; [257710]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of those eligible to vote but not registered to do so in each parliamentary constituency. [257724]

Mr. Wills: As my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice) explained in answer to similar questions from the hon. Member on 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1000-01W, the Government have not made an assessment of the reasons for variations in the levels of electoral registration between different local authorities. There are no plans at present to commission research on the effects of functional illiteracy in the population on electoral registration rates. The Government have not made any estimate of the number of people eligible but not registered to vote in each parliamentary constituency. Whatever the reasons for shortfalls, the Government are determined to take all practicable measures to increase levels of registration. Since 2006, the numbers of those registered to vote have increased by 679,439 for parliamentary elections and 976,394 for local government elections.

The Electoral Administration Act includes a provision for the Electoral Commission to introduce new performance standards for Electoral Registration Officers. The Electoral Commission published its Performance Standards for Electoral Registration Officers in Great Britain in July 2008. A copy of these standards has been laid before the House and the information obtained from local authorities as a consequence will enable us to get a better understanding of the actions taken to increase registration. The Commission intends to produce a report on performance against the standards during spring 2009.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* duties and *(b)* powers local electoral registration officers have to promote electoral registration. [257988]

Mr. Wills: The Government have taken a number of steps to help Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) promote and increase electoral registration rates. Section 9 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (EA Act) placed a new duty on EROs to take all necessary steps to maintain the electoral register, including sending the annual canvass form more than once, making house-to house-inquiries and inspecting records that an ERO is permitted to inspect. These records are those held by the local authority and include council tax, land and property, housing benefit and educational where available. It is for each ERO to decide on the best steps to use in conjunction with their local knowledge to ensure that requirements for making contact with persons and maintaining the register are complied with.

Section 69 of the EA Act imposes a duty on EROs to promote local participation within their areas. Assisting EROs in meeting this obligation falls within the Electoral Commission's remit, as does issuing guidance to electoral registration officers more generally.

The Act also included a provision for the Electoral Commission to introduce a new performance standards framework for electoral services. The Commission published a final set of performance standards for Electoral Registration Officers in Great Britain in July 2008, details of which have been laid before the House. The Commission will publish the results of EROs' self-assessments against these standards in spring 2009.

Fraud: Financial Institutions

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases of financial abuse by partners *(a)* have been reported to the police, *(b)* have been prosecuted and *(c)* resulted in a conviction in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [252445]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

The Government do recognise the financial and economic impact that happens within domestic violence relationships. We are working with stakeholders and the British Banker's Association to ensure that both domestic violence victims and their advisers are more fully informed of their options. We will be considering this issue when developing our delivery plan in the future and recently produced a leaflet including some advice on this issue. From the information received on domestic violence cases we are not able to identify the financial abuse aspect.

Judges: Public Appointments

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he last met Baroness Prashar to discuss judicial appointments. [256676]

Mr. Straw: I routinely meet Baroness Prashar to discuss all matters relating to her role as chairman of the Judicial Appointments Commission. Our most recent meeting was on 10 February 2009.

Offenders

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in which prison establishments an offender supervisor is allocated to each inmate; and if he will make a statement. [258182]

Mr. Hanson: The national offender management model does not require every offender to have an offender supervisor. The implementation of the model has been phased to give priority to those offenders serving community orders or on post-release licences; adult offenders serving a determinate sentence of 12 months or more assessed

as posing a high or very high risk of serious harm, or who have been identified as prolific or other priority offenders; and those sentenced to imprisonment for public protection.

Offenders: Databases

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are in place to ensure that information held by a prison about an offender is made available to a community offender manager on the offender's release from custody; and if he will make a statement. [258183]

Mr. Hanson: The National Standards for the Management of Offenders (2007) require offender managers to maintain contact with the offender and the offender supervisor sufficiently frequently during custody to ensure both the implementation of the sentence plan and the smooth, safe and effective transition from custody to the community. On release from custody the electronic offender assessment record (OASys) is transferred from the Prison Service to the National Probation Service.

Offenders: Ex-servicemen

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost of *(a)* the veterans in custody support programme at HM Prison Everthorpe and *(b)* extending the programme across the custodial estate; and whether he has had discussions with (i) the Ministry of Defence, (ii) the Department of Health, (iii) HM Prison Service and (iv) the National Offender Management Service on the (A) funding and (B) timetable for an extension of the programme; and if he will make a statement. [258181]

Mr. Hanson: To date, no formal estimate has been made of the cost of the HM Prison Everthorpe veterans in custody support programme. However, we are aware that a prison officer in the establishment devotes about one day a week to attend to referrals and a further three hours a month to facilitate a veterans' forum. It will not be possible to estimate the cost of a national roll-out of this programme, until we have some reliable research to better determine the numbers of veterans offending. We anticipate that this information will be available to us by September 2009.

Prison In-Reach, a cross departmental non-executive working group, led by the Ministry of Defence, brings together representation from The National Offender Management Service and public sector prisons in addition to third sector partners. This provides an excellent opportunity for collaborative working and the pooling of resources. The Department of Health is a key partner of both the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Justice in the provision of health care services to veterans and the general offender population. Once the research is available, it may be possible to discuss the delivery of specific interventions to meet the needs of veterans.

The group is currently preparing a guidance pack for prison officers, working with veterans. This will provide a useful resource for prisons wishing to develop a service similar to that delivered at Everthorpe. We anticipate that this will be ready for distribution and introduction during the second quarter of this year.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are in place to ensure that account is taken of the needs of offenders who are former members of the armed forces in the preparation of *(a)* an assessment outcome and *(b)* a resettlement plan by the (i) offender supervisor and (ii) offender manager; and if he will make a statement. [258184]

Mr. Hanson: The Offender Assessment System (OASys) is the mechanism by which the risks posed by an offender and the needs associated with offending behaviour are assessed. There is no separate system for assessing the needs of serving or former members of the armed forces but OASys has a broad scope and includes the assessment of the offender's accommodation, financial management and emotional well-being, for example. It provides the opportunity to record relevant matters relating to an offender's military history.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to assist offender managers in identifying offenders who have served in the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [258187]

Mr. Hanson: The Offender Assessment System (OASys) prompts an offender manager to review an offender's employment history and work related skills. Offenders are also encouraged to use a self-assessment questionnaire to highlight information that is important to them and is relevant to their offending behaviour.

Offensive Weapons: Convictions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted for *(a)* possessing and *(b)* distributing prohibited (i) weapons and (ii) ammunition in each police force area in 2007-08. [256691]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of persons found guilty at all courts of offences for possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition in England and Wales, by police force area for the year 2007 (latest available) can be found in the following table:

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences relating to possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition in England and Wales, by police force area for the year 2007[1,2,3]

Force	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	23
Bedfordshire	6
Cambridgeshire	9
Cheshire	11
City of London	1
Cleveland	9

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences relating to possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition in England and Wales, by police force area for the year 2007[1,2,3]

Force	*2007*
Cumbria	13
Derbyshire	21
Devon and Cornwall	15
Dorset	12
Durham	15
Essex	29
Gloucestershire	4
Greater Manchester	83
Hampshire	24
Hertfordshire	24
Humberside	10
Kent	20
Lancashire	22
Leicestershire	22
Lincolnshire	4
Merseyside	53
Metropolitan Police	386
Norfolk	10
North Yorkshire	8
Northamptonshire	4
Northumbria	31
Nottinghamshire	39
South Yorkshire	25
Staffordshire	26
Suffolk	7
Surrey	12
Sussex	22
Thames Valley	34
Warwickshire	7
West Mercia	10
West Midlands	91
West Yorkshire	30
Wiltshire	1
Dyfed-Powys	2
Gwent	7
North Wales	12
South Wales	23
England and Wales	1,217

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following Statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec.5(1) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 S.288
Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition.
Firearms Act 1968 Sec.5(1)(b) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 Sec.288
Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons designed for discharge of noxious liquid etc.
Firearms Act 1968 Sec.5(1A)(a) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 Sec.288
Possessing or distributing firearm disguised as other object
Firearms Act 1968 Sec.5(1A) (b),(c),(d)(e),(f) or (g) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 Sec.238
Possessing or distributing other prohibited weapons

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit—Ministry of Justice

Prison Sentences

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 519W, on prison sentences, how many and what proportion of prisoners serving a prison sentence beyond their original or adjusted tariff were prisoners serving indeterminate imprisonment for public protection who had *(a)* not yet completed their mandatory courses and *(b)* are awaiting a Parole Board hearing at the most recent date for which figures are available, broken down by region. [256225]

Maria Eagle: As of 15 December 2008 there were 1,508 prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP) who were or would be held in prison beyond their tariff on 9 February 2009.

There are no mandatory courses that IPP prisoners must complete before being considered for a Parole Board hearing. Therefore, there are no IPP prisoners who are awaiting a Parole Board hearing having not completed a mandatory course.

However, IPP prisoners may be identified as suitable for inclusion in specific offending behaviour programmes, depending upon the nature of their offending and their identified risk factors. As of December 2008, 2,865 IPP prisoners had been given access to at least one offending behaviour programme. This equates to 58 per cent. of the current IPP prisoner population.

These figures are taken from a NOMS database and, as with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing.

Prisons: Databases

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when he expects to ensure *(a)* that all prisoners at HM Prison Gartree receive an OASys assessment on or within eight weeks of arrival at the prison and thereafter annually or on completion of significant milestones and *(b)* that the backlog of OASys assessments at HM Prison Gartree is cleared; [258094]

(2) when he expects to have recruited the necessary additional staff at HM Prison Gartree to provide OASys assessments for prisoners there. [258095]

Mr. Hanson: The requirement for an offender assessment (OAsys) to be completed within eight weeks of arrival applies to offenders received into an establishment following sentencing. As Gartree is a training prison, all prisoners received there should already have an up to date OASys assessment in place. However, Gartree did develop a backlog of OASys assessments that had not been reviewed for over three years and a recovery plan has been put in place to address. It is expected that annual reviews of all outstanding OASys plans will be completed by June 2009.

Staff recruitment is complete as far as officer posts are concerned, thought he recent National Offender Management Service recruitment freeze means that there are still vacancies for support staff which are currently filled by agency staff.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made in the provision of drug treatment in prisons following the establishment of the Prison Drug Treatment Strategy Review Group in 2008. [256393]

Mr. Hanson: The Prison Drug Treatment Strategy Review Group reports jointly to the Ministry of Justice and the Department of Health. Work on the review started in September 2008 and is expected to take two years to complete. The remit of the Group will be to consider the PricewaterhouseCoopers recommendations, agree a single set of priorities and compile national guidance around the streamlining of the commissioning, delivery, funding and performance management of drug treatment for offenders.

My noble Friend Lord Patel has spent a number of months visiting prisons and talking to key stakeholders such as commissioners, treatment providers and service users in order to select membership of the Review Group. In January I announced that he had selected these members and a list was placed in the Libraries of the House. The first meeting of the Review Group will be held on 26 February. The work programme will include the development of minimum standards, outcomes and commissioning systems for drug-using offenders in prisons and those leaving custody.

I expect to receive quarterly updates on progress and will report periodically to the House. A decision has yet to be taken on publication of the final report.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of using dogs in the detection of drugs in prisons. [256396]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has in place a process to ensure that each prison dog and handler team are assessed annually as to their effectiveness in detecting concealed drugs. Without passing the annual assessment, for which a certificate of accreditation is awarded, dog and handler teams are not permitted to operate.

In addition, the Government have accepted all 10 recommendations contained within David Blakey's review: Disrupting the supply of drugs into prisons. One recommendation was that NOMS conducts an internal review to determine whether search dogs and their handlers are distributed effectively around the prison estate and that the management processes for handlers are robust. That review is currently under way.

Prisons: Industrial Health and safety

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison cells were closed for health and safety reasons in each of the last five years. [257634]

Mr. Straw: Prisoner accommodation is certified for use or to be taken out of use by senior operational managers (as required by section 14 of the Prison Act 1952).

Unfortunately cell-certificates do not always provide details of why accommodation is being taking out of operation and to provide this information would require a manual check of all cell certificates for the last five years and would incur disproportionate costs.

Young Offenders: Sentencing

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many sentences were given to young offenders in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008, broken down by type of offence. [256738]

Mr. Hanson: The available information, for offenders aged 10 to 17 is shown in the following tables.

Statistics for 2008 will not be available until Sentencing Statistics 2008 is published in late 2009.

Sentences given to juvenile offenders[1] by offence type, 2007

	Violence against the person	*Sexual offences*	*Burglary*	*Robbery*	*Theft and handling stolen goods*	*Fraud and forgery*	*Criminal damage*
Absolute discharge	64	4	56	3	461	25	82
Conditional discharge	243	16	141	17	1,830	64	281
Fine	88	21	57	21	721	36	63
Community sentence	6,061	379	4,834	2,936	14,093	490	2,927
Suspended sentence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Immediate custody	1,084	103	955	1,085	821	43	98
Otherwise dealt with	149	9	84	53	285	16	172
Total sentenced	7,689	532	6,127	4,115	18,211	674	3,623

	Drug offences	*Other (excluding motoring)*	*Motoring offences*	*Summary motoring offences*	*Summary non-motoring offences*	*All offences*
Absolute discharge	271	186	3	1,329	485	2,969
Conditional discharge	879	293	5	4,665	804	9,238
Fine	1,016	341	8	2,745	5,336	10,453
Community sentence	2,807	2,692	280	25,869	2,639	66,007
Suspended sentence	0	0	0	1	0	1
Immediate custody	214	459	108	713	147	5,830
Otherwise dealt with	76	205	9	1,390	441	2,889
Total sentenced	5,263	4,176	413	36,712	9,852	97,387

[1] Those aged between 10 and 17 at time of sentence

Notes:
1. These data have been supplied on the principal offence basis
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
3. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Young People: Remand in Custody

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* 15, *(b)* 16 and *(c)* 17 year olds were on remand in each police force area in 2007-08; and how many subsequently served a prison sentence. [256511]

Mr. Hanson: At 30 June 2007, the number of unsentenced *(a)* 15, *(b)* 16, and *(c)* 17-year-olds detained in all prison establishments in England and Wales were as shown in the following table:

	Number
15-year-olds	63
16-year-olds	133
17-year-olds	348

These totals comprise the numbers held untried or convicted unsentenced and include both males and females for 17-year-olds; there are no 15 or 16-year-old female prisoners detained on remand in prison establishments in England and Wales.

This table is taken from table 7.11 of the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library and which can also be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

I also refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer he was given to him on 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 662W. A breakdown by police force area is not available.

During 2007 the proportion of all prisoners held on remand whose court proceedings resulted in immediate custodial sentence was 55 per cent. for males and 47 per cent. for females. This information is not available for 15 to 17-year-olds separately.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

ACAS: Parking

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the workplace parking charges being introduced by Nottingham City Council will be required to be paid in whole or in part by members of staff in respect of *(a)* Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service offices and *(b)* East Midlands Regional Development Agency offices located within the workplace parking charging zone. [253773]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Transport on 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column reference 1189W.

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 769W, on apprentices, what steps are being taken to increase the number of apprentices employed by his Department. [251737]

Mr. McFadden: In our response of 2 June 2008 we were not able to state how many apprentices we had as responsibility was devolved to each business area. We have since established a corporate apprenticeship offer for BERR staff who do not have degrees.

BERR is promoting a new apprenticeship offer for staff in business administration, customer service, information technology, team leadership and management. Awareness sessions are running for staff and their managers throughout February, with the first programmes starting in April. Our aim is to recruit 20 apprentices at either level 2 or level 3 during the first year, and currently have one member of staff on the apprenticeship pathfinder.

We are working together with our agencies to help them promote apprenticeships for their staff. Currently Companies House has a 61 staff studying for apprenticeships (35 at level 2 and 26 at level 3).

Bankruptcy

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* bankruptcy orders and *(b)* individual voluntary agreements were recorded in (i) Braintree, (ii) Essex and (iii) England in each year since 1997. [256842]

Mr. McFadden: Table 1 as follows shows the number of *(a)* bankruptcy orders and *(b)* individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs) recorded in (i) Braintree, (ii) Essex and (iii) England in each year from 2000 to 2007. Regional figures are not yet available for 2008, nor for years prior to 2000.

Table 1.

		2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Bankruptcy Orders	England	17,514	19,950	20,870	24,805	32,182	43,023	57,481	59,114
	Essex	618	788	753	880	1,280	1,761	2,367	2,372
	Braintree	55	75	71	72	123	183	230	194
IVAs	England	6,312	5,122	5,230	6,519	9,322	18,537	40,635	39,084
	Essex	172	160	160	166	267	609	1,412	1,318
	Braintree	13	23	13	14	16	60	122	111

Notes:
1. Classifying insolvent individuals into administrative geographies is done using the postcode that the person provides.
2. Inaccurate or missing postcodes mean that the numbers in the table will be subject to an element of missing data. Nationally, this proportion has been decreasing from about 12 per cent. in 2000 to less than 4 per cent. in 2007.
3. Figures for Essex cover Southend-on-Sea, Thurrock and Essex CC.

Bankruptcy: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley have been declared bankrupt in each of the last 12 months. [250743]

Mr. McFadden: Self-employed traders may be declared bankrupt (or enter into an individual voluntary arrangement (IVA)), however, registered companies are the subject of 'liquidation' (compulsory liquidation or creditors voluntary liquidation (CVL)).

It is not currently possible, from information held centrally in electronic format, to count the number of insolvent companies in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency or the London borough of Bexley.

However Table 1 shows the number of self employed bankrupts in each month of 2007 (the latest for which information is currently available for Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and the London borough of Bexley), derived from postcodes provided by bankrupt individuals[1, 2].

[1] Classifying bankrupts into administrative geographies is done using the postcode that the bankrupt individual provides. The use of this in assigning an individual to a borough is thus only as reliable as the postcode information provided.

[2] In particular, inaccurate or missing postcodes mean that the numbers in the following table will be subject to an element of missing data. Nationally, this proportion has been decreasing from about 12 per cent. in 2000 to less than 4 per cent. in 2007.

Table 1. Self employed bankrupts in 2007

	Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency	*London borough of Bexley*
January	2	3
February	1	2
March	2	4
April	0	0
May	0	0
June	0	2
July	1	1
August	0	1
September	0	2
October	2	3
November	3	5
December	1	1

Similar information is not available for individual voluntary arrangements entered into by the self-employed.

Bankruptcy: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people have been declared bankrupt in Stroud constituency in each year since 1997. [250787]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows the number of bankruptcies in Stroud constituency in each year between 2000 and 2007, derived from postcodes provided by bankrupt individuals[1, 2]. Earlier figures are not available on this basis; figures for 2008 are not yet available

[1] Classifying bankrupts into administrative geographies is done using the postcode that the bankrupt individual provides. The use of this in assigning an individual to a borough is thus only as reliable as the postcode information provided.

[2] In particular, inaccurate or missing postcodes mean that the numbers in the following table will be subject to an element of missing data. Nationally, this proportion has been decreasing from about 12 per cent. in 2000 to less than 4 per cent. in 2007.

Table 1

	Stroud constituency
2000	40
2001	44
2002	65
2003	80
2004	97
2005	115
2006	136
2007	112

Broadband

Nick Herbert: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many households are expected to obtain access to 2MB/s broadband between now and 2012. [256372]

Mr. McFadden: Currently 93 per cent. of UK homes are able to access 2MB/s broadband and with improvements to existing home connections this should increase. The Department's officials are working with key stakeholders to develop proposals for universal access to broadband that will be published in the full Digital Britain Report later this year.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the costs of ensuring that all households have access to 2MB/s broadband. [256373]

Mr. McFadden: The Department's officials are working with key market players and Ofcom to assess the most appropriate and efficient way of delivering universal broadband in the UK.

The final Digital Britain report containing details of proposals on universal broadband will be published later this year and will look at estimated costs.

Broadband: Low Incomes

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to increase levels of access to broadband for lower-income households. [255471]

Mr. McFadden: My right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister appointed my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales as Minister for Digital Inclusion last year because the Government recognise this as a very important challenge facing the UK.

While there had been a modest increase in broadband use in recent years it was clear that take-up had slowed down and that the remaining one third of the population (17 million people) would need to see the benefits of the internet and develop the skills and confidence to use it.

Since taking on the role, the Digital Inclusion Minister has formed a dedicated Cabinet committee—MISC 34, he has established a cross-government coordination unit, and Government have engaged a wide range of

stakeholders in developing the cross-government report "Delivering Digital Inclusion—An Action plan for Consultation"

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/deliveringdigitalinclusion

in order to have a coherent and concerted drive to address digital inclusion and increase access to broadband for poorer households with children for example The Home Access programme. We are also looking at with key stakeholders—planners, registered social landlords (RSL's) and the construction industry at ways of designing out "digital exclusion" from social housing, special accommodation and new builds. The action plan details over 70 Government actions taking place to advance digital inclusion and future actions being considered by Government to facilitate access and skills to digital technologies for disadvantaged groups and individuals in The annex

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/digitalinclusionannex

of the report. The consultation was launched on 27 October 2008 and was extended to 26 January at the request of stakeholders. Government are currently analysing responses to inform further progress.

My noble Friend, Lord Carter's Digital Britain report will develop plans for a digital Universal Service Commitment to be effective by 2012. An interim report was published on 29 January 2009, which laid out the road of travel and issues Government intend to look at before a full report is published in the summer 2009.

Broadband: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the provision of high-speed broadband in Milton Keynes. [257404]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The Department has made no recent assessment of the provision of high–speed broadband in Milton Keynes.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to fulfil the Government's target of access to a broadband speed of at least 2 MB/s in respect of Milton Keynes. [257405]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The Digital Britain interim report includes specific proposals on next generation networks and universal service access to broadband. We will be working with stakeholders to examine how a broadband universal service might work across the UK and will be publishing these findings in the full Digital Britain report in late spring/early summer.

The Government have also accepted the recommendations made in the Caio Review on broadband and will now act to implement them.

Charities: Telephone Services

Willie Rennie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will assess the merits of exempting charities from the requirements of the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 in relation to telephone numbers registered with the Telephone Preference Service. [257009]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The ability for consumers to register their wish not to be contacted by Direct Marketers, whether they be charities or commercial organisations, is a key benefit of the telephone preference system. The Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations lay down rules for organisations, including charities, sending unsolicited marketing by electronic means.

Direct marketing does not just refer to selling products or services to individuals, it includes the promotional activities of charities as well. This means that both the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 apply to charities.

The European directive from which these regulations are derived (the Directive on Privacy and Electronic Communications (2002/58/EC)) specifies that the "soft" opt-in rules on marketing by electronic means apply to all commercial relationships between organisations and consumers.

Charities may wish to improve the wording of their data protection and privacy statements so that a potential donor would actively "invite" promotional material through electronic mail.

Departmental Compensation

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the 10 highest payments made by his Department in settlement of personal injury claims brought against it were in the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of those cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by his Department; and what the nature of the incident was in each case. [248874]

Mr. McFadden: There have been no personal injury claims brought against the Department in the past 12 months.

The BERR annual report and accounts 2007-08, available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/aboutus/corporate/performance/annual-spending/page47093.html

confirms that there were few accidents that caused time off work and all were of a minor nature.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public was in each year since it was established. [251432]

Mr. McFadden: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members correspondence. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Information for 2008

is currently being collated and will be published as soon as it is ready. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

With respect to correspondence from members of the public, this information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs. The Department does however aim to respond to all written correspondence within 15 working days.

Statistics on the handling of letters from members of the public are published in the BERR annual report which will be available later in the year.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff in his Department were disciplined for *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment of colleagues in each of the last three years. [254093]

Mr. McFadden: In total, there have been fewer than five such cases in the Department over the past three years. I am unable to give further details as to do so could breach the confidentiality of individuals concerned.

Departmental Manpower

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people his Department employs. [255656]

Mr. McFadden: Information on the number of people employed by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is available through the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey statistics published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The latest published statistics are for 30 September 2008 (quarter 3, 2008) and can be accessed from the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/Table6AllDepts.xls

Departmental Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's internal guidance for officials on the drafting of answers to parliamentary questions. [250295]

Mr. McFadden: Cabinet Office guidance for civil servants on drafting answers to parliamentary questions was updated on 25 November 2008. A copy of the guidance is in the Library of the House. It can also be found on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/civil service/pq_guidance.aspx

BERRs internal guidance for officials answering parliamentary questions is updated regularly and issued on the Department's intranet. I will send the hon. Member a copy and also arrange for it to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Sick Leave

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average duration of single periods of sick leave taken by staff in *(a)* his Department and its predecessor, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which his Department has responsibility was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [241094]

Mr. McFadden: Information for 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006-07 for the Department, its predecessor and its agencies can be found on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

For years prior to 2003, sickness absence data is not available in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many sick days were taken by employees in *(a)* his Department and its predecessor, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which his Department has responsibility due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of sick days taken in each body this represented in each case; and if he will make a statement; [241204]

(2) how many and what proportion of staff in *(a)* his Department and its predecessor, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which his Department has responsibility have taken sick days due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [241093]

Mr. McFadden: Information for 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006-07 for the Department, its predecessor and its agencies can be found on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

Stress, mental health and behavioural disorders all fall within the category of 'mental and behavioural disorders'.

For years prior to 2003, sickness absence data is not available in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff in *(a)* his Department and its predecessor, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which his Department has responsibility have received sick pay for sick leave due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what the average length of time was for which sick pay was paid in these cases; and if he will make a statement. [241091]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not routinely calculate the number of staff who have received sick pay for stress, or the average length of time for which sick pay was paid in those cases. As this would involve manually investigating employee sickness records and pay details on an individual basis, the cost of doing this would be disproportionate to the benefit to be derived.

Information relating to agencies and non-departmental bodies will, where available, be provided separately by those bodies.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 24 February 2009:

The Minister of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question (2008/23) asking how many staff have received sick pay, and what the average length of time was for which sick leave was paid for staff with stress, mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years.

The information for the year 1999 is not provided as no reliable data exists. The table below schedules the period 2000-08.

Calendar Year	Number of staff who have received sick pay for absence with Stress	Average length of time off (days)	Number of staff who have received sick pay for absence with mental health and behavioural disorders	Average length of time off (days)
2000	36	22	41	38
2001	36	28	62	37
2002	54	23	69	33
2003	70	25	69	21
2004	71	29	84	30
2005	67	23	65	35
2006	128	13	96	29
2007	130	35	74	28

Paid time off for stress, mental health and behavioural disorders combined

Calendar Year	Days
2000	30
2001	32
2002	28
2003	22
2004	29
2005	27
2006	19
2007	31
2008	34

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 24 February 2009:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 3 December 2008, UIN 241091, to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House do not keep details of staff sickness for stress, mental health and behavioural disorders separately, they are categorised together. Details for the last ten years are not available, however those for the last eight years for which records are available are as follows:

Financial Year	Number of staff	Average length of time paid (days)
2000/01	53	37
2001/02	66	38
2002/03	81	32
2003/04	93	54
2004/05	90	52
2005/06	107	40
2006/07	140	46
2007/08	96	39

Departmental Travel

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what expenditure his Department has incurred in providing transport for Ministers between Parliament and departmental premises in each year since his Department was established. [251883]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 6W. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial code.

Foreign Workers: EU Nationals

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many companies from other EU member states with contracts in the UK have brought a workforce of non-UK nationals to the UK in each of the last four years. [254839]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not collect such data.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Secretary of State plans to reply to the letter of 18 December 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Thomas Stocker, transferred from the Ministry of Defence. [253872]

Mr. McFadden: I responded to my right hon. Friend on 11 February 2009.

Oil: Reserves

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of the UK's compulsory oil stocks under EU law are accounted for by the Compulsory Oil Stock Reservation Agreement for stock held outside the UK. [253309]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

The UK has bilateral agreements with other EU countries where they can hold stocks on behalf of the UK and the UK can hold stocks on their behalf.

The latest figures for November 2008 show that the net proportion of stocks held abroad equated to 18 per cent. of the UK's compulsory oil stocks.

Postal Services: Rural Areas

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received on the removal by Royal Mail of certain rural addresses from the national database of postcodes. [257551]

Mr. McFadden: The Postcode Address File (PAF) is owned and managed by Royal Mail. The provision of this service is an operational matter for which Royal Mail has direct responsibility.

As specified under the Postal Services Act 2000 and as a condition of its licence, the company is obliged to maintain the PAF and to make it available to any person who wishes to use it on terms that are reasonable.

Postcomm, the industry regulator, will consider the merits of complaints about Royal Mail's management of the PAF in accordance with its statutory duties.

Regional Development Agencies

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 6 October 2008, *Official Report, column* 288W, on regional development agencies: offices, what the address is of each overseas office of each regional development agency. [257728]

Mr. McFadden: The addresses of RDA overseas offices are as requested .

Advantage West Midlands

Germany - Advantage West Midlands, Im Dornenhau 29, D-50129, Bergheim-Glessen, Germany

France - Advantage West Midlands, 33, Avenue du Maine, Tour Montparnasse, 75755 Paris Cedex 15, France

Brussels - Advantage West Midlands, c/o West Midlands in Europe, Oudergemselaan 22-28

Avenue d'Auderghem, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium

Nordic area - Advantage West Midlands (Nordic), Wifsta Manor, SE-861 33 Timra-Sundsvall, Sweden

The Japanese and both American office are full time offices and directly staffed. The Indian and Australian are staffed part-time via an external consultant.

(Shared with EMDA) Japan (until 31.03 09 only) - British Midlands Japan Office, Kishimoto Building (3F), 311A, 2-1 Marunouchi 2 Chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100 0005,Japan

(Shared with EMDA) India (emda only from 01.04.09) - British Midlands India OfficeSquare Circle Consultancy, Mangesh Building 1st Floor, 9 Avantikabai Gukhale Street, Opera House, Mumbai 400004, India

(Shared with EMDA) Australia - British Midlands Australia Office, Corvon Pty Ltd, 461 Whitehorse Road, Balwyn Victoria 3103, Australia

(Shared with EMDA) USA East Coast (until 28.02.09 only) - British Midlands Boston Office, The British Midlands, 225 Franklin Street, 26th Floor, Boston, MA 02110, USA

(Shared with EMDA) USA Midwest (until 31.03.09 only) - British Midlands Chicago Office - The British Midlands, Civic Opera Building, 20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 930, Chicago, IL 60606, USA

(Shared with EMDA) USA West Coast (until 28.02.09 only) - British Midlands San Jose Office, The British Midlands, 95 South Market Street, Suite 300, San Jose, California 95113, USA

East Midlands Development Agency

The East Midlands German and French offices are staffed part-time through an external consultant.

Germany - England's East Midlands Germany Office, DS Consulting GmbH, Mangstrasse 29, 80997 Munich, Bavaria, Germany

France - England's East Midlands France Office, Breeze Strategy (France), 52 rue du Roi de Sicile, Paris 75004, France

The Japanese and both American office are full time offices and directly staffed. The Indian and Australian are staffed part-time via an external consultant.

(Shared with AWM) Japan (until 31.03 09 only) - British Midlands Japan Office, Kishimoto Building (3F), 311 A, 2-1 Marunouchi 2 Chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100 0005, Japan

(Shared with AWM) India (emda only from 01.04.09) - British Midlands India OfficeSquare Circle Consultancy, Mangesh Building 1st Floor, 9 Avantikabai Gukhale Street, Opera House, Mumbai 400004, India

(Shared with AWM) Australia - British Midlands Australia Office, Corvon Pty Ltd, 461 Whitehorse Road, Balwyn Victoria 3103, Australia

(Shared with AWM) USA East Coast (until 28.02.09 only) - British Midlands Boston Office, The British Midlands, 225 Franklin Street, 26th Floor, Boston, MA 02110, USA

(Shared with AWM) USA Midwest (until 31.03.09 only) - British Midlands Chicago Office - The British Midlands, Civic Opera Building, 20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 930, Chicago, IL 60606, USA

(Shared with AWM) USA West Coast (until 28.02.09 only) - British Midlands San Jose Office, The British Midlands, 95 South Market Street, Suite 300, San Jose, California 95113, USA

East Of England Development Agency

No overseas offices

London Development Agency

China - The London China Office Beijing, Unit 9A, 11 Level, CI Office Tower, Oriental Plaza, No1 East Changan Avenue, Dongcheng District, Beijing 100738 China

China - The London China Office Shanghai, 1st Floor Cross Tower, 318 Fuzhou Road, Shanghai 200001, China

A rented desk within the British Council, Shanghai office.

India - The London India Office Delhi, Level 4, Rectangle 1, Commercial Complex D4, Saket, New Delhi - 110017, India

India - The London India Office Mumbai, Regus, Level 6, Vaswani Mansions, Dinshaw Vacha Road, Churchgate, Mumbai - 400 020, India

North West Development Agency

The NWDA does not maintain direct offices overseas but works in collaboration with other organisations to have representation in key markets for the purposes of foreign direct investment (FDI).

(Shared with YF) Japan - The North of England, Renai Partire Shiodome 5F, 2-18-3, Higashi Shimbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0021, Japan (joint Japanese office with Yorkshire Forward under the North of England brand).

(Shared with ONE) USA - 444 N.Michigan Avenue, Suite 441, Chicago 60611 (joint American office with ONE under the North of England brand) with small joint satellite offices at:-

3455 Peachtree Road NE, 5th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30326 USA

4695 MacArthur Court, 11th Floor, Newport Beach, CA 92660, USA

8 Faneuil Hall Market Place, 3rd Floor, Boston , MA 02109, USA

One North East

China - Unit 2604, Westgate Tower, 1038 Nanjing West Road, Shanghai 200041, China

Japan - One North East Japan, 4th Floor, BR Shinagawa, 2 Building, 10-6 Kita-Shinagawa, 1-chome, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 140-0001, Japan

Brussels - North East England Office, Centre for the Regions, Boulevard St Michel 80 1040 Brussels, Belgium

(Shared with NWDA) USA - 444 N.Michigan Avenue, Suite 441, Chicago 60611 with small joint satellite offices at:-

3455 Peachtree Road NE, 5th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30326 USA

4695 MacArthur Court, 11th Floor, Newport Beach, CA 92660, USA

8 Faneuil Hall Market Place, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02109, USA

South East of England Development Agency

SEEDA does not maintain any overseas offices. It retains the services of a network of representatives, who can be contacted at the following addresses:

Japan - Business Information Centre, Trade and Industry Centre Building, 2, Yamashita-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama 231-0023, Japan

China - Suite 1620, New Town Centre, 83 Loushanguan Road, Shanghai 200336, China

India - British Deputy High Commission, 11th Floor Nariman Chambers, C32/ G Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Mumbai 40051, India

Australasia - 180a Warringah Road, Beacon Hill 2100, NSW, Australia

South Korea - IKP Building 9th Floor, 300-6 Yongok-dong, Seocho-gu, Seoul Korea 137-170

USA East Coast - 580 Harrison Ave, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02110, USA

USA Midwest - 200 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 3100, Chicago, IL 60606, USA

USA West Coast - 600 Anton Boulevard, 11th Floor, Costa Mesa, CA 92626, USA

USA West Coast - 530 Lytton Ave, Suite 205, Palo Alto, CA 94301, USA

Germany - c/o Dr Baumer Consultants, Leimengrubenstrasse 16, 71639 Gerlingen, Germany

France - Quartier St Marcel, 84830 Serignan du Comtat, Vaucluse, France

South West of England Development Agency

Japan - 403, Nishiyama-koryo Akasaka Building, 15-18 Akasaka 2 - Chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107 - 0052, Japan

China - RM 216, 2/F, Overseas Chinese Scholars Venture Bldg, Shenzhen Hi-tech Park, Nanshan District, Shenzhen, China 518057

Australia and New Zealand- 23 Arden Street, North Melbourne, Victoria 3051, Australia

Yorkshire Forward

China - Yorkshire Forward China Office, A - 809 Zhejiang World Trade Centre, 122 Shuguang Road, Hangzhou 310007, P R China

India - Yorkshire Forward, British Deputy High Commission, Maker Chambers IV, Second Floor, 222 Jamnalal Bajaj Road, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400021

(Shared with NWDA) Japan - Rensi Partire Shiodome 5F, 2-18-3, Higashi Shimbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0021, *Japan*.

Telephone Preference Service: Charities

Willie Rennie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effects of registration with the telephone preference scheme on the ability of charities to raise funds through telephone appeals. [256812]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 12 February 2009]*: The Department has made no assessment of the effect of the registration with the telephone preference scheme (TPS) on the ability of charities to raise funds through telephone appeals. The effectiveness of the TPS is a matter for the Information Commissioner's Office.

The ability for consumers to register their wish not to be contacted unnecessarily by Direct Marketeers, whether they be charities or commercial organisations, is a key benefit of the telephone preference system.

Before they register with the TPS, consumers should bear in mind that they may miss out on calls from companies and charities that they would be happy to hear from. It is important to make sure that permission is given in advance to those companies and charities so they can continue to contact potential donors via the telephone.

Welsh Language

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many members of staff at each grade in his Department identify themselves as Welsh speakers. [257793]

Mr. McFadden: The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Age: Discrimination

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether the plans outlined in section seven of the Government's draft legislative programme on improved data collection on equality include the collection of data on discrimination based on age, with particular reference to children and young people under 18 years old; and if she will make a statement. [256485]

Maria Eagle: The reference to 'improved data collection on equality' made in the draft legislative programme relates to the equality measurement framework (EMF), currently under development at the London School of Economics and Oxford University, with support from the Government Equalities Office and the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

The EMF is designed to measure all equality strands, including age. However, the framework is intended for adults only. The EHRC, Government Equalities Office and others are therefore considering whether a similar project could be developed to produce a set of indicators suitable for children.

Charities

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1312W, on charities, what criteria the Government Equalities Office used in determining applications for funding from the charities referred to; and if she will make a statement. [255980]

Maria Eagle: For the special fund for rape crisis centres, the following criteria were used:

Applicants had to be a member of Rape Crisis England and Wales, ensuring that the fund was targeted at those organisations where there was evidence of need for support;

Applicants had to have a demonstrable charitable purpose;

Applications for funding could only be sought for the continuation of support services to victims of sexual violence.

For the three other charities listed in 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1312W, the main criteria were:

Applicants had to have a demonstrable charitable purpose;

The projects for which funding was sought had to contribute to the Government Equalities Office's departmental strategic objective to address the disadvantage that individuals experience because of their gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief.

As set out in my answer to 251979, decisions on any future funding to these or other charities will be announced in the usual way.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by the Government Equalities Office. [256058]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office is based in Eland House, the headquarters building of Communities and Local Government.

It will fall to CLG to place copies of the relevant certificates and reports in the Library.

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by the Government Equalities Office. [256196]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office employs five EU foreign nationals and three non-EU foreign nationals.

Equality: Pay

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent steps the Government have taken to reduce the gender pay gap. [251679]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the recent answer given to the hon. Member for Basingstoke (Mrs. Miller) by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Women and Equality on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 160-61.

Rape: Victim Support Schemes

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many rape crisis centres have closed in each of the last five years; how much has been spent on *(a)* services for rape victims and *(b)* rape crisis centres in each of the last five years; what steps she is taking to increase the (i) capacity and (ii) financial stability of rape crisis centres; and if she will make a statement. [255614]

Maria Eagle: The Government do not record information on rape crisis centre closures. However information provided by Rape Crisis England and Wales in 2008 stated that eight centres had closed in the previous three years with a further two centres closing temporarily, before re-opening. In March 2008 the Minister for Women, Harriet Harman announced a special fund to prevent the closure of at-risk rape crisis centres. Since that time, no centres have closed.

The following table summarises total Government funding to *(a)* services for rape victims, and *(b)* rape crisis centres (identified as affiliated to Rape Crisis England and Wales in the given year) in each of the last five years. The figures in the table represent funding streams from across Government.

£

	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
(a) Total funding on services for rape victims	3,364,247	2,564,664	1,603,242	1,908,657	943,828
(b) Total funding for rape crisis centres only	1,686,345	844,562	673,538	473,717	199,270

The Government have invested around £11 million over the last five years in specialist services for victims of sexual violence: this is in addition to funding provided locally. Most of this funding has come from the Victims Fund.

The Government have taken steps to build the capacity and sustainability of organisations working with victims of rape and sexual violence and to raise the issue of sexual violence locally. This has included providing £150,000 core funding to umbrella organisations, Rape Crisis England and Wales and The Survivors' Trust to help build the stability of the sector, including increasing capacity of rape crisis centres.

In relation to (ii) I met with Rape Crisis England and Wales and the Survivors Trust on 12 February to discuss the financial stability of the sector going forward.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the policy of Connexions is on the provision to students under the age of 16 years attending Catholic schools of access to *(a)* abortion and *(b)* abortifacient birth control drugs and devices without parental (i) knowledge and (ii) permission; and if he will make a statement. [256727]

Beverley Hughes: Under-16s have the same right to confidential advice on abortion and contraception—including emergency contraception—as adults. Where a young woman discloses to a non-health professional working in a school—such as a Connexions Personal Adviser or Youth Worker—that they are, or may be pregnant, the professional should refer the young woman to a health professional. There is no legal obligation to inform or seek permission from the young woman's parent or carer before making the referral, although professionals are required to make every effort to encourage the young woman to talk to her parent or carer.

However, confidentiality is not absolute and can be breached if the professional judges that the young woman is at risk of significant harm. If this is the case, the professional would follow local child protection procedures.

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 947W, on apprentices, what progress his Department has made towards meeting its share of the Government's commitment to employ over 1,000 apprentices in central Government Departments and agencies in 2008-09. [256253]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: My right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Children Schools and Families, and for Innovation Universities and Skills together with other members of the Cabinet this week announced 21,000 new apprenticeships in the public sector to deliver on the Government's pledge earlier this year to create 35,000 additional apprenticeship places. This will considerably expand the number of apprenticeship places in frontline public services including hospitals, schools, colleges and town halls across the country in 2009-10. The following table sets out the number of people undertaking apprenticeship training as part of the Government Skills National Apprenticeship Pathfinder scheme in 2008-09:

Department	*Numbers currently on apprenticeship programmes*	*Total numbers expected to start apprenticeship programmes in 2008-09*
BERR	1	1
Cabinet Office	4	4
DCLG	8	8
DCSF	20	27
DIUS	19	22
DoH	1	3
Driving Standards Agency	84	84
DWP	195	195
FCO	0	64
GCHQ	10	10
HMRC	16	155
HM Treasury[1]	0	0
MoJ	353	353
HO/UKBA	260	336
MoD	62	62
ONS	68	68
Total	1,106	1,395

[1] I refer the right hon. Member to the reply to his question of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1618W.

Children

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has issued on which "Every Child Matters" outcomes should be directly linked to the curriculum. [257820]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has published "Every Child Matters" at the heart of the curriculum booklet. This explores the place of "Every Child Matters" as a fundamental part of the curriculum, why each outcome is important and the implications for curriculum design. It also looks at the type of learning experiences—both in the curriculum and out of lessons—that schools can design to achieve each of the "Every Child Matters" outcomes.

There is further QCA guidance on the importance of the "Every Child Matters" outcomes in designing an effective new secondary curriculum, available at:

http://curriculum.qca.org.uk/key-stages-3-and-4/personaldevelopment/index.aspx

Children In Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils who were children in care *(a)* lived and *(b)* attended school in the most deprived decile of lower layer super output areas as determined by the income deprivation affecting children indices in 2008. [256431]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is as follows:

4,847 pupils[1, 2] who were children in care live in the most deprived decile of lower layer super output areas as determined by IDAC13 2008. This represents 14.2 per cent. of all pupils who were children in care of known residence in England.

4,245 pupils[1, 2] who were children in care attend school in the most deprived decile of lower layer super output areas as determined by IDACI[3] in 2008. This represents 12.3 per cent. of all pupils who were children in care attending schools in England.

[1] Includes solely registered and main registration of dually registered pupils.

[2] Includes pupils aged five to 19 years attending maintained nursery, primary, secondary, CTC's, Academies, special and non-maintained special schools.

[3] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices.

Source:

Spring 2008 School Census

Departmental Cleaning Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what contractors his Department uses to undertake cleaning duties; and what the hourly rates of pay are for cleaners working in his Department. [256980]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families engages MITIE Cleaning and Support Services Ltd (MCSS) to undertake cleaning duties across its headquarter buildings located in London, Sheffield, Runcorn and Darlington. The cleaning staff are paid national minimum wage, however, it is our intention to pay London based cleaning staff £7.45 per hour with effect from 1 April 2009.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people were employed by his Department as consultants in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [256904]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In keeping with good procurement practice most consultancy engagements placed by DCSF are based on a requirement for the delivery of outcomes or outputs, and not for the number of people employed. Our management information system reflects this and records the numbers and values of contracts or engagements, rather than individual consultants. We are, therefore, unable to answer the question in the way it has been asked. However, the total number of live consultancy engagements in DCSF at the end of November 2008 was 329 and at the end of November 2007 was 202. The equivalent figure for the Department for Education and Skills at the end of November 2006 was 146. Figures were not kept centrally for previous years. The increase partly reflects the need for additional input from external experts on our delivery programmes (such as academies and contact point) and partly better recording as new systems we introduced in 2006-07 bedded in.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many equalities

impact assessments his Department has undertaken in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such assessments. [255079]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: 27 equality impact assessments (EQUIAs) have been undertaken within DCSF in the last 12 month period. There are no significant additional costs in carrying out these assessments as the requirement to undertake EQUIAs is an integral part of the policy making process.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has allocated for staff bonuses in 2008-09. [252250]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department's annual non-consolidated performance payments for 2008-09 totalled £1.9 million and was met within existing pay controls.

Payments are used to drive high performance and those for the senior civil service are based on recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

Education: Standards

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to encourage and improve *(a)* individual, *(b)* parental and *(c)* community responsibility in improving education standards. [253804]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: It is important that individuals, parents and schools should all take responsibility for improvements in educational standards. In fact this is essential if the nation is to get a proper return on the large and growing investment in education in the early years and in schools, colleges and universities. Education standards have risen greatly over the past decade, thanks in part to the partnership between the education system and the young people whom it exists to support, but there is more to do. The Children's Plan set out the Government's commitment to put children and young people, their families and their communities at the heart of everything we do. Partnership with parents is a unifying theme of the Children's Plan, and the chapter entitled "Excellence and Equity" sets out further steps the Government are taking to extend and deepen this partnership, and to respond to the views of pupils themselves. It is also vital to raise educational aspirations at both family and community level, and the recently announced cross-Government project "Inspiring Communities" is one example of how this vision is being carried forward.

GCE A-level

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in each decile of income deprivation affecting children indices achieved three A grades at A level in 2008. [251116]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Candidates[1] aged 16-18[2] achieving 3 A grades at A-level in maintained schools by IDACI decile[3], 2008[4]

IDACI Decile[3]	Number of candidates achieving 3 or more A grades at GCE A/CE/ Applied A-level and double awards	Percentage of candidates achieving 3 or more A grades[5] at GCE A/CE/ Applied A-level and double awards
0-10% most deprived	939	6.9
10-20%	940	6.4
20-30%	1,670	6.2
30-40%	1,635	7.8
40-50%	2,608	10.3
50-60%	2,282	9.8
60-70%	2,506	8.9
70-80%	1,931	9.0
80-90%	2,549	10.4
90-100% least deprived	3,326	11.3

[1] 16-18 year old candidates entered for GCE A/CE applied A-levels and double awards in 2008.
[2] Age at the start of the 2007/08 academic year i.e. 31 August 2007.
[3] 2007 income deprivation affecting children index at super output area level based on the location of the school.
[4] Figures are based on revised data.
[5] A VCE/GCE Applied double award at grade AA counts as two grade As, an award at grade AB counts as one.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of students who gained an A-level in *(a)* sociology, *(b)* media studies and *(c)* communication and culture at each grade were educated in (i) the independent sector and (ii) the state sector in each year since 2005. [248481]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is presented in the following tables.

Proportion of candidates gaining each grade in A-level sociology who were educated in the state and independent sectors, 2005-08

	Grade						
Sociology	A	B	C	D	E	Other	Total
2005							
Number of candidates	4,492	6,102	6,100	4,200	2,011	589	23,494
Percentage educated in state sector	97	98	98	99	99	99	98
Percentage educated in independent sector	3	2	2	1	[*] 1	1	2
2006							
Number of candidates	5,035	6,471	6,279	4,117	1,790	548	24,240
Percentage educated in state sector	97	98	99	99	99	99	98
Percentage educated in independent sector	3	2	1	1	1	1	2
2007							
Number of candidates	5,299	6,460	6,266	4,148	1,808	548	24,529
Percentage educated in state sector	98	98	98	99	99	99	98

Proportion of candidates gaining each grade in A-level sociology who were educated in the state and independent sectors, 2005-08

	Grade						
Sociology	A	B	C	D	E	Other	Total
Percentage educated in independent sector	2	2	2	1	1	1	2
2008							
Number of candidates	5,615	6,966	6,430	4,182	1,792	423	25,416
Percentage educated in state sector	97	98	99	99	99	98	98
Percentage educated in independent sector	3	2	1	1	1	2	2

Proportion of candidates gaining each grade in A-level media/film/TV studies who were educated in the state and independent sectors, 2005-08

	Grade						
Media/film/TV studies	A	B	C	D	E	Other	Total
2005							
Number of candidates	2,670	5,840	7,083	4,280	1,261	333	21,467
Percentage educated in state sector	95	97	98	99	99	99	98
Percentage educated in independent sector	5	3	2	1	1	1	2
2006							
Number of candidates	2,985	6,375	7,604	4,393	1,374	255	22,986
Percentage educated in state sector	95	97	98	98	99	99	97
Percentage educated in independent sector	5	3	2	2	1	1	3
2007							
Number of candidates	3,151	6,867	7,694	4,151	1,202	248	23,313
Percentage educated in state sector	96	97	98	98	99	99	97
Percentage educated in independent sector	4	3	2	2	1	1	3
2008							
Number of candidates	3,234	7,151	8,023	4,345	1,160	222	24,135
Percentage educated in state sector	95	97	98	98	98	100	97
Percentage educated in independent sector	5	3	2	2	2	0	3

Proportion of candidates gaining each grade in A-level communication studies who were educated in the state and independent sectors, 2005-08

	Grade						
Communication studies	A	B	C	D	E	Other	Total
2005							
Number of candidates	1,394	2,744	2,811	1,306	381	95	8,731
Percentage educated in state sector	98	98	99	99	99	100	98
Percentage educated in independent sector	4	2	1	1	1	0	2
2006							
Number of candidates	1,471	3,005	3,073	1,458	422	98	9,587
Percentage educated in state sector	96	97	98	98	99	100	97
Percentage educated in independent sector	4	3	2	2	1	0	3
2007							
Number of candidates	1,614	3,303	3,286	1,396	318	90	10,007
Percentage educated in state sector	96	97	98	98	98	99	97
Percentage educated in independent sector	4	3	2	2	2	1	3
2008							
Number of candidates	1,484	3,188	3,280	1,297	306	82	9,637
Percentage educated in state sector	96	97	98	98	99	96	97
Percentage educated in independent sector	4	3	2	2	1	4	3

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in receipt of free school meals took English literature GCSE in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* the latest year for which figures are available. [252600]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* It is not possible to provide figures for 1997, prior to 2002 data on pupil characteristics (including free school meal eligibility) was not matched to achievement and attainment data.

In 2003, in maintained schools in England, 56,723 (70 per cent.) pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year, who were eligible to receive free school meals attempted GCSE English literature.

In 2008, in maintained schools in England, 46,924 (63 per cent.) pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year, who were eligible to receive free school meals attempted GCSE English literature.

In 2003, 423,701 (86 per cent.) pupils (aged 15 at the start of the academic year) not eligible to receive free school meals attempted GCSE English literature in maintained schools.

In 2008, 421,095 (81 per cent.) pupils (aged 15 at the start of the academic year) not eligible to receive free school meals attempted GCSE English literature in maintained schools.

GCSE Mathematics

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many individuals gained mathematics GCSE at grade C or higher through passing equivalent tests or examinations in the last five years. [253396]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In 2008, GCE AS mathematics was the only other qualification that counted in departmental indicators as an equivalent pass in GCSE mathematics. 936 pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieved the equivalent of grade A*-C in GCE AS level mathematics.

Prior to 2008 only GCSE mathematics passes were included.

Higher Education: Admissions

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the percentage of young people from care going to university. [251768]

Beverley Hughes: I refer the hon. Member to the response given on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 535W.

Music: Education

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 385-6W, on music: education, (1) when his Department published the formal evaluation of the programme of professional development for music teachers; and if he will make a statement; [254523]

(2) what reports his Department has received on the effectiveness of the Professional Development Fund for music teachers; and if he will make a statement; [255923]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects of the £2 million fund for professional development of music teachers on standards of instrumental and vocal tuition in maintained schools; and if he will make a statement. [255925]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 385-6W, which said that the evaluation of the programme of professional development for practitioners involved in music in primary schools is ongoing and extensive. Trinity College London and The Open University collect a wide range of data which demonstrate the extent to which music practitioners have engaged with the CPD programme. In summary: 1,300 have engaged with the programme at some level, 733 have attended the core modules, and 304 portfolios have been received to date.

An analysis of the feedback from participants in the programme indicates a high level of satisfaction with their experience. It is too early to gauge the impact on children's learning but informal evidence from local authorities who had a high proportion of teachers taking part is very positive. A review of the first phase of the programme will be published in March and will be made available through the programme website at

www.ks2music.org.uk

Numeracy: Qualifications

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many individuals gained *(a)* Level 1 and *(b)* Level 2 numeracy qualifications through Allan Tests in the last five years. [253393]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

The information provided relates to the Adult Literacy Language and Numeracy tests. The answer has been given in terms of 2010 PSA target-bearing Skills for Life qualifications.

The following table shows the number of learners achieving at least one approved Skills for Life Level 1 numeracy or Level 2 numeracy qualification from 2004-05 to 2007-08 who attended FE Colleges, University for Industry, Work-based learning and Adult Safeguarded Learning.

The table shows only those achievements which count towards the 2010 PSA target which is to improve the basic skill levels of 2.25 million adults between the launch of Skills for Life in 2001 and 2010. This target was achieved in 2008.

The data prior to 2004-05 is calculated on a slightly different basis to these figures and has not been provided.

Skills for life achievements

	L1 numeracy achievements	*L2 numeracy achievements*
2004-05	118,900	111,600
2005-06	167,100	145,000
2006-07	181,400	159,100
2007-08	190,600	171,200

Note:
Volumes are rounded to the nearest hundred.
Source:
FE, UfI, WBL and ASL Individualised Learning Records.

Pre-school Education: Teachers

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many candidates have achieved the Early Years Professional Status to date; and if he will make a statement. [247287]

Beverley Hughes: To date, 2,527 people have been awarded Early Years Professional Status.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many candidates have been awarded Early Years sector-endorsed foundation degrees to date. [247290]

Beverley Hughes: The exact number of candidates awarded the Early Years Sector Endorsed Foundation Degree (EYSEFD) is not known, but we estimate that over 6,500 students have been awarded EYSEFDs since the qualification was introduced in 2002.

Pre-school Education: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many nursery places were available in City of York constituency in each of the last 20 years. [257970]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number of nursery places available is not collected centrally, however information on the number of part-time early education places filled is shown in the tables.

Table 1 provides information about the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds in City of York parliamentary constituency area from 2004 to 2008. Data at parliamentary constituency level are not available prior to 2004.

Table 1: Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1, 2, 3] filled by three and four-year-olds, city of York parliamentary constituency, position in January each year

	Three-year-olds			Four-year-olds		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]	Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[5]	Total three-year-olds	Maintained nursery and primary schools[6]	Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[7]	Total four-year-olds
2004	560	430	990	820	200	1,000
2005	600	410	1,000	800	210	1,000
2006	520	520	1,000	810	240	1,000
2007	510	450	960	740	210	950
2008	580	610	1,200	750	220	970

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Prior to 2004, information on early education places was derived from returns made by local authorities as part of the nursery education grant (NEG) data collection exercise. These data were collected at local authority level, therefore, data for this parliamentary constituency prior to 2004 is not available.
[4] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.
[6] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

Table 2 provides information about the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds for York local authority area for the years 1997 to 2008.

Table 2: Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1, 2] filled by three and four-year-olds, York local authority, position in January each year

	Three-year-olds			Four-year-olds		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]	Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers	Total three-year-olds	Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]	Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers	Total four-year-olds
1997	680	n/a	680	n/a	n/a	[5, 6]1,900
1998	750	n/a	750	n/a	n/a	[5, 6]1,800
1999	810	n/a	810	n/a	n/a	[5, 6]1,900
2000	790	[6]0	800	n/a	n/a	[5, 6]2,000
2001	700	[6]920	1,600	n/a	n/a	[5, 6]1,800
2002	690	[6]950	1,600	1,500	[6]390	1,900
2003	640	[6]980	1,600	1,500	[6]380	1,900
2004	660	[6]900	1,600	1,500	[10]340	1,800
2005	700	[6]940	1,600	1,400	[10]380	1,700
2006	630	[6]1,000	1,700	1,400	[10]420	1,900
2007	600	[6]1,000	1,600	1,300	[10]390	1,700
2008	690	[6]1,400	2,100	1,400	[10]440	1,800

n/a = Not available.
[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the nursery education grant data collection exercise.
[6] For the years 1997 to 2001, four-year-old sub national figures from the nursery education grant data collection exercise can not be disaggregated between the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors.
[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the nursery education grant data collection exercise.
[8] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census supplementary data collection exercise and the School Census.
[9] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.
[10] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 12/2008 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2008", available on my Department's website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000790/index.shtml

Primary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the interim report of the Rose Review of the primary curriculum. [253620]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government welcome Sir Jim Rose's interim report and the broad direction of travel it sets out. Ministers will give careful consideration to his final report and recommendations, which are expected in the spring.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools are taking part in the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority pilot studies on the implementation of the independent review of the primary curriculum. [248594]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Following the publication of the final report in the spring, we will consider whether elements of the new primary curriculum should be piloted to inform the package of support for schools prior to the introduction of the new curriculum from September 2011. No pilots related to the independent review of the primary curriculum are currently taking place or planned prior to publication of the final report.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the draft programmes of learning being consulted on by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority as part of the independent review of the primary curriculum. [248595]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Sir Jim Rose is scheduled to submit the final report of the independent review of the primary curriculum in the spring. The final report will include recommended draft programmes of learning, which if accepted, would be subject to statutory consultation and placed in the Libraries.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* dates and *(b)* locations are of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority regional conferences on the independent review of the primary curriculum being held between January and April 2009. [248597]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The dates and locations of the regional conferences QCA are holding on behalf of the independent primary curriculum review regional events are:

Date	*Location*
20 January	Congress Centre, London
22 January	The Royal York Hotel, York
27 January	The East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham
3 February	Bristol Marriott Royal Hotel, Bristol
10 February	University Arms Hotel, Cambridge
12 February	Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham
3 March	Raddison Edwardian Hotel, Manchester
5 March	Congress Centre, London
10 March	The Newcastle Marriott Hotel MetroCentre, Newcastle

Pupil Referral Units

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* maintained and *(b)* non-maintained pupil referral units there were in each local authority in 2008. [256424]

Jim Knight: The available information on pupil referral units in each local authority in England in January 2008 is given in table B1 of the pupil characteristics and class sizes in maintained schools in England: January 2008 (Provisional) statistical first release, accessible via the following link in the penultimate set of additional information:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/index.shtml

This information only refers to maintained pupil referral units as there is no legal basis for non-maintained pupil referral units.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils attended pupil referral units in each year since 1997 in each local authority area; [256425]

(2) how many pupils in each local authority area attended pupil referral units in each year since 1997. [257661]

Jim Knight: Information for the years 1997, 1998 and 1999 has been placed in the Library.

Information for years 2000 to 2008 is available through the following links.

January 2000

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000192/index.shtml

(table 3)

January 2001

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000288/index.shtml

(table 3)

January 2002

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000359/index.shtml

(table 3)

January 2003

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000417/index.shtml

(table 3)

January 2004

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000495/index.shtml

(table 3)

January 2005

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000606/tables4.html

(table 12)

January 2006

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000682/index.shtml

(table 12)

January 2007

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml

(table 12)

January 2008
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/index.shtml
(table B2).

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1725-6W, on pupil referral units, how many responses to the survey were received; who collated the shortlist; and what other names were considered. [256862]

Jim Knight: The Department received over 100 suggestions for a new name for pupil referral units, in response to our consultation on the White Paper "Back on Track", published in May 2008. Officials suggested a shortlist to Ministers but Ministers also considered other possible names.

A survey was also conducted by the national organisation for pupil referral units on their website. 205 votes were cast in total, and the following names were suggested (in order of popularity):

Alternative Centre for Excellence
Spectrum school
Intensive Support school
Back on Track school
Integration school
Prism school
Prospect school
Link school
Inclusion school

These names were considered by Ministers, as were the following (which were not included in the survey):

Short Stay school
Progress school
Affirmative school
Development school
Vision school
Outlook school
Opportunity school
Renewal school
Advancement school

Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which of his Department's initiatives are delivered in partnership with schools; and what the cost of each was in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [241635]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Children's Plan set out our ambition to make England the best place in the world for children to grow up. In preparing the Children's Plan, we listened to children, young people, parents, professionals and schools about the things that mattered to them. Our "One Year On" document describes the work undertaken in schools to achieve our ambition in the 12 month period following publication of the Children's Plan.

Schools: Children in Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 28 January, *Official Report*, columns 672-4W, on special educational needs, in which schools children in care represented more than six per cent. of pupils. [255626]

Beverley Hughes: The requested information has been placed in the Libraries.

The Department's main source of information on children in care is the Children Looked After Survey, but this does not record which schools pupils attend. However, information on whether a pupil is in care is also collected via the School Census. The most recent census data relates to January 2008.

This census shows that there were 34,390 pupils aged five to 19 attending primary, secondary and special schools classed as being in care as at January 2008. Data published by the Department as SFR 23/2008: Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008, shows 47,600 children aged between five and 19 as being looked after as at 31 March 2008. However the School Census does not cover all looked after children; information is not collected for pupils in alternative provision, including pupil referral units, FE colleges, voluntary provision and those not in education or training. These differences in coverage will explain the different counts to an extent, but it is possible that the School Census undercounts the number of looked after children in primary, secondary and special schools.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils with statemented or non-statemented special educational needs of behavioural, emotional or social difficulties were given *(a)* fixed-period and *(b)* permanent exclusions from (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools in each year since 1997, broken down by reason for exclusion. [253353]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information provided shows the number of fixed period exclusions (and not the number of pupils) where the pupils' special educational need is behavioural, emotional or social difficulties. Information on the type of special educational need is collected for those pupils classed as being school action plus or who have a statement of special educational needs.

Information is only available for the school years 2005/06 and 2006/07 and is shown in the tables. For the 2005/06 school year, information on fixed period exclusions was collected via the School Census for the first time for secondary schools only.

Primary and secondary schools[1, 2, 5]: number of permanent exclusions where pupils primary SEN need is emotional, behavioural and social difficulties[4] by reason for exclusion (estimates)[3], England 2005/06 and 2006/07

	2005/06		2006/07	
	Primary schools[1, 2]	*Secondary schools[2]*	*Primary schools[1]*	*Secondary schools[2]*
Physical assault against a pupil	n/a	290	80	230
Physical assault against an adult	n/a	190	130	120
Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil	n/a	90	20	60
Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult	n/a	360	60	200
Bullying	n/a	20	[redacted]	20
Racist abuse	n/a	10	[redacted]	10
Sexual misconduct	n/a	20	10	20
Drug and alcohol related	n/a	70	0	30

Primary and secondary schools[1, 2, 3]: number of permanent exclusions where pupils primary SEN need is emotional, behavioural and social difficulties[4] by reason for exclusion (estimates)[5]. England 2005/06 and 2006/07

	2005/06		2006/07	
	Primary schools[1, 3]	Secondary schools[2]	Primary schools[1]	Secondary schools[2]
Damage	n/a	40	10	30
Theft	n/a	50	[6]—	50
Persistent disruptive behaviour	n/a	880	160	720
Other	n/a	340	20	250
Total[7]	470	2,300	490	1,730

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes both CTCs and academies.
[3] For the 2005/06 school year, information on the reason for exclusion was not collected from primary schools.
[4] Data for primary SEN need is collected for pupils with a statement of special educational needs or who are classified as being school action plus only. Data here has been taken from the National Pupil Database.
[5] Figures relating to permanent exclusions are estimates based on incomplete pupil-level data.
[6] Less than 5.
[7] Includes permanent exclusions where the reason cannot be determined.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census.

Primary and secondary schools[1, 2, 3]: number of fixed period exclusions where pupils primary SEN need is emotional, behavioural and social difficulties[4] by reason for exclusion (includes multiple exclusions per pupil). England 2005/06 and 2006/07

	2005/06		2006/07	
	Primary schools[1, 3]	Secondary schools[2]	Primary schools[1]	Secondary schools[2]
Physical assault against a pupil	n/a	9,690	4,100	9,700
Physical assault against an adult	n/a	1,760	3,190	1,790
Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil	n/a	2,490	920	2,320
Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult	n/a	16,770	2,380	16,730
Bullying	n/a	810	120	760
Racist abuse	n/a	620	100	620
Sexual misconduct	n/a	470	80	490
Drug and alcohol related	n/a	850	10	780
Damage	n/a	1,500	320	1,610
Theft	n/a	1,180	50	1,180
Persistent disruptive behaviour	n/a	17,190	6,010	17,640
Other	n/a	11,870	1,050	11,890
Total[5]	n/a	65,200	18,330	65,500

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes both CTCs and academies.
[3] For the 2005/06 school year, information on the reason for exclusion was not collected from primary schools.
[4] Data for primary SEN need is collected for pupils with a statement of special educational needs or who are classified as being school action plus only. Data here has been taken from the National Pupil Database.
[5] Includes fixed period exclusions where the reason cannot be determined.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained mainstream schools had *(a)* between 20 and 30 per cent., *(b)* between 30 and 40 per cent., *(c)* between 40 and 50 per cent., and (d) more than 50 per cent. of pupils with statements of special educational needs in 2008. [256348]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information has been provided in the following table.

Maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools number of schools by percentage of pupils with statements of special educational needs[1] — Position as at January 2008, England

	Maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools[2, 3]
20 to 30 per cent. of pupils with statements of special educational needs	4
Over 30 per cent. of pupils with statements of special educational needs	0
Total	4

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[3] Excludes City Technology Colleges and Academies.
Source:
School Census

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1344W, on special educational needs, what the equivalent figures were for special educational needs pupils taught in special schools. [256446]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on the levels obtained in key stage 2 and key stage 3 tests by pupils with special education needs (SEN) in maintained special schools in 2007 are shown in the following tables. These figures are based on final KS2 and KS3 data.

Key Stage 2 test results by each level[1] in 2007[2], by special education needs[3] (maintained special schools only)

			Percentage of pupils achieving each level in English						
	Eligible pupils	Absent	T	B	N	2	3	4	5
SEN without a statement	92	8	[4]—	47	7	[4]—	22	13	[4]—
SEN with a statement	5,798	2	[4]—	87	2	1	5	3	[4]—

			Percentage of pupils achieving each level in mathematics						
	Eligible pupils	Absent	T	B	N	2	3	4	5
SEN without a statement	92	5	[4]—	39	10	[4]—	26	13	[4]—
SEN with a statement	5,799	2	[4]—	84	3	1	6	4	[4]—

			Percentage of pupils achieving each level in science						
	Eligible pupils	Absent	T	B	N	2	3	4	5
SEN without a statement	92	8	[4]—	36	[4]—	[4]—	30	21	[4]—
SEN with a statement	5,808	2	[4]—	77	3	1	9	7	1

Key Stage 3 test results by each level[1] in 2007[2], by special education needs[3] (maintained special schools only)

			Percentage of pupils achieving each level in English							
	Eligible pupils	Absent	T	B	N	3	4	5	6	7
SEN without a statement	68	13	[4]—	54	10	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—

Key Stage 3 test results by each level[1] in 2007[2], by special education needs[3] (maintained special schools only)

Percentage of pupils achieving each level in English

	Eligible pupils	Absent	T	B	N	3	4	5	6	7
SEN with a statement	9,160	4	[4]	83	5	2	3	1	[4]	[4]

Percentage of pupils achieving each level in mathematics

	Eligible pupils	Absent	T	B	N	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
SEN without a statement	67	18	[4]	33	[4]	[4]	25	12	7	[4]	[4]	[4]
SEN with a statement	9,155	6	[4]	57	5	2	16	9	3	1	[4]	[4]

Percentage of pupils achieving each level in science

	Eligible pupils	Absent	T	B	N	2	3	4	5	6	7
SEN without a statement	68	12	7	32	[4]	[4]	19	21	7	[4]	[4]
SEN with a statement	9,177	7	1	53	4	3	13	15	4	1	[4]

[1] Includes T—unable to access test; B—not entered for test; N—failed to register a level;
[2] Final data.
[3] Status of special educational needs (SEN) taken in spring school census for all years.
[4] Figures involving fewer than five pupils have been suppressed.

Similar information for all pupils in maintained schools with SEN for 2007 can be found in SFR38/2007, at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml

The KS2 and KS3 figures in this published SFR were based on provisional data.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1730-1W, on special educational needs, how many pupils in each category attended schools in each local authority area in each year. [256858]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* all children with speech, language and communications difficulties, *(b)* children with speech, language and communication difficulties in the five per cent. most deprived areas and *(c)* children with speech, language and communication difficulties in the 10 per cent. most deprived areas achieved the national standard in (i) all of the Foundation Stage profile assessments, (ii) all Foundation Stage profile assessments on personal, social and emotional development, (iii) all Foundation Stage profile assessments on communication, language and literacy and (iv) all Foundation Stage profile assessments on mathematical development in each year for which records are available; [257620]

(2) how many and what proportion of children identified with speech, language and communication difficulties achieved the national standard in each of the Foundation Stage profile assessments in each year for which records are available; [257622]

(3) how many and what proportion of children identified with speech, language and communication difficulties from the *(a)* five per cent. most deprived areas and *(b)* 10 per cent. most deprived areas achieved the national standard in the Foundation Stage profile assessments in each year for which records are available. [257623]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested on the proportion of children identified with speech, language and communication difficulties achieving the national standard in individual scales by levels of deprivation can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1730-2W, on special educational needs, if he will provide a breakdown of the figures given by *(a)* male and *(b)* female pupils. [258050]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1730-2W.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils with special educational needs were placed in schools outside their own local authority area in each year since 1997. [258191]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information for years prior to 2003 is not available. Information for 2003 and 2008 are shown in the following table, additional years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Number of pupils[1] with SEN placed in schools outside of their resident local authority

	Number of pupils
2003	67,924
2008	80,949

[1] Includes solely registered pupils attending maintained nursery, primary, secondary, CTCs, academies, special and non-maintained special schools.
Source:
School Census

Special Educational Needs: Braintree

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children from Braintree with statements of special educational needs were educated at a special school outside their local authority area in each year since 1997. [258168]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information for years prior to 2003 is not available. Information for 2003 and 2008 are shown in the table below, additional years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Number of pupils[1] from Braintree with statements of SEN educated in special schools outside of their resident local authority

	Number of pupils
2003	6
2008	8

[1] Includes solely registered pupils attending special and non-maintained special schools.
Source:
School Census

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children with statements of special educational need there are in mainstream education in Braintree. [258172]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is provided in the following table.

State-funded primary and secondary schools and all special schools: Number of pupils with statements of special educational needs[1]. Position in January 2008: Braintree parliamentary constituency

Primary schools[2]	170
Secondary schools[2]	140
All special schools[3]	210

[1] Excluding dually registered pupils.
[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[3] Including general hospital schools.
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Special Educational Needs: Children in Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in care had statements of special educational needs in each year since 1997. [256894]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The OC2 data collection collects information on a range of outcomes and indicators for children looked after for at least 12 months from local authorities. This information has been published in the Statistical First Release "Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, Twelve months to 30 September 2007—England" (SFR 08/2008), which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml

This publication contains figures for the period 2005-07.

Information on the number of looked after children who had a statement of special educational needs during the year can be found in table A, which also includes figures for all children as a comparison.

This information was first collected in 2000, figures for earlier years are also published on the Department's website and can be found via the following links:

Figures for 2002-04 are available in volume reference (03/2005) here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000580/index.shtml

Figures for 2000-01 are available in volume reference (DHA/OL(OUT)01) here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000523/index.shtml

Special Educational Needs: GCSE

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of eligible pupils with *(a)* statemented and *(b)* non-statemented special educational needs achieved at least one A* to G grade at GCSE in each year since 1997, broken down by type of school. [250185]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is only available from 2003 onwards. Changes to data collections and definitions over time mean that for 2003 and 2004 the figures cover pupils aged 15. For 2005 onwards, the figures cover pupils at the end of their key stage 4 studies. As the figures require details of pupil characteristics (i.e. SEN), they are only available for maintained schools.

Table 1: Number and percentage of pupils with statements of SEN achieving one or more grades A-G by type of school[1]*

Number and percentage

	2008		2007		2006	
	No. of pupils with statements of SEN achieving 1+ A-G*	*% of pupils with statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*	*No. of pupils with statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*	*% of pupils with statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*	*No. of pupils with statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*	*% of pupils with statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*
Academies	247	79.9	133	77.3	77	75.5
Community School	7,160	88.3	7,861	86.3	8,193	85.6
Voluntary Aided	1,523	91.4	1,486	91.8	1,488	90.1
Voluntary controlled	388	88.2	396	88.8	456	87.0
Foundation Schools	2,385	90.2	1,966	90.7	2,000	89.6
City Technology College	12	100.0	20	100.0	13	100.0
Community Special School	2,827	30.2	2,885	30.6	2,900	30.8
Foundation Special schools	157	43.6	134	48.9	95	47.0
Total	14,699	64.2	14,881	64.0	15,222	64.2

Number and percentage

	2005		2004		2003	
	No. of pupils with statements of SEN achieving 1+ A-G*	*% of pupils with statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*	*No. of pupils with statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*	*% of pupils with statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*	*No. of pupils with statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*	*% of pupils with statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*
Academies	69	82.1	45	80.4	7	82.6
Community School	8,454	85.3	8,599	82.2	8,549	82.6
Voluntary Aided	1,465	89.7	1,408	86.6	1,317	86.6

Number and percentage

	2005		2004		2003	
	No. of pupils with statements of SEN achieving 1+ A-G*	*% of pupils with statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*	*No. of pupils with statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*	*% of pupils with statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*	*No. of pupils with statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*	*% of pupils with statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*
Voluntary controlled	437	86.5	416	81.9	394	80.4
Foundation Schools	1,817	89.0	1,816	85.8	1,761	84.5
City Technology College	24	100.0	27	87.1	27	93.1
Community Special School	2,450	28.4	2,562	27.4	2,455	26.1
Foundation Special schools	63	34.8	79	36.2	81	35.2
Total	14,779	64.2	14,952	61.4	14,591	60.5

[1] The figures in this table relate to pupils in maintained schools only.

Table 2: Number and percentage of SEN pupils without statements achieving one or more grades A-G by type of school[1]*

Number and percentage

	2008		2007		2006	
	No. of pupils without statements of SEN achieving 1+ A-G*	*% of pupils without statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*	*No. of pupils without statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*	*% of pupils without statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*	*No. of pupils without statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*	*% of pupils without statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*
Academies	3,035	91.9	1,476	89.2	884	89.6
Community School	62,184	93.2	56,398	91.0	52,820	89.9
Voluntary Aided	11,831	95.2	10,349	93.2	9,176	92.5
Voluntary controlled	2,483	94.2	2,247	92.3	2,101	91.5
Foundation Schools	19,363	94.9	14,498	93.7	11,313	92.8
City Technology College	98	99.0	177	99.4	205	98.1
Community Special School	34	45.3	21	34.4	16	28.6
Foundation Special schools	0		0		0	0.0
Total	99,028	93.7	85,166	91.7	76,517	90.7

	2005		2004		2003	
	No. of pupils without statements of SEN achieving 1+ A-G*	*% of pupils without statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*	*No. of pupils without statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*	*% of pupils without statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*	*No. of pupils without statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*	*% of pupils without statements of SEN achieving 1+ A*-G*
Academies	538	90.0	430	84.5	120	83.3
Community School	47,445	88.8	43,608	86.9	41,450	86.7
Voluntary Aided	8,540	91.7	8,084	90.2	7,350	89.7
Voluntary controlled	1,932	89.7	1,841	86.9	1,687	87.6
Foundation Schools	9,931	92.1	9,875	90.9	8,723	90.2
City Technology College	272	99.6	203	99.0	216	97.3
Community Special School	85	207.3	87	310.7	43	50.0
Foundation Special schools	0		0		0	
Total	68,743	89.8	64,128	88.0	59,589	87.6

[1] The figures in this table relate to pupils in maintained schools only.

Notes:
1. SEN identified in January of the year the pupils sit the exams.
2. Figures based on GCSE results only.

Source:
National Pupil Database

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of eligible pupils with *(a)* statemented and *(b)* non-statemented special educational needs achieved five A* to C grades including English and mathematics at GCSE in each year since 1997, broken down by type of school. [250186]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is only available from 2004 onwards. Changes to data collections and definitions over time mean that for 2004 the figures cover pupils aged 15. For 2005 onwards, the figures cover pupils at the end of their key stage 4 studies. As the figures require details of pupil characteristics (i.e. SEN), they are only available for maintained schools.

Table 1: Number and percentage of pupils with statements of SEN achieving 5 or more grades A-C including English and maths by type of school*[1]

	End KS4 pupils with statements of SEN achieving 5+ A-C inc. English and maths*								*Aged 15 pupils with statements of SEN achieving 5+A*-C inc. English and maths*	
	2008		*2007*		*2006*		*2005*		*2004*	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
Academies	26	8.4	7	4.1	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Community school	608	7.5	582	6.4	599	6.3	504	5.1	434	4.1
Voluntary aided	223	13.4	180	11.1	180	10.9	141	8.6	107	6.6
Voluntary controlled	40	9.1	39	8.7	40	7.6	43	8.5	21	4.1
Foundation schools	288	10.9	209	9.6	192	8.6	156	7.6	130	6.1
City technology college	[2]	[2]	7	35.0	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Community special school	29	0.3	21	0.2	17	0.2	16	0.2	15	0.2
Foundation special schools	[2]	[2]	0	0.0	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Total	1,222	5.3	1,045	4.5	1,032	4.4	864	3.8	710	2.9

[1] The figures in this table relate to pupils in maintained schools only.

Table 2: Number and percentage of SEN pupils without statements achieving 5 or more grades A-C by type of school*[1]

	End KS4 SEN pupils without statements of SEN achieving 5+ A-C inc. English and maths*								*End aged 15 SEN pupils without statements of SEN achieving 5+A*-C inc. English and maths.*	
	2008		*2007*		*2006*		*2005*		*2004*	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
Academies	404	12.2	122	7.4	110	11.1	32	5.4	18	3.5
Community school	8,794	13.2	6,175	10.0	4,828	8.2	4,330	8.1	3,056	6.1
Voluntary aided	2,472	19.9	1,819	16.4	1,643	14.5	1,191	12.8	1,071	12.0
Voluntary controlled	416	15.8	343	14.1	331	14.4	289	13.4	226	10.7
Foundation schools	3,642	17.8	2,387	15.4	1,595	13.1	1,403	13.0	1,032	9.5
City technology college	47	47.5	84	47.2	61	29.2	109	39.9	54	26.3
Community special school	0	0.0	0	0.0	[2]	[2]	14	34.1	[2]	[2]
Foundation special schools	0	—	0	—	[2]	[2]	0	—	[2]	[2]
Total	15,775	14.9	10,930	11.8	8370	9.9	7,344	9.7	5442	7.5

[1] The figures in this table relate to pupils in maintained schools only.
[2] Figures suppressed due to small numbers.
Notes:
1. Data relates to GCSE and equivalents.
2. SEN identified in January of the year they sit the exams.
Source:
National Pupil Database.

Special Educational Needs: Poverty

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and in what proportion of pupils with statements of special educational needs *(a)* lived and *(b)* attended school in the most deprived decile of lower layer super output areas in 2008, as determined by the income deprivation affecting children index. [256349]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is shown as follows.

(a) 33,660 pupils[1, 2] with statements of special educational needs lived in the most deprived decile of lower layer super output areas as determined by IDACI[3] in 2008. This represents 16 per cent. of all statemented pupils of known residence in England.

(b) 21,660 pupils[1, 2] with statements of special educational needs attended school in the most deprived decile of lower layer super output areas as determined by IDACI[3] in 2008. This represents 10 per cent. of all statemented pupils attending schools in England.

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.

[2] Includes pupils attending nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, CTCs and academies.

[3] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices.

Source:
Spring 2008 School Census

Special Educational Needs: Pupil Exclusions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2117W on special educational needs: pupil exclusions, if he will provide a breakdown of the figures by *(a)* type of special educational need and *(b)* local authority area. [258244]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Supply Teachers

Mr. Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what advice his Department provides to schools on the recruitment of supply teachers; and if he will make a statement; [256732]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with the Office of Government Commerce on the provision of supply teachers since September 2008; and if he will make a statement. [256733]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has provided guidance to schools on the recruitment of supply teachers in the document "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education". The guidance sets out the responsibilities of those recruiting supply teachers and the best practices, some underpinned by legislation, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The framework for the Department's Quality Mark award for employment agencies and local authorities also sets out recruitment, selection and vetting standards for supply teachers. Schools are encouraged to use holders of the Quality Mark who have demonstrated they meet these standards in managing and providing supply teachers to schools.

Temporary Workers in Education (TWiE) is a project of the Department's Educational Procurement Centre (EPC). The EPC has a remit to work across the schools sector promoting and supporting sustainable procurement practices and effective contract management with the goal of achieving cost and administrative savings for schools.

The TWiE project aims to provide London schools with a reliable, safe and accessible online method of procuring temporary education workers. It is currently working collaboratively with the London Borough of Hounslow which is in a tender process on behalf of the London Contracts and Supplies Group. Companies have been invited to tender to act as a neutral vendor which will provide an online system through which London Boroughs and London schools can procure temporary workers including supply teachers. It is expected that a contract will be awarded in June 2009.

OGC staff sit on the Project Board which oversees the TWiE project, and have done so since September 2008. OGC and DCSF have also had discussions in relation to the project, including regular monthly meetings between senior responsible staff. There have also been a number of discussions agreeing the role of OGC staff on the Project Board, and a meeting to review models for the project. Some of these discussions also touched on the provision of supply teachers and other staff outside London.

In addition to OGC's role on the TWiE Project Board, another member of OGC staff has been advising the London Contracts and Supplies Group on the current tender process and as part of this work has had some contact with Department staff, particularly on the issue of pricing models.

Sure Start Programme

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much the Government have spent on Sure Start programmes in each local authority area since 1997; and how much has been spent on Sure Start programmes in each of the *(a)* 20 per cent. most deprived, *(b)* 10 per cent. most deprived and *(c)* 5 per cent. most deprived local authority areas. [252062]

Beverley Hughes: The first Sure Start Local programmes were set up in 1999-2000. By 2003-04 there were 524 Sure Start Local programmes across the country. Data for revenue spend for years prior to 2003-04 are not readily available at local authority level.

The total SSLP revenue spend for all authorities for the period from 1999-2000 to 2002-03 was £315,083,000.

The delivery of first phase Children's Centres began in 2003-04.

The Combined SSLP and Children's Centres revenue spend for all authorities from 2003-04 to 2007-08 and the total capital from 1999 to 2007-08 is shown in table A.

Table A: SSLP and Children's Centre revenue spend 2003-04 to 2007-08 and total capital spend from 1999 to 2007-08

	Revenue spend					
Top tier LA	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total capital spend from 1999*
Barking and Dagenham	1,757,642	2,681,523	3,833,939	2,718,707	2,291,389	10,297,508
Barnet	298,392	519,706	957,768	1,233,400	3,031,896	2,296,696
Barnsley	2,700,556	3,177,460	4,356,609	5,044,862	4,652,950	9,687,272
Bath and North East Somerset	443,052	754,046	940,609	1,271,259	1,410,844	2,307,682
Bedfordshire	620,661	683,731	912,971	2,470,457	2,275,608	4,302,691
Bexley	748,410	785,491	953,765	1,450,866	1,680,734	2,240,057
Birmingham	6,544,638	8,323,079	15,505,854	20,202,564	18,772,623	33,215,232
Blackburn with Darwen	2,967,805	3,763,764	4,569,753	6,283,609	6,239,994	10,200,435
Blackpool	1,356,852	1,718,504	2,363,199	3,050,126	2,877,500	6,603,646
Bolton	2,539,691	3,138,634	4,093,762	5,054,320	2,497,992	10,265,700
Bournemouth	774,796	965,763	1,079,548	1,896,613	1,716,922	2,259,630
Bracknell Forest	0	0	30,669	430,170	505,255	1,368,175
Bradford	5,069,706	5,910,820	8,418,624	9,187,781	10,054,073	12,382,290
Brent	1,924,693	2,287,232	3,136,548	2,062,707	1,645,966	5,954,229
Brighton and Hove	1,212,885	1,320,764	1,674,653	2,550,460	2,655,260	5,645,790
Bristol	3,155,363	3,498,972	4,626,657	5,724,261	5,716,095	8,129,829
Bromley	634,190	723,210	968,219	1,593,486	2,053,336	3,504,763
Buckinghamshire	225,456	447,714	887,958	982,113	2,196,913	3,211,508
Bury	675,403	713,639	1,059,671	1,536,289	1,633,350	2,977,791
Calderdale	1,802,270	2,083,903	2,398,712	3,445,773	3,202,667	4,771,018
Cambridgeshire	1,192,513	1,496,604	1,965,453	2,836,778	3,164,533	2,888,429
Camden	3,328,856	4,011,531	4,429,642	5,063,041	3,977,572	9,768,630

Table 'E' SSLP and Children's Centre revenue spend 2003-04 to 2007-08 and total capital spend from 1999 to 2007-08

	Revenue spend					
Exp sec LA	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total capital spend from 1999*
Cheshire	2,115,839	2,551,256	3,610,018	4,931,493	4,840,200	3,733,406
City of London	0	0	0	90,000	90,000	128,176
Cornwall	6,363,840	5,016,203	5,854,055	4,923,359	3,986,907	13,212,019
Coventry	2,283,143	2,682,312	3,004,458	2,950,379	2,409,543	9,074,348
Croydon	754,996	812,875	954,053	2,594,818	2,909,499	4,911,764
Cumbria	3,366,350	3,771,381	4,372,187	5,233,129	4,488,335	8,516,155
Darlington	1,135,960	1,313,523	1,701,263	1,589,514	1,475,563	3,260,982
Derby	2,274,015	2,611,331	2,621,706	2,451,570	2,116,247	9,036,898
Derbyshire	3,028,718	3,584,229	3,504,523	3,501,464	2,875,761	11,089,004
Devon	2,301,557	2,876,215	3,263,950	4,863,394	6,342,455	10,401,877
Doncaster	3,108,451	3,735,822	5,023,025	6,680,423	6,192,264	11,309,946
Dorset	746,023	816,558	1,112,395	1,970,848	2, 229,111	3,016,982
Dudley	1,660,974	2,038,755	3,330,927	3,241,348	3,454,002	6,921,228
Durham	6,388,105	8,238,417	10,356,184	11,262,163	9,898,272	20,381,790
Ealing	1,416,766	1,451,063	2,011,491	4,075,610	3,312,647	6,016,723
East Riding of Yorkshire	699,330	724,511	1,203,060	1,971,244	2,182,268	2,872,875
East Sussex	2,816,824	3,893,477	4,748,740	3,850,916	3,316,030	13,629,602
Enfield	1,315,744	1,383,859	2,181,936	3,044,367	2,940,685	4,736,110
Essex	2,279,687	2,446,694	3,829,794	3,695,985	6,744,764	13,444,212
Gateshead	2,367,756	2,561,163	2,993,764	3,703,748	3,339,523	6,454,847
Gloucestershire	1,157,971	1,422,103	2,334,527	3,490,142	4,252,368	6,944,959
Greenwich	3,065,929	3,644,687	3,687,766	3,478,031	2,928,769	10,525,461
Hackney	4,283,126	5,286,196	6,536,805	8,349,483	6,840,784	11,777,063
Halton	2,482,187	3,332,537	3,953,978	3,706,949	3,128,584	4,798,098
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,749,699	2,086,587	2,130,907	2,153,039	1,734,015	3,429,210
Hampshire	1,232,097	1,577,381	1,829,281	3,961,009	6,945,331	6,011,092
Haringey	3,339,420	4,142,120	4,594,072	5,962,668	4,811,575	12,704,519
Harrow	0	0	0	759,153	873,408	1,129,862
Hartlepool	2,032,263	2,202,889	2,618,302	2,927,450	2,570,523	4,921,876
Havering	744,128	827,059	877,892	1,513,779	1,882,483	2,910,289
Herefordshire	714,217	718,767	955,608	1,350,751	1,282,198	2,498,461
Hertfordshire	0	5,486	321,853	3,090,625	3,955,463	7,243,926
Hillingdon	686,196	759,801	869,441	1,343,487	1,860,292	1,615,636
Hounslow	744,600	800,335	1,062,747	2,574,292	2,086,533	3,798,597
Isle of Wight	685,602	635,263	1,087,148	1,075,833	1,293,268	2,431,724
Isles of Scilly	0	0	65,824	137,141	127,273	0
Islington	5,470,106	4,494,944	5,638,189	6,573,038	5,594,339	10,324,567
Kensington and Chelsea	1,088,069	1,307,984	1,589,082	1,891,508	1,812,465	3,683,422
Kent	3,322,156	6,516,291	7,458,498	6,490,832	10,542,106	17,954,344
Kingston upon Hull	4,387,044	5,167,439	6,570,364	6,619,223	6,032,778	10,712,182
Kingston upon Thames	0	0	0	595,120	808,095	744,761
Kirklees	2,444,400	3,080,760	5,015,063	3,411,988	2,948,402	11,930,440
Knowsley	2,843,784	3,393,331	4,202,432	3,356,195	2,772,182	8,044,183
Lambeth	3,705,498	4,484,511	6,323,222	6,605,583	8,032,617	13,264,068
Lancashire	9,383,926	11,615,052	15,160,442	17,400,049	17,833,522	31,994,581
Leeds	4,641,320	5,300,404	7,879,956	9,166,923	9,356,074	17,391,062
Leicester City	3,462,817	5,213,243	6,547,270	7,631,859	7,780,950	14,041,010
Leicestershire	391,691	663,738	895,114	785,600	662,048	6,258,691
Lewisham	3,175,857	3,853,158	4,606,830	3,857,762	3,163,592	8,635,750
Lincolnshire	3,945,225	4,772,638	5,393,463	6,665,603	6,127,592	14,765,088
Liverpool	6,071,361	7,472,516	10,297,380	11,132,779	11,430,736	21,395,808
Luton	489,701	699,416	1,247,703	2,074,274	2,337,785	4,273,295
Manchester	6,119,192	7,447,219	9,470,770	8,391,237	9,824,296	14,150,034
Medway	744,429	863,254	1,419,995	2,258,227	2,518,735	5,533,156
Merton	415,445	728,330	741,160	1,581,941	1,595,624	1,658,693
Middlesbrough	2,929,556	3,553,786	3,950,493	4,568,275	3,636,661	8,395,883
Milton Keynes	655,984	743,884	1,073,538	1,592,490	1,636,564	2,951,121
NE Lincolnshire	2,768,016	3,329,898	3,698,098	4,167,023	3,698,325	12,105,435
Newcastle upon Tyne	3,842,772	4,873,032	5,432,213	6,253,177	5,823,446	8,374,725
Newham	4,899,609	5,767,383	6,943,172	7,920,973	7,180,196	16,287,137
Norfolk	3,948,978	5,154,535	6,412,916	7,715,646	7,085,456	10,119,733
North Lincolnshire	1,269,500	1,455,894	1,807,366	2,367,860	2,105,769	3,367,920
North Somerset	665,677	726,095	952,336	1,412,763	1,507,909	1,607,260

Table A[1]: SSLP and Children's Centre revenue spend 2003-04 to 2007-08 and total capital spend from 1999 to 2007-08

	Revenue spend					
Top tier LA	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total capital spend from 1999*
North Tyneside	1,994,654	2,241,313	2,718,340	3,294,865	3,350,742	7,989,737
North Yorkshire	1,121,964	1,336,423	1,831,229	2,553,867	3,138,061	6,472,542
Northamptonshire	2,767,930	3,368,055	3,827,318	6,309,748	5,008,873	10,912,198
Northumberland	3,121,510	3,723,771	4,096,900	4,807,778	4,204,441	9,514,498
Nottingham City	4,344,223	5,130,045	6,146,486	5,059,066	4,304,828	13,165,254
Nottinghamshire	4,711,171	6,084,644	7,244,126	6,453,623	5,341,639	20,659,791
Oldham	2,294,086	2,611,972	3,446,663	4,535,561	4,908,702	9,903,790
Oxfordshire	1,028,500	1,229,618	1,308,120	3,147,236	2,927,093	4,643,990
Peterborough	1,809,681	1,954,144	2,540,687	3,169,241	2,681,767	5,242,970
Plymouth	2,471,313	2,874,443	3,431,902	4,073,481	3,761,690	7,216,170
Poole	0	0	0	191,250	594,136	1,135,633
Portsmouth	1,264,620	1,500,303	1,895,654	2,533,978	2,368,029	3,191,961
Reading	755,000	815,079	977,535	1,603,954	1,481,557	1,937,445
Redbridge	610,385	721,191	1,220,569	2,247,206	1,940,299	3,558,714
Redcar and Cleveland	2,441,213	2,920,321	3,290,511	3,129,396	2,819,544	7,207,119
Richmond upon Thames	0	0	0	791,372	1,117,583	1,239,171
Rochdale	2,663,066	3,240,476	4,011,941	5,027,881	4,577,870	9,187,350
Rotherham	1,960,459	2,107,249	2,918,716	1,988,066	3,839,756	8,262,256
Rutland	0	0	0	0	0	458,138
Salford	2,750,856	3,273,911	4,218,914	5,097,145	5,092,005	10,541,747
Sandwell	3,822,033	4,715,135	6,935,004	8,041,907	7,251,232	15,216,188
Sefton	2,555,021	2,860,347	3,295,388	4,040,696	4,025,191	7,189,852
Sheffield	4,820,711	5,748,300	5,968,152	5,704,835	4,669,791	11,184,389
Shropshire	1,208,412	1,474,427	1,744,448	1,548,982	1,305,372	4,268,130
Slough	708,429	692,536	934,260	1,620,115	1,494,917	1,808,281
Solihull	720,876	755,639	1,164,878	1,815,511	1,696,367	2,872,233
Somerset	1,995,781	2,246,739	2,909,294	3,700,037	3,743,297	8,252,662
South Gloucestershire	0	0	0	946,333	1,273,818	1,619,195
South Tyneside	2,392,926	2,896,369	3,437,141	4,380,581	3,989,044	7,763,833
Southampton	1,593,902	1,800,840	2,233,999	2,953,344	2,797,688	5,698,593
Southend	650,000	652,613	945,455	1,290,990	1,539,157	2,631,127
Southwark	4,841,458	5,773,606	7,105,078	8,664,773	7,329,649	14,111,579
St Helens	2,683,347	3,451,901	4,248,141	3,461,307	2,911,305	9,611,379
Staffordshire	3,420,406	3,459,755	4,213,454	5,990,872	6,975,081	10,449,472
Stockport	397,228	3,750,019	968,135	2,137,466	1,896,553	3,982,148
Stockton-on-Tees	2,959,248	644,598	4,168,682	3,836,548	3,155,902	7,816,193
Stoke on Trent	4,396,329	4,794,613	5,587,731	4,398,091	3,449,846	11,479,260
Suffolk	1,778,409	2,158,319	2,587,539	4,360,907	5,196,760	9,273,315
Sunderland	4,134,708	4,943,826	6,219,195	6,543,067	5,469,474	12,809,583
Surrey	0	0	80,340	1,545,357	2,919,055	3,983,599
Sutton	495,817	700,208	1,018,432	1,372,516	1,889,667	2,560,400
Swindon	754,769	847,681	1,153,713	1,595,119	1,879,232	3,841,288
Tameside	2,161,541	2,716,862	3,588,200	4,127,811	4,354,183	7,614,993
Telford and the Wrekin	1,185,342	1,445,490	1,512,447	1,348,654	1,169,537	3,886,054
Thurrock	875,450	889,512	1,272,558	1,673,054	1,970,939	3,258,875
Torbay	1,177,153	1,565,512	1,897,685	2,052,410	1,909,418	5,003,186
Tower Hamlets	4,377,958	5,291,872	5,743,059	7,297,693	7,361,975	11,831,221
Trafford	469,833	503,743	793,653	1,871,656	1,954,114	3,506,102
Wakefield	2,443,231	2,991,768	4,078,569	5,064,116	5,506,944	10,935,594
Walsall	2,869,573	3,509,691	4,536,032	5,929,141	5,435,428	10,827,910
Waltham Forest	2,045,046	2,960,185	4,047,816	2,807,347	2,428,644	8,201,136
Wandsworth	1,319,785	1,589,032	1,847,460	3,007,408	2,610,230	6,355,958
Warrington	1,036,767	1,266,326	1,700,177	2,449,004	2,651,225	4,624,908
Warwickshire	1,405,163	1,210,086	1,540,640	3,326,379	4,143,741	8,537,956
West Berkshire	0	0	0	472,812	538,032	934,158
West Sussex	1,023,194	1,504,270	2,128,382	1,471,576	1,240,140	4,418,336
Westminster	1,817,255	2,215,173	2,672,509	3,241,846	3,034,775	4,839,071
Wigan	1,093,405	1,162,269	2,578,218	4,076,436	4,198,570	5,076,437
Wiltshire	0	0	86,000	1,672,898	2,135,486	3,924,606
Windsor and Maidenhead	0	0	0	430,294	642,032	1,042,310
Wirral	2,396,851	2,966,387	4,188,872	4,976,227	5,307,493	10,092,574
Wokingham	0	0	11,994	450,870	790,201	484,220
Wolverhampton	2,997,011	3,974,474	4,906,402	5,693,847	5,311,341	9,271,159

Table A[1]: SSLP and Children's Centre revenue spend 2003-04 to 2007-08 and total capital spend from 1999 to 2007-08

	Revenue spend					
Top tier LA	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total capital spend from 1999*
Worcestershire	1,879,426	2,081,621	2,416,921	3,810,001	4,061,717	8,632,504
York	467,000	601,860	699,927	992,562	1,184,614	2,094,078
Total	308,361,426	371,230,349	472,767,237	563,052,390	560,053,519	1,114,406,891

[1] Not all audits have been received from the Sure Start Local Programmes. For those programmes with outstanding audits an average spend rate has been applied to their allocation to produce a likely spend. Similarly five of the most deprived authorities were in Local Area Agreements in 2006/07 and 2007/08 and were not required to submit statements of spend to the Department. An average spend has been applied for these authorities.

In depth data to allow the spend in each of the areas of deprivation to be determined are available from 2003-04. The revenue spend in the 20 per cent., 10 per cent. and 5 per cent. most deprived local authorities areas, as identified by the Index of Multiple Deprivation 1997 (the latest year for which data are available), is given in table B.

Table B - SSLP and Children's Centres revenue spend 2003-04 to 2007-08 by deprivation level of area

Deprivation level	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
0 - 5% (8 Local authorities)	34,994,692	42,707,247	52,782,300	57,589,673	54,641,169
5 - 10% (7 Local authorities)	27,601,975	33,122,806	47,327,552	52,476,125	47,780,812
10 - 20% (15 Local authorities)	48,398,126	60,941,713	76,269,567	83,492,249	78,775,898
Total	110,994,793	136,771,766	176,379,420	193,558,047	181,197,879

The Sure Start local programmes received a single capital allocation. The capital spend from 1999-00 to 2007-08 is shown in table C.

Table C: SSLP and Children's Centres Capital spend from 1999 to 2007-08 by deprivation level of area

Deprivation level	*Capital*
0-5% (8 Local Authorities)	102,223,852
5 - 10% (7 Local Authorities)	23,043,139
10 - 20% (15 Local Authorities)	43,994,611
Total	91,799,625

Truancy

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 518-20W, on truancy, how many *(a)* fathers and *(b)* mothers were (i) fined and (ii) imprisoned for their children's non-attendance at school in 2007. [253395]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Ministry of Justice collects data for England and Wales on prosecutions brought against parents under the Education Act 1996 for the offence under s444(1) for failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school; and for prosecutions under s444(1A), the aggravated offence of knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly. It is possible, because of the way courts record data that some data are collected under the more general heading of various offences under the Education Act 1996.

The information on the number of people by gender sentenced and given fines or immediate custodial sentences is detailed in the table.

The Department also separately collects for England data on penalty notices issued to parents for failing to ensure that their child attends school regularly and for the school academic year 2006/07 this was 14,625. The Department does not collect data by gender type.

Adult male and female sentenced for child truancy offences[1], 2007

	Fined	*Immediate custody*
Parent failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school[2]		
Male	831	1
Female	2,281	5
Parent knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school		
Male	187	3
Female	489	8

[1] These data are extracted on the principal offence basis.

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 25 February 2009

PRIME MINISTER

Future Aircraft Carriers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Prime Minister For what reason the construction of the Future Aircraft Carriers has been delayed. [257877]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies) to my hon. Friend the Member for Jarrow (Mr. Hepburn) on Monday 23

February 2009, *Official Report*, column 10.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Mathematics

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many adult learners have taken GCSE mathematics in each year since 1990. [251994]

Mr. Simon *[holding reply 27 January 2009]:* The following table shows the number of learners in further education undertaking GCSE Mathematics in each academic year since 2003-04 by age group, the earliest year for which we have comparable information.

Learners in further education undertaking GCSE Mathematics by age

Age	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Under 16	100	200	100	100	100
16-18	43,600	41,500	38,700	37,500	34,500
19+	23,400	22,200	20,000	18,200	15,800
Total	67,100	63,900	58,800	55,900	50,400

Notes:
1. Age is based on age as at 31 August (academic age).
2. This information does not include learners studying GCSE Mathematics in Schools or Higher Education Institutions.
3. If a learner is studying GCSE Mathematics over more than one year, they will be counted in each year for which they are studying.

Source:
FE ILR

Awarding body data on GCSE examination entries is analysed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families as part of the School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables publication. However, this work only covers qualifications entered for by 16-18 year olds. Therefore, we do not have information readily available on adults being entered for GCSE Mathematics examinations.

Due to the increased number of pupils taking and successfully passing a Maths GCSE at school, we would expect the volume of learners studying this qualification at a Further Education College to fall. In 1997, there were 534,700 15 year olds (academic age) attempting GCSE Mathematics and 250,300 achieving a C grade or higher (around 50 per cent. of those attempting the subject). In 2004, 606,000 pupils attempted GCSE Mathematics at the end of Key Stage 4 with 318,900 achieving a grade A*-C (around 53 per cent. of those attempting the subject). In 2008, 609,700 pupils attempted GCSE Mathematics at the end of Key Stage 4, with 361,100 achieving a grade A*-C (59 per cent. of those attempting the subject).

Over the last few years the Government have prioritised funding towards longer and fuller programmes such as full level 2 qualifications (equivalent of 5 A*-C GCSEs or vocational equivalent) away from a higher number of shorter courses. This has increased the number of adults achieving the broad platform of skills for entering and progressing into employment, but has necessarily resulted in an overall reduction in the number of LSC funded adult learners over this period.

A GCSE may not necessarily be the most appropriate learning outcome for many learners and colleges have been encouraged to advise learners to study the most relevant qualification to them. In 2007-08, learners on apprenticeship programmes (all ages) undertook over 156,000 Key Skills qualifications in Application of Number.

Fines

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) whether any administrative financial penalties may be levied by his Department and its agencies; [253592]

(2) what administrative financial penalties may be levied by his Department and its agencies. [253593]

Mr. Lammy: As a matter of general administrative policy the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills does not levy financial penalties against third party organisations or individuals.

However, under the Education (Student Support) (Repayment) Regulations 2000 (as amended), the borrower may be charged a penalty in relation to their income contingent student loan where:

- they have failed to provide their home address or name changes within six weeks (£50);
- they have failed to comply with an Information Notice which has been served on them (£100);
- the borrower has been liable to pay a penalty in respect of an Information Notice and has not paid by the specified date, an additional penalty may be charged (£100).

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of university entrants were home schooled in each of the last 10 years. [258281]

Mr. Lammy: This information is not held centrally.

Nanotechnology

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what research his Department has funded on *(a)* ethical, *(b)* environmental and *(c)* social issues relating to the (i) use and (ii) safety of (A) nanotechnology and (B) nanoproducts; and if he will make a statement. [255564]

Mr. Lammy: The Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills' delivery partners, the Research Councils and the Technology Strategy Board, funded through the science and research, and innovation budgets respectively, support a portfolio of research and related activities on a wide range of aspects of nanotechnology. I have arranged for a document with details to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. It is not possible to divide the research into the categories requested, but, where possible, an indication has been given as to whether the research is addressing environmental, social, use or safety issues. The Government placed a statement about nanotechnologies in the Libraries on 28 February 2008 (House of Lords Hansard, column WS86 refers).

The Government regard nanotechnologies as an important issue, and has established a ministerial group chaired by the Minister for Science and Innovation to support their development in a responsible way.

Research: Small Businesses

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress has been made on the commitment in the "Innovation Nation" White Paper to extend the revised Small Business Research Initiative to all participating departments by April 2009. [258735]

Mr. Lammy: As stated in "Innovation Nation", the revised format for SBRI has been prototyped with pilot competitions by the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Health. Each Department ran two competitions in 2008, and each competition elicited a number of innovative responses from industry, demonstrating that the programme, in its revised form, has considerable potential to benefit departments as well as innovative companies. Experience from these pilots is being used to define the standard process, documentation, and support infrastructure needed for broader deployment, and to demonstrate the value of SBRI as a powerful innovation mechanism.

The Technology Strategy Board, which manages the SBRI programme, is engaging with Departments to identify and define further opportunities for the use of SBRI over the next three years. A £10 million competition with the Department for Communities and Local Government will be launched in March. The competition will encourage companies to demonstrate ways of improving the environmental sustainability of existing buildings. The Ministry of Defence, the Department of Health, and the Department for Transport also have advanced plans for SBRI competitions in 2009.

Science

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he plans to publish his Department's strategy for science and society. [258739]

Mr. Lammy: The UK's strategy for science and society is being developed in partnership with a range of stakeholders, following an extensive consultation process in 2008, and we plan to publish in late spring 2009.

Social Work: Higher Education

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which universities providing social work degrees have stated their intention to cease providing them; and when they did so. [258468]

Mr. Lammy: Reading university has recently announced that it plans to cease providing social work degrees in order to strengthen other areas, from September 2011. However, Reading is only one of about 100 institutions providing social work courses for about 60,000 students nationally. We will be working across Government and in partnership with all those institutions which provide such courses to help them produce a social care workforce which is well trained for the extremely demanding jobs undertaken by social workers.

Students: Loans

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make it his policy to suspend student loan repayments for graduates earning less than £30,000 per annum. [258981]

Mr. Lammy: There are no plans to suspend repayments for graduates earning less than £30,000. Repayment terms are already generous, and heavily subsidised by the taxpayer. Borrowers with income-contingent student loans repay at a rate of 9 per cent. of earnings above the repayment threshold of £15,000. This means that, for example, student loan borrower earning £18,000 a year would repay £5.19 per week.

We are committed to maintaining the repayment threshold at £15,000 until 2010, when we will review it.

Whitehall Innovation Hub

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost of establishing the Whitehall Innovation Hub was; and what funding his Department plans to allocate to it in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* subsequent years. [258736]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS has provided £300,000 during 2008-09 for the Sunningdale Institute to establish the Whitehall Innovation Hub. This funding has included launching and setting up the Hub in 2008, running costs and activities in the financial year 2008-09.

The Department is currently in discussions with the Hub over funding arrangements for the future.

Work Experience

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many places on the planned national internship programme are expected to be available annually. [258389]

Mr. Lammy: In these challenging economic times, the Government are aiming to help new graduates in a number of ways. Amongst other measures, we are working with key stakeholders in the private, public and charitable sectors to increase provision of graduate internships for 2009. We expect these internships to offer graduates the

opportunity to spend time with an employer, applying their learning in a working situation and building the work ready skills they will need for permanent employment. It is still early days, so we are not yet in a position to confirm the number of additional places involved.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the housing management and maintenance allocations were in *(a)* real and *(b)* cash terms for each English region in each year since 1997. [257641]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have placed tables in the Library of the House showing allocations for management and maintenance allowances shown in 2007-08 prices, and in cash terms, for each local authority in each English region in each year since 1997.

In general local authorities' allowances increase year on year in line with inflation. Fluctuations in allowances between years reflect the response of the system to changes in underlying data arising, for example, from changes in stock numbers, crime data, and the index of deprivation.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the allocations for major repair allowance were in *(a)* real and *(b)* cash terms for each (i) English region and (ii) London local authority in each year since 1997. [257642]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have placed tables in the Library of the House showing allocations for major repairs allowances shown in 2007-08 prices, and in cash terms, for each local authority in each English region, and in each London local authority in each year since 1997.

In general local authorities' allowances increase year on year in line with inflation. Fluctuations in allowances between years reflect the response of the system to changes in underlying data arising, for example, from changes in stock numbers, and building or other cost adjustments.

Council Housing: Waiting Lists

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people are on local authority housing waiting lists in *(a)* St Albans and *(b)* Hertfordshire; and what the equivalent figures were (i) five and (ii) 10 years ago. [256977]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information is available on numbers of households rather than people. The number of households registered on local authority housing waiting lists in each local authority, as at 1 April each year, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600. The latest available data are at April 2008. The link for this table is as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table600.xls

Local authorities in England report the numbers of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. The number of households on local authorities' waiting lists in St. Albans and Hertfordshire is given in the following table.

Number of households on the council house waiting list (excludes households looking for transfers)

	April 1998	*April 2003*	*April 2008*
St. Albans	1,758	1,764	1,521
Hertfordshire	18,601	19,677	26,891

Source:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA)

Further information on the number of households on the local authority housing waiting lists for England, can be found in the statistical release "Local Authority Housing Statistics England: 2007-08: Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) and Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA)" This was published on 22 January 2009 on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/lahousing200708

Copies of the statistical release and live table have been deposited in the Library.

Not everyone on the local authority waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time. The size of the waiting list is not an indicator of absolute need, it is only useful as a broad indicator of housing demand in an area.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to increase the availability of affordable housing in *(a)* Reading and *(b)* the Thames Valley region. [258154]

Mr. Iain Wright: We are committed to a substantial increase in affordable housing. The long-term aspiration is to deliver 70,000 affordable homes a year in England by 2010-11. These affordable homes will be funded mainly by the Homes and Communities Agency established last year to improve the effectiveness of housing delivery.

The growth programme funds infrastructure to support housing growth. Within the Thames Valley Reading, Milton Keynes, Aylesbury Vale and Didcot will receive a total of £21 million in 2009-10 from growth programmes. In addition in Reading the Homes and Communities Agency has committed to funding over 800 new affordable homes this year. Across the rest of the Thames Valley investment through the Homes and Communities Agency is due to deliver a further 1,200 affordable homes this year.

Local Government Finance: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the management and maintenance allocations were to each London local

authority in *(a)* real and *(b)* cash terms in each year since 1997. [257640]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have placed tables in the Library of the House showing allocations for Management and Maintenance allowances shown in 2007-08 prices, and in cash terms, for each local authority in London in each year since 1997.

In general local authorities' allowances increase year on year in line with inflation. Fluctuations in allowances between years reflect the response of the system to changes in underlying data arising, for example, from changes in stock numbers, crime data, and the index of deprivation.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to reply to the letters of 3 December 2008 and 30 January 2009 from the hon. Member for Forest of Dean on the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, reference FD9865. [258766]

Mr. Khan: I replied to the hon. Member's correspondence on 23 February 2009.

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund monies *(a)* allocated by her Department in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08 and *(b)* carried forward to 2008-09 have been spent, broken down by district; and if she will make a statement. [258771]

John Healey: The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund allocation was £525 million for 2006-07 and £525 million for 2007-08. I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the amounts paid to each local authority for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08. Any money carried over from 2006-07 had to be used by the end of 2007-08.

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund was provided on a non-ringfenced basis for 2007-08; local authorities could therefore make their own decisions on carrying forward a level of funding and Government did not compel local authorities to submit details on the amount carried forward between years.

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each of the Humber ports paid in business rates in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007 and *(e)* 2008; and for how much each such port is liable in respect of each year since 2005 following the new assessments made in 2008. [256951]

John Healey: The Department does not hold this information. Local authorities are responsible for billing and collection of rates from individual businesses.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has for the administration of the scheme to enable businesses to pay backdated rates bills over eight years in relation to *(a)* port and *(b)* other businesses; whether her Department has issued instructions to local authorities on the claiming of arrears; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the Exchequer of the payment scheme. [256719]

John Healey: The Department has issued a Business Rates Information Letter (BRIL 2/2009) on the policy for a schedule of payments, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House. I have also written to the leaders of billing authorities confirming that the legislation has been put in place. The impact of the policy is set out in the impact assessment which was laid before this House on 10 February accompanying the Non-Domestic Rating (Collection and Enforcement) (Local Lists) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2009 (SI 204).

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has refused to implement fast track arrangements for port businesses which are unable to provide the VOA with previous rating assessments in relation to the review of their new rating assessments; and if she will make it her policy to allow such businesses to gain access to fast track arrangements by submitting notional figures for previous assessments. [256720]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency has implemented the fast track arrangements for all ports businesses affected by a backdated liability for business rates as a result of the review of businesses within ports.

Where ratepayers have failed to submit appeals (proposals) in accordance with the legislation, these have been treated as invalid. It is in the interests of fairness to all ratepayers that the regulations, which determine how appeals should be made, are applied consistently. However the Valuation Office Agency has continued to deal with and respond to these cases in accordance with the fast track arrangements despite the absence of a valid appeal.

Non-Domestic Rates: Small Businesses

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department allocated to small business rate relief in each year since 2005; and how much was claimed in such relief in each local authority area in each year. [258762]

John Healey: The Department does not allocate funding for small business rate relief as this is funded by businesses not eligible for the relief by a supplement on their rates bill.

In regard to relief claimed in each local authority I refer to my answer given to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone) on 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1660W.

I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing *(a)* the number of businesses that were in receipt of small business rate relief in each local authority in England as at 31 December 2006, the only year for which this information is currently available and *(b)* the total relief granted in each local authority in England in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Ordnance Survey: VAT

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Ordnance Survey has reduced its retail prices for items which attract value added tax since December 2008. [258395]

Mr. Iain Wright: The change in the standard rate of VAT effective from 1 December 2008 has been applied to business prices for all Ordnance Survey data products and services that are subject to VAT at the standard rate.

Ordnance Survey paper maps are zero-rated for VAT and hence no price adjustments have been made for these products.

Rented Housing: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people there are on housing waiting lists in City of York constituency; and how many there were in each of the last 15 years. [257833]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information is available on numbers of households rather than people. The number of households registered on local authority housing waiting lists in each local authority, as at 1 April each year, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in table 600. The latest available data are at April 2008. The link for this table is given as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table600.xls

Local authorities in England report the numbers of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual housing strategy statistical appendix returns. The City of York constituency is included in the unitary authority of York. The number of households on local authorities' waiting lists in the unitary authority of York is given in the following table. Data are not available prior to 1997.

Number of households on the waiting list (excludes households looking for transfers)

	York UA
1997	4,515
1998	4,139
1999	4,624
2000	4,496
2001	4,425
2002	3,459
2003	3,625
2004	1,888
2005	2,122
2006	1,600
2007	1,927
2008	2,289

Source:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA)

Further information on the number of households on the local authority housing waiting lists for England, can be found in the statistical release "Local Authority Housing Statistics England: 2007-08: Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) and Business Plan Statistical Appendix (BPSA)". This was published on 22 January 2009 on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/lahousing200708

Copies of the statistical release and live table have been deposited in the Library.

Not everyone on the housing waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The housing waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time. The size of the housing waiting list is not an indicator of absolute need, it is only useful as a broad indicator of housing demand in an area.

Roscommon Way Extension

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the environmental impact of the Roscommon Way Extension, Canvey Island. [258553]

Margaret Beckett: As part of the community infrastructure business case requirements and owing to the value of the Roscommon Way Extension scheme (in excess of £10 million) the Departments for Transport and Communities and Local Government requested that Essex county council complete a full 'Major Schemes Business Case'. This was subsequently submitted in May 2008. It contained an initial environmental assessment which included noise, air quality, landscape, townscape, heritage, biodiversity and water environment analyses. Building on this assessment, the county council has submitted a planning application which includes a detailed environmental impact assessment, which proposes a raft of mitigation measures including invertebrate relocation, avoidance of water courses and careful landscaping to minimise the noise impact.

Sleeping Rough: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people she estimates were sleeping rough in York in *(a)* winter and *(b)* summer in each of the last 15 years. [257831]

Mr. Iain Wright: Annual rough sleeping figures for York have been collected since 1998. The figures are based on local authority street counts and estimates where a street count did not take place.

Number of rough sleepers in York

1998	12
1999	18
2000	6
2001	
2002	3
2003	3
2004	5
2005	1
2006	2
2007	8
2008	8

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish a copy of his Department's website accessibility plan. [257227]

Jonathan Shaw: We have developed a website accessibility statement for our departmental site, and it is available online at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/accessibility/

Our accessibility policy for this website is available on request from this page, in line with Cabinet Office guidelines.

More detailed plans for improving accessibility for parts of our websites are under development, with the aim of complying with Level Double-A of the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines by December 2009.

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department were on sick leave for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days in each of the last five years. [256338]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is contained in the following table. The data reflect information currently held on the Department's personnel computer system.

	Over 30 days		*Over 50 days*		*Over 100 days*	
	Staff	*Percentage of staff*	*Staff*	*Percentage of staff*	*Staff*	*Percentage of staff*
2008	3,300	2.55	3,762	2.91	3,732	2.89
2007	3,815	2.84	4,570	3.41	4,754	3.54
2006	3,966	2.75	4,812	3.34	4,993	3.46
2005	4,080	2.68	5,145	3.38	5,545	3.64
2004	5,390	3.32	6,216	3.83	6,445	3.97

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department were recorded as having been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December in each of the last five years. [256624]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is contained in the following table. The data reflect information currently held on the Department's personnel computer system.

Number of employees absent for more than 12 months on 31 December

	Staff	*Percentage of all staff employed*
2008	85	0.07
2007	209	0.16
2006	139	0.10
2005	142	0.09
2004	284	0.17

Disadvantaged: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding was allocated by his Department under the deprived areas fund to each local authority in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [254452]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 5 February 2009]:* No funding was allocated by DWP to local authorities in 2006-07 or 2007-08 under the deprived areas fund.

In 2006-07 the deprived areas fund was allocated direct to district managers in Jobcentre Plus.

In 2007-08 the deprived areas fund was allocated directly to district managers in Jobcentre Plus and to 15 city strategy pathfinders. However, some pathfinders elected to receive their deprived areas fund via a nominated local authority acting as their lead accountable body. Allocations are shown in the tables.

Jobcentre Plus district	*2006-07 Jobcentre Plus districts*	*2007-08 Jobcentre Plus districts (non-cities)*	*2007-08 City strategy areas by district*
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	98,877	313,000	0
Essex	71,305	226,000	0
Norfolk	69,404	222,000	0
Cambridgeshire and Suffolk	58,946	189,000	0
Derbyshire	173,034	537,000	0
Leicestershire and Northamptonshire	292,828	79,576	816,424
Lincolnshire and Rutland	91,271	287,000	0
Nottinghamshire	402,163	186,998	1,046,002
West London	373,640	0	1,143,000
Central London	438,291	1,349,000	0
City and East London	1,463,187	21,218	4,461,782
Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth	905,103	2,780,000	0
North and North East London	934,576	2,034,549	828,451
South London	598,965	1,405,983	428,017
Northumbria	533,365	0	1,633,000
South Tyne and Wear Valley	810,030	527,309	1,953,691
Tees Valley	518,153	1,596,000	0
Cheshire and Warrington	59,897	193,000	0
Cumbria	134,054	418,000	0
Greater Mersey	574,246	0	1,759,000
Liverpool and Wirral	791,966	0	2,427,000
Lancashire	509,596	1,167,223	392,777
Greater Manchester Central	803,374	0	2,459,000
Greater Manchester East and West	422,128	0	1,293,000
Ayrshire, Dumfries, Galloway and Inverclyde	436,389	1,344,000	0
Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders	160,675	97,897	394,103
Forth Valley, Fife and Tayside	405,966	793,303	448,697
Glasgow	946,936	0	2,898,000
Highlands, Islands and Clyde Coast and Grampian	365,084	1,125,000	0
Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire	442,094	1,361,000	0
Berks, Bucks and Oxfordshire	47,537	26,000	0
Hampshire	47,537	110,000	0
Kent	89,369	280,000	0
Surrey and Sussex	86,517	274,000	0
Devon and Cornwall	83,665	265,000	0
Dorset and Somerset	47,537	89,000	0
Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon	47,537	128,000	0
West of England	96,025	301,000	0

Jobcentre Plus district	2006-07 Jobcentre Plus districts	2007-08, Jobcentre Plus districts (non-cities)	2007-08 City strategy areas by district
South Wales Valleys	922,217	1,233,587	1,588,413
North and Mid Wales	186,345	492,035	79,965
South East Wales	290,926	789,746	101,254
South West Wales	486,778	1,491,000	0
Birmingham and Solihull	821,438	0	2,515,00C
Coventry and Warwickshire	90,320	0	277,00C
Staffordshire	81,764	257,000	C
The Black Country	463,961	0	1,419.00C
The Marches	0	0	63,00C
North East Yorkshire and The Humber	301,384	932,000	0
South Yorkshire	538,118	0	1,647,000
West Yorkshire	685,483	2,105,000	0
Totals	19,300,000	27,027,424	32,072,576

Source:
DWP Areas Initiatives and Communities Division

2007-08 City strategy pathfinder allocations	
Blackburn with Darwin[1]	392,777
Leicester[1]	816,424
Liverpool[1]	4,186,000
Greater Manchester[1]	3,752,000
South Yorkshire[1]	1,647,000
Nottingham[1]	1,046,002
Tyne and Wear[1]	3,586,691
Dundee	448,697
Glasgow	2,898,000
Edinburgh	394,103
Heads of the Valleys	1,689,667
Rhyl	79,965
Birmingham Black Country and Coventry	4,274,000
East London	5,718,250
West London	1,143,000
Total	32,072,576

[1] These pathfinders each elected to receive their DAF via a nominated local authority acting as their lead accountable body

Source:
DWP Areas Initiatives and Communities Division

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what sanctions would apply if an individual refused to participate in *(a)* a substance-related assessment, *(b)* an interview, *(c)* other relevant tests and *(d)* rehabilitation plans under provisions contained in Schedule 1 of the Welfare Reform Bill. [256955]

Mr. McNulty: Under current plans the sanctions that will apply will be similar to those in place for refusing to take the steps necessary to tackle other barriers to work. Currently, for failing to comply with a Jobseeker Direction, the claimant will incur two weeks' benefit loss in the first instance, followed by four and 26 weeks' loss for repeated failure to comply. Those on employment and support allowance can lose up to half of the work related activity component of their benefit for four weeks if they fail to meet with conditionality requirements. If they still fail to cooperate they can lose their work related activity component in full.

Industrial Accidents: Construction

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many prosecutions have been brought under health and safety legislation in respect of fatal accidents in the construction industry in each year since 1997; and how many of them resulted in convictions. [255867]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of prosecutions brought under health and safety legislation in respect of fatal injuries in the construction industry, and resulting convictions, is as shown in the following table:

	Prosecutions	Convictions
1999-2000	39	37
2000-01	45	39
2001-02	46	43
2002-03	59	50
2003-04	48	39
2004-05	54	46
2005-06	36	27
2006-07	44	38
2007-08	51	44

Detailed information is only available in the form requested from 1999-2000 onwards. Data is not yet available for 2008-09.

These figures show, for each year, the number of prosecution cases resulting from fatal injuries in the construction industry, for which the last hearing date fell within the relevant year, and the number of those which have as yet resulted in at least one successful conviction.

The numbers of prosecutions include 14 cases where the prosecution has been commenced but is not yet complete.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who have been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance but no longer qualify for it *(a)* have found employment, *(b)* are still unemployed and *(c)* are registered as unemployed; and if he will make a statement. [254414]

Mr. McNulty: The total number of people leaving jobseeker's allowance is decreasing in line with the numbers claiming jobseeker's allowance. The number of people leaving with an unknown destination recorded has increased over the last ten years. This is because the completion levels of the JSA40 (forms filled in by people leaving jobseeker's allowance) have decreased over this period. This should be taken into account when interpreting these statistics, as many of these 'unknown' leavers will have moved into employment or other benefits.

The available information is in the table.

Destination of claimants leaving jobseekers allowance—2008

Destination	Claimants
Employment	914,690
Other benefit (excludes those reaching retirement age)	170,185
Education/training	228,530

Destination of claimants leaving jobseekers allowance—2008

Destination	*Claimants*
Other known destinations	155,715
Not known	1,083,635
Total	2,552,735

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. The question does not specify any time period; total claimants leaving jobseeker's allowance during 2008 have been supplied.
3. Number of leavers moving into employment includes claimants who increased their employment hours beyond 16 per week.
4. Most of those moving onto other benefits will still be out of work.
5. Other known destinations include gone abroad, reached retirement age, gone to prison, deceased, new claim review or defective claim.

Source:
100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems

Mass Media

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of his Department's contracts with press monitoring services was in each of the last five years. [251216]

Jonathan Shaw: Press monitoring services for DWP include contracts with the Central Office of Information's Media Monitoring Unit, a press cuttings agency, two media monitoring services and the Press Association. Separate services were provided at times for Jobcentre Plus, the Office for Disability Issues and the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission (CMEC). The costs were as follows:

	£
2004-05	49,000
2005-06	172,599.97
2006-07	211,505.95
2007-08	224,377.55
2008-09	[1]138,543.28

[1] Up to December 2008

Some costs are incomplete and unavailable. For instance, the costs in 2004-05 only relate to the Central Office of Information's Media Monitoring Unit.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire to the Prime Minister of 18 December 2008, transferred to him for reply, on the winter fuel allowance. [256923]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 19 February 2009.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer the letters from the hon. Member for Edinburgh West of 22 September 2008 and 17 November 2008 on the case of the hon. Member's constituent, Joe Shepherd. [258741]

Jonathan Shaw: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 19 October 2008 in reply to his letter of 22 September 2008, and 18 December 2008 in reply to his letter of17 November 2008.

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when *(a)* he, *(b)* his Ministers and *(c)* officials from his Department next plan to meet bidders for Flexible New Deal contracts to discuss the tendering process; [257249]

(2) what changes have been made to the timetable for the tendering process for providers bidding for Flexible New Deal contracts; and if he will make a statement; [257250]

(3) when he plans to publish the list of the preferred bidders for the Flexible New Deal contracts; and if he will make a statement. [257251]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* There are no current plans to meet with bidders for flexible new deal contracts.

We wrote to bidders for flexible new deal contracts on 11 February, to provide them with the information we had planned to give them at a meeting on 6 February, which did not take place due to adverse weather conditions.

We have notified providers that, by the time phase 1 contracts start in October 2009, we now believe customer volumes will be higher than those published in the invitation to tender (ItT). To enable us to jointly consider the impact and options to address the financial challenges in the initial phase of the contract, there will be a short pause in the competition. We remain committed to beginning delivery of flexible new deal from October and will inform bidders who have been shortlisted in April, with contracts being awarded by the end of May 2009.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will increase the up-front service fee payable to successful bidders for Flexible New Deal contracts; and if he will make a statement. [257338]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* DWP will retain a performance and payment regime based largely on outcomes, providing shortlisted bidders with the opportunity to develop innovative, individually tailored solutions. Our expectation is to have a funding model based on 80 per cent. (outcome) and 20 per cent. (fee based) as originally announced. However, in the initial phase of the contract (first 18 months), we will consider alternative models based on a higher service fee element.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his most recent estimate is of the number of people who will be referred to providers of the Flexible New Deal in each of the next two years; and if he will make a statement; [257339]

(2) what estimate he has made for the purposes of the Flexible New Deal contract of the number of people who will have been out of work for more than 12 months by October 2009; and if he will make a statement. [258249]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The Department does not forecast future long-term unemployment or the future number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance.

The Government remain committed to bringing forward the flexible new deal and on 30 January 2009 a letter was issued to shortlisted bidders in the flexible new deal competition to help them draw up plans that are capable of withstanding a wide range of possible developments in the labour market over the next three to five years. This includes the possibility that customer volumes by the time phase 1 contracts go live in October 2009 could be up to 300 per cent. higher than those published in the original invitation to tender. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the flexible new deal contracts go-live dates will be delayed as a result of the suspension of the tendering process. [257750]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The Government remains committed to bringing in phase 1 of the flexible new deal from October 2009.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department expects to commence the Flexible New Deal in October 2009; and if he will make a statement. [258250]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The Government remain committed to bringing in the flexible new deal, in phase 1 areas, from October 2009.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with organisations providing specialist employment services who did not submit bids for contracts under the Flexible New Deal; and if he will make a statement. [258251]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* We have written to suppliers that had been shortlisted and had subsequently withdrawn from the Flexible New Deal competition, advising them that by the time Phase 1 contracts start in October 2009 we now believe customer volumes will be higher than those published in the Invitation to Tender (ItT). We have invited them to reconsider their decision to withdraw from the competition and submit a full tender should they now wish to bid.

Pension Credit

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for pension credit were made to the Pensions Service in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 to date. [257096]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is in the following table.

Pension credit applications

	Number
2007-08	285,436
2008-09 January YTD[1]	249,895

[1] YTD—year to date.

Source:
Pension Service Legacy System

Pensioners: Winter Fuel Payments

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners who reached the age of 80 in 2008 have not qualified for winter fuel payments because their birthday was later than 15 September 2008. [254842]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Winter fuel payments of £200 (£250 for 2008-09) are available to eligible people who are aged 60 or over by the qualifying week (15-21 September for winter 2008-09). Where an eligible person is aged 80 or over in this qualifying week, they will receive an amount of £300 (£400 for 2008-09).

The estimated number of pensioners in Great Britain who reached the age of 80 in 2008, and would not have qualified for the increase in winter fuel payments because their birthday was later than the qualifying week, is around 87,000. The September qualifying week is used to ensure that payments can be made before Christmas. If the qualifying period were to be extended or a later week used, the payment exercise could not be completed in time for the payments to be available when they are most needed. Whichever qualifying week is used, there will always be people who just miss out.

Notes:

1. An estimate of the number of people turning 80 in the calendar year 2008 has been derived from the 2006-based national population projections for Great Britain from the Office for National Statistics.

2. The estimated number of pensioners in Great Britain who reached the age of 80 in 2008, and would not have qualified for the increase in winter fuel payments, are those who turned 80 between 22 September and 31 December 2008.

3. This estimate was rounded to the nearest 1,000 individuals.

4. The estimate does not include those people living in the European Economic Area or Switzerland.

5. The winter fuel payments rates quoted in the answer are for full rate payments. Where there is more than one eligible person in a household people may receive a shared payment.

Source:
DWP and The Office for National Statistics

Pensions

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of pension funds which invest in mortgage-backed securities; and if he will make a statement. [257085]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is as follows.

The Purple Book 2008 produced by the Pension Protection Fund (PPF) and the Pensions Regulator covers most PPF-eligible defined benefit pension schemes.

Mortgage backed securities are not recorded as a separate item within the Purple Book data and are grouped under the category 'Other'. This category includes several separate asset classes.

The category 'Other' constitutes 3.7 per cent. of total scheme assets, and 17 per cent. of schemes hold assets from this category.

As mortgage backed securities are grouped together with other classes of asset they will only be a very small fraction of the 3.7 per cent. of total assets within the category.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff of his Department were working on the Post Office card account successor contract prior to its cancellation. [256081]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is not possible to give the precise number of staff who were working on the Post Office card account successor contract prior to cancellation. A small core team of DWP and Northern Ireland Social Security Agency staff worked full-time on the exercise, with a number of other staff contributing to the procurement process alongside their other duties.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many apparent benefit claimants also appear on the mortality and bereavement register; and how much has been paid in benefits to such claimants in each of the last four years. [257252]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The Department for Work and Pensions has arrangements in place to receive daily notification of death registration data from the Office for National Statistics. Such data are then matched against benefit and pension records to identify deaths which have not otherwise been reported direct to the Department for Work and Pensions. The Department for Work and Pensions does not collect information about the number or amount of overpayments identified from this specific source of data matching.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people referred to welfare to work providers have subsequently been found to appear on the mortality and bereavement register in each of the last four years. [257253]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The Department for Work and Pensions has arrangements in place to receive daily notification of death registration data from the Office for National Statistics. Such data are then matched against benefit and pension records to identify deaths which have not otherwise been reported direct to the Department for Work and Pensions.

We do not cross reference our information with the mortality and bereavement register.

Social Security Benefits: Deductions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times deductions have been made from benefits for non-payment of council tax in each local authority area since August 2007; how many claimants have had deductions made from their *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* income support for not paying council tax in each local authority area since August 2007; how many claimants have had deductions made to benefits for non-payment of council tax (i) once, (ii) twice, (iii) three times, (iv) four times and (v) five times or more in each local authority area in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [257191]

Kitty Ussher: The information is not available in the format requested.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff were employed in tackling benefit fraud in each year since 1997. [257016]

Mr. McNulty: The Fraud Investigation Service (FIS) was launched in April 2006 to address cases likely to result in a criminal sanction. Prior to that date, fraud was managed by regional directors as part of the overall business in Jobcentre Plus and directly comparable figures are not available. Additionally in April 2006, customer compliance teams were set up within each customer service region to look at those cases where there is an apparent irregularity that does not warrant a criminal investigation. At the time FIS was launched it is estimated 810 staff nationally were invested in the customer compliance process.

Staffing figures for FIS since 2006 are given in the following table:

As at April each year	*Number*
2006	3,210
2007	2,973.7
2008	2,840.1
2009 (Allocations)	2,815

These figures are full time equivalent numbers to account for part-time staff which is why they are not whole numbers.

The figures include staff working in area fraud, criminal intelligence, organised fraud and technical and support roles all of whom provide an essential and integral contribution to the investigation process.

Prior to the launch of the FIS figures for fraud investigators are given in the following table:

DWP fraud investigators

April to March	*Full time equivalent*
2004-05	1,843.5
2005-06	1,744.1

1. Information is not available in the aforementioned format prior to 2004.

Source:
Fraud Business Report.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of benefit fraud in 2007-08. [257095]

Mr. McNulty: Estimates of amount of benefit overpaid due to fraud are available in the DWP National Statistics publication "Fraud and Error in the Benefit System: April 2007 to March 2008" (ISBN: 978-1-84763-691-1), a copy of which is in Library.

Social Security Benefits: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of families in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire who have received benefits as a result of the Government's policy on welfare reform. [246560]

Mr. McNulty: Information is not available on the number of families in receipt of benefits.

Active intervention is key and at no time is this more important than in economic slowdowns. If it is becoming harder to find work, it is right that we do more to help, not less. This is why we are moving people from inactive benefits to the active regime of jobseeker's allowance if this will help them, even if this means an increase in the jobseeker's allowance count in the short term.

We strongly believe that the welfare state should combine rights with responsibilities. Our welfare reforms have been built on this foundation, that in order to receive support during periods of unemployment people should be actively seeking work or making efforts to move closer to work.

Our reforms have resulted in high numbers of people in work throughout the country, and have put an end to the rise in the number of people claiming incapacity benefits. We remain committed to further reform to reduce welfare dependency and support more people into work, provide greater support and control for disabled people and strengthen parental responsibility.

Previous experience has taught us that the worst thing we can do in a downturn is to write people off, consigning them to a lifetime on benefits. We are investing an additional £1.3 billion over the next two years to support Jobcentre Plus and our employment programmes; and a further £0.5 billion to guarantee more support to people unemployed for six months or more by providing incentives for firms to hire, access to help in setting up a business, extra funding for training and opportunities for work-focused volunteering.

Our welfare reform programme will allow us to bring about the most radical reform of the welfare state for generations. Our reforms promise greater support for people on benefits and a more flexible, personalised system to help them find sustainable employment. In return we expect people to take up this help, and work with us to help themselves. The Welfare Reform Bill will take the primary powers needed to complete the transformation of the welfare state, turning it from being essentially passive to profoundly active.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefits applicants resident in *(a)* Aylesbury and *(b)* Milton Keynes were required to take a medical examination in each year since 2000; and how many of those examinations were undertaken in (i) Luton, (ii) Aylesbury and (iii) Euston. [255634]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is in the following tables.

Number of benefit customers resident in Aylesbury and Milton Keynes who have been required to take a medical examination in each year since 2000

	Aylesbury postcodes	*Milton Keynes postcodes*
2000	1,830	2,914
2001	2,118	2,678
2002	1,925	3,071
2003	1,818	2,515
2004	1,982	2,838
2005	2,422	3,545
2006	2,033	2,816
2007	2,992	3,662
2008	2,430	3,302
2009	305	355

Source:
Medical Services

Number of customers with Aylesbury postcodes (HP1-24 and HP27) and the examination centres where their examination took place

	Aylesbury MEC	*Luton MEC*	*Euston MEC*	*Marylebone MEC*
2000	1,494	14	322	—
2001	1,797	83	238	—
2002	1,796	79	50	—
2003	1,762	24	32	—
2004	1,929	11	42	—
2005	2,212	152	58	—
2006	1,804	202	—	27
2007	2,255	725	—	12
2008	1,788	637	—	5
2009	222	83	—	—

Note:
Euston Medical Examination Centre closed in 2005. All customers previously referred to Euston were transferred to Marylebone Medical Examination Centre in 2006.
Source:
Medical Services

Number of customers with Milton Keynes postcodes (MK1-19, MK21, MK23, MK40-46) and the examination centres where their examination took place

	Aylesbury MEC	*Luton MEC*	*Euston MEC*	*Marylebone MEC*
2000	1,485	1,391	38	—
2001	602	2,008	68	—
2002	1,082	1,964	25	—
2003	1,153	1,339	23	—
2004	1,311	1,484	43	—
2005	1,806	1,696	43	—
2006	1,496	1,309	—	11
2007	2,303	1,353	—	6
2008	1,685	1,615	—	2
2009	183	172	—	—

Source:
Medical Services

Vacancies: Lincolnshire

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies in *(a)* North East Lincolnshire and *(b)* North Lincolnshire have been notified to Jobcentre Plus offices in each of the last 12 months. [257439]

Mr. McNulty: The information is in the table.

Job vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus in the last 12 months

Date	*North East Lincolnshire*	*North Lincolnshire*
February 2008	1,325	1,602
March 2008	981	1,180
April 2008	847	1,013
May 2008	887	1,016

Job vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus in the last 12 months

Date	*North East Lincolnshire*	*North Lincolnshire*
June 2008	1,083	1,280
July 2008	757	858
August 2008	1,056	1,183
September 2008	828	1,021
October 2008	919	913
November 2008	861	1,138
December 2008	739	506
January 2009	231	383

Notes:
1. Data are unrounded.
2. These figures are not fully comparable over time and may not indicate developments in the labour market. Changes to Jobcentre Plus vacancy handling procedures have led to a major discontinuity in the vacancy statistic pre and post May 2006. See http://www.nomisweb.co.Uk/articles/177.aspx#may06 before comparing data over this period. Interpretation of these data need to take account of changes in recent years to Jobcentre Plus procedures for taking and handling vacancies.
3. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

Vocational Training

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps the Government have taken to assist those returning to work from long periods of unemployment. [258236]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The Government are doing everything that they can to help those who become unemployed back into work as quickly as possible. We recognise that extra support is needed during the downturn, and a range of new help is being made available to jobseekers.

We are investing an extra £1.3 billion to ensure that through Jobcentre Plus we can continue to provide personal help and advice to everyone who needs it—help in finding a job, filling in job applications and writing a CV plus advice on re-training and acquiring new skills.

We also know the scarring effects of long-term unemployment both on individuals and on communities. It is important that the Government learn from the mistakes of previous recessions by doing everything we can to prevent people who lose their jobs slipping inevitably into long-term unemployment. To address this we are investing a further £0.5 billion to ensure the support available to people who lose their jobs increases the longer a person is unemployed. The package of support for people who are still unemployed after six months includes: employer "Golden Hellos" of up to £2,500 to recruit and train people; support to set up a new business along with funding for the first months of trading; additional training places to help people develop work-related skills; and more opportunities to volunteer where this will help a person move towards work.

And we are pressing ahead with our welfare reforms from this year that will increase support for unemployed people as their claim to benefit continues. We are creating a new contract for jobseekers, promising help with skills and with employability.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps the Government have taken to help those aged over 50 years to re-enter the labour market. [258237]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The Government already provide back-to-work support for those wishing to re-enter the labour market, including those aged 50 and over, through Jobcentre Plus, Local Employer Partnerships, the New Deal and Pathways to Work. We intend to extend this as detailed in the Welfare Reform Bill.

However, in response to the current economic downturn the Government have already committed £0.5 billion additional support to help prevent people out of work from becoming long-term unemployed.

We have doubled the resources available to the Rapid Response Service. The service offers support across the country for those people facing redundancy with immediate help and advice, including skills assessments and retraining, to ensure that people get back to work as soon as possible.

From April, financial incentives of up to £2,500 will be available to employers that recruit and train people who have been unemployed for six months or longer.

In addition we have introduced extra funding for training places to help unemployed people get new skills to maximise their chances of getting jobs from the 500,000 vacancies in the economy, opportunities to volunteer to help people back into work habits and help to start a business with advice on creating a business plan, plus funding for the first months of trading.

A major factor in the employment of older people is employer behaviour. In addition to providing generic good practice guidance to employers, the UK's Age Positive initiative is working in partnership with business leaders to develop sector-based models of flexible retirement to support the increased employment and retention of older workers and the removal of fixed retirement ages.

Vocational Training: Standards

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish performance data for *(a)* private sector providers and *(b)* in-house teams providing pathways to work schemes. [257314]

Mr. McNulty: The Department publishes regular quarterly statistics relating to Jobcentre Plus Pathways to Work Performance. The latest report shows that by September 2008 there had been nearly 1.04 million starts to the programme.

The total number of recorded job entries is 143,650. Job entry information is only available up to March 2008.

The Department plans to publish equivalent information for Provider-Led Pathways districts in summer 2009.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on the comparative performance of *(a)* the private sector Pathways to Work providers and *(b)* the in-house provider teams. [257751]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 February 2009]*: The Department publishes regular quarterly statistics relating to Jobcentre Plus Pathways to Work Performance. The latest report shows that by September 2008 there had been nearly 1.04 million starts to the programme.

The total number of recorded job entries is 143,650. Job entry information is only available up to March 2008.

The Department plans to publish equivalent information for Provider-Led Pathways districts in summer 2009.

Welfare Reform Bill

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what resources will be made available during the first full year of the implementation of the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill for the requirement of drug users to *(a)* attend interview to answer questions, *(b)* undertake substance-related assessment, *(c)* undertake relevant tests and *(d)* undertake rehabilitation plans, as set out in schedule 1 to the Bill. [256399]

Mr. McNulty: We aim to pilot and evaluate the new approach to employment support for problem drug users set out in the Welfare Reform Bill in a small number of Jobcentre Plus districts. The detail of those pilots, including any additional resources that will be made available, is still in development at this early stage.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Advanced Extension Award

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were entered for sixth term extension paper examinations in *(a)* mathematics and *(b)* any subject in (i) maintained schools and (ii) independent schools in each of the last five years. [257167]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 February 2009]*: The information requested is not held by the Department.

Care Proceedings

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many applications for care proceedings there have been since 1 November 2008; and what effect this has had on the appointment of guardians. [258569]

Beverley Hughes: The Children and Family Court Advisory Service received 590 care applications (Section 31) in November 2008 and 714 in December 2008.

This increase in demand has had an effect on the allocation of guardians. In November 2008, 73 per cent. of Section 31 applications were allocated to guardians within two days and in December 2008, this figure was 66.9 per cent. Both of these figures met the current target which is that 65 per cent. of cases should be allocated within two days.

To respond to demand CAFCASS has put a duty guardian scheme in place so that urgent work is covered, and a solicitor for the child is always appointed in each case to look after a child's interests.

Children: Care Homes

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children's homes were assessed as inadequate by Ofsted in each of the last 10 years. [257658]

Beverley Hughes: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 20 February 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

Ofsted assumed responsibility for the regulation and inspection of children's homes on 1 April 2007. This had previously been the responsibility of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) and data up to April 2007 are available from CSCI Annual Reports, accessible from their website http://www.csci.org.uk/. Please note that from April 2004 until April 2006, CSCI inspection reports of children's homes commented on the extent to which they met the National Minimum Standards and did not judge provision as 'inadequate'. In April 2006, CSCI introduced outcome judgements into its inspection reports, and used a four point grading scale of 'excellent', 'good', 'adequate' or 'poor'.

For the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008, Ofsted inspected 1,801 children's homes, of which 139 (8%) were judged inadequate overall. For the period 1 April 2008 to 31 December 2008, Ofsted inspected 1,682 children's homes, of which 135 (8%) were judged inadequate overall. These figures were taken from data available at 31 March 2008 and 31 December 2008. They only include children's homes which were active at those points and are based on the overall outcome from their most recently completed Ofsted inspection.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether education professionals will be able to access ContactPoint via wireless handheld devices; [256939]

(2) what contingency plans are in place in the event of a breach of security in ContactPoint. [256940]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 23 February 2009]*: ContactPoint is designed, built, operated and managed to HM Government standards for security and complies with the strict controls imposed by HM Government security policy. Data contained within the system are made available only to those authorised users and administrators who have been subject to vetting and have completed mandatory training. Organisations that require access to ContactPoint must meet strict system accreditation requirements. These requirements do not allow access to ContactPoint via wireless handheld devices.

In the event of a breach of security in ContactPoint, we will follow HM Government security policy for incident response and reporting. Our response will be proportional to the severity of the incident and could include:

Immediately shutting down the system and denying access to all users;

Reporting the breach to stakeholders, up to and including the Information Commissioner and Ministers;

Reporting the breach to the Communications and Cryptographic Incident Notification, Reporting and Alerting Scheme (CINRAS); and

Reporting the breach to the National Technical Authority for Information Assurance's Computer Emergency Response Team (GovCertUK).

Following any security breach, a full review would take place and prosecutions would be instigated where appropriate.

Children: Obesity

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what initiatives the Government has introduced for children of pre-school age to reduce levels of childhood obesity in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire. [250601]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives" strategy, published in January 2008, set out the Government's plan to reduce obesity, initially focusing on children. Every child should grow up eating well and enjoying being active and we want parents to have the knowledge and confidence to make this happen. There is no single, simple solution to reducing rates of overweight and obesity and therefore Government are taking action on a number of fronts.

At a national level, the Government are promoting healthy eating and physical activity. The updated Child Health Promotion Programme was published in March 2008. It prioritises obesity prevention and physical activity by promoting positive parenting during pregnancy and the early years of children's lives. We are working to support as many mothers as possible to breastfeed and to continue to breastfeed for longer—helped by children's centres, health and other services, all promoting healthy weight. The Healthy Start initiative provides free vitamin supplements and vouchers for milk, fruit and vegetables for low-income pregnant women and children up to age four.

The introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage for 0 to five-year-olds means that all early years education providers must promote the good health of children, by providing healthy, nutritious food and active play. The Play Strategy, launched in December 2008, sets out how Government will invest £235 million over 2008-09 to 2010-11 to develop play facilities for children of all ages. Ofcom have introduced restrictions on advertising foods that are high in fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) to children.

At a local level, primary care trusts, working with local authorities, are responsible for co-ordinating work to tackle childhood obesity. PCT plans, developed alongside local authority children and young people's plans, will feed into local area agreements agreed with the Government offices. Local areas will develop and implement their own initiatives based on local needs and circumstances. 130 LAs have chosen to include in their local area agreement at least one child obesity indicator from the National Indicator Set.

All this is supported by the Change4Life movement at a national and local level which aims to help families eat well, move more and live longer and which is initially focused on families with young children. Change4Life is working with a range of commercial and voluntary sector partners, signing up to play their part and deliver concrete commitments to change both nationally and locally.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what initiatives his Department has introduced to reduce childhood obesity among children of pre-school age in the London Borough of Bexley. [250742]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives" strategy, published in January 2008, set out the Government's plans to reduce obesity, initially focusing on children. Every child should grow up eating well and enjoying being active and we want parents to have the knowledge and confidence to make this happen. There is no single, simple solution to reducing rates of overweight and obesity and therefore Government are taking action on a number of fronts.

At a national level, the Government are promoting healthy eating and physical activity. The updated child health promotion programme was published in March 2008. It prioritises obesity prevention and physical activity by promoting positive parenting during pregnancy and the early years of children's lives. We are working to support as many mothers as possible to breastfeed and to continue to breastfeed for longer—helped by children's centres, health and other services, all promoting healthy weight. The healthy start initiative provides free vitamin supplements and vouchers for milk, fruit and vegetables for low-income pregnant women and children up to age four.

The introduction of the early years foundation stage for 0-5 year olds means that all early years education providers must promote the good health of children, by providing healthy, nutritious food and active play. The play strategy, launched in December 2008, sets out how Government will invest £235 million over 2008-09 to 2010-11 to develop play facilities for children of all ages. Ofcom have introduced restrictions on advertising foods that are high in fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) to children.

At a local level, primary care trusts, working with local authorities, are responsible for co-ordinating work to tackle childhood obesity. PCT plans, developed alongside local authority children and young people's plans, will feed into local area agreements agreed with the Government offices. Local areas will develop and implement their own initiatives based on local needs and circumstances. 130 LAs have chosen to include in their local area agreement at least one child obesity indicator from the National Indicator Set.

All this is supported by the Change4Life movement at a national and local level which aims to help families eat well, move more and live longer and which is initially focussed on families with young children. Change4Life is working with a range of commercial and voluntary sector partners, signing up to play their part and deliver concrete commitments to change both nationally and locally.

Children: Protection

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children on the Child Protection Register in each region were not allocated a social worker in each year between 1997 and 3 August 2007; and if he will make a statement; [241396]

(2) how many children on the Child Protection Register in each region have not been allocated a social worker since 9 September 2008; and if he will make a statement; [241397]

(3) how many children on the Child Protection Register in each London borough were not allocated a social worker in each year between 1997 and 3 August 2007; and if he will make a statement; [241398]

(4) how many children on the Child Protection Register in each London borough have not been allocated a social worker since 9 September 2008; and if he will make a statement; [241399]

(5) what the average number of cases allocated to each child protection social worker in each region was in each year between 1997 and 3 August 2007; and if he will make a statement; [241401]

(6) what the average number of cases allocated to each child protection social worker in each London borough was in each year between 1997 and 3 August 2007; and if he will make a statement; [241402]

(7) what the average number of cases allocated to each child protection social worker in each region has been since 9 September 2008; and if he will make a statement; [241403]

(8) what the average number of cases allocated to each child protection social worker in each London borough has been since 9 September 2008; and if he will make a statement. [241404]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not collect this information. We recognise, however, the critical importance of effective frontline social work to outcomes for children. That is why the Government are investing nearly £73 million over the next three years in a package of proposals to improve social workers' capacity and skills. As part of this package, we have just announced plans to establish a social work taskforce to lead a nuts and bolts review of frontline social work practice that will inform further improvements in social worker training, recruitment and leadership.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to his statement of 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 777, on serious case review numbers, when he expects to provide the information referred to. [247790]

Beverley Hughes: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families provided the information requested in a letter to the hon. Member on 3 February.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many Part 8 reviews there have been into children's deaths in Doncaster in each of the last 10 years; [248777]

(2) how many serious case reviews there have been of children's deaths in Doncaster in each of the last 10 years. [248774]

Beverley Hughes: Data currently held by the Department for Children, Schools and Families indicate that, of all notifications received between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008 of serious child care incidents, three serious case reviews had been initiated in Doncaster where a child died and abuse or neglect was known or suspected to be a factor. Data prior to 1 April 2007 are not available in this form.

Information on the numbers of serious case reviews following the death of a child in each local authority area between 2000 and 2005 has been given in a previous parliamentary answer on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 839W. This explains that the number of confirmed serious case reviews (SCRs) following the death of a child in Doncaster between 2000 and 2005 was six.

Children: Social Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of initial assessments for children who may be at risk were carried out by care services within seven working days in the most recent year for which data is available. [247859]

Beverley Hughes: The percentage of initial assessments completed within seven working days of referral can be found in table 1A of the Statistical First Release 'Referrals, Assessments and Children and Young People who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan, England—year ending 31 March 2008' available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000811/index.shtml

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on salaries for frontline children's social workers by each local authority in each year since 1997. [258358]

Beverley Hughes: Social workers are directly recruited by their employers. The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect information on how much employers spend on salaries for frontline children's social workers. In their Children's, Young People's and Families' Social Care Pay and Workforce Survey 2007, the local government analysis and research group estimated that the basic salary for social workers in England and Wales (mean) was £28,389.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the expenditure on the integrated children's system was in each local authority area in each year since its implementation. [258554]

Beverley Hughes: Information on local authorities' annual capital and revenue expenditure on the Integrated Children's System is not collected centrally.

The Department has made £60 million in capital grant available to local authorities to support local capital expenditure on the development and implementation of the Integrated Children's System between 1 April 2004 and 30 September 2008.

I have placed in the Library a table that shows local authorities' allocations from this grant over that period.

Children's Services: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in relation to which local authorities his Department has expressed concern

about the performance of the children's services department; what the areas of concern were in each case; and if he will make a statement. [257346]

Beverley Hughes: The local authorities that are of most concern to the Department are those whose children's services (or aspect(s) of) have been judged inadequate by Ofsted. These judgments can be found at:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare_providers/list_by_la

Critical Thinking: Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were entered for an AS level or higher examination in critical thinking in *(a)* maintained schools and *(b)* independent schools in each of the last five years. [257169]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The information requested is in the following table.

Academic Year	*Number of entries[1] in A or AS level Critical Thinking in maintained schools[2]*	*Number of entries[1] in A or AS- level Critical Thinking in independent schools*
2003-04	5,865	1,249
2004-05	8,586	1,975
2005-06	12,569	2,498
2006-07	15,366	2,664
2007-08	14,789	2,150

[1] Entries by 16-18 year olds
[2] Figures for maintained schools do not include entries in further education colleges
Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of staff in his Department and its predecessor have received bonus payments in each of the last five years; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [258007]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested for non-consolidated performance payments to staff is set out as follows:

	Staff			
	Number	*Percentage*	*Total cost (£ million)*	*Largest single payment (£)*
2004-05	1,447	32	1.462	10,000
2005-06	1,408	33	1.835	10,000
2006-07	1,235	33	1.900	20,000
2007-08[1]	1,669	51	2.055	25,000
2008-09	1,403	51	1.900	25,000

[1] Department for Education and Skills to 27 June 2007 and Department for Children, Schools and Families from 28 June 2007.

These payments were met within existing pay controls. Payments are used to drive high performance and those for the senior civil service are based on recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

The Department has no agencies.

Departmental Public Expenditure

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the likely change in expenditure by his Department on administration costs between now and 2011. [247191]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The estimate of the likely change in administration costs for the DCSF between now (2008-09) and 2011 is as follows:

	£ million
2009-10	-5
2010-11	-9

These figures can be found in the HM Treasury published document "2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review" on page 203 under table D1: Children's, Schools and Families baselines and additions.

Free School Meals: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children received free school meals in the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last five years. [255717]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The numbers of children taking free school meals in the London borough of Bexley, in each of the last five years, are shown in the following statistical releases.

Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England: January 2008 (Provisional):
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/index.shtml
(tables 16 and 17).

Schools and Pupils in England: January 2007 (Final):
www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml
(tables 19 and 20).

Schools and Pupils in England: January 2006 (Final):
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000682/index.shtml
(tables 19 and 20).

Schools and Pupils in England: January 2005 (Final):
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000606/index.shtml
(tables 19 and 20).

Statistics of Education Schools in England 2004 Edition:
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000495/index.shtml
(tables 13 and 14).

Free School Meals: St Albans

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children resident in St Albans received free school meals in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* each of the last five years. [256975]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information for 1997 is not available. Information for the last five years is shown in the following table:

Number of children[1, 2] resident in St. Albans constituency eligible for free school meals

	Number of children
2004	1,080
2005	1,044

Number of children[1, 2] resident in St. Albans constituency eligible for free school meals

	Number of children
2006	982
2007	952
2008	913

[1] Includes all full-time and part-time pupils who are solely or dually (main) registered.
[2] Includes pupils attending nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, CTCs and academies.
Source:
School Census.

GCE A-Level

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils achieved three A grades at A level and took more than one of *(a)* accounting, *(b)* art and design, *(c)* business studies, *(d)* communication studies, *(e)* dance, *(f)* design and technology, *(g)* drama/theatre studies, *(h)* film studies, *(i)* health and social care, *(j)* home economics, *(k)* information and communication technology, *(l)* leisure studies, *(m)* media studies, *(n)* music technology, *(o)* performance studies, *(p)* performing arts, *(q)* photography, *(r)* physical education, *(s)* sports studies and *(t)* travel and tourism in the last year for which data are available; [250366]

(2) how many pupils eligible for free school meals achieved three A grades at A level and took more than one of *(a)* accounting, *(b)* art and design, *(c)* business studies, *(d)* communication studies, *(e)* dance, *(f)* design and technology, *(g)* drama/theatre studies, *(h)* film studies, *(i)* health and social care, *(j)* home economics, *(k)* information and communication technology, *(l)* leisure studies, *(m)* media studies, *(n)* music technology, *(o)* performance studies, *(p)* performing arts, *(q)* photography, *(r)* physical education, *(s)* sports studies and *(t)* travel and tourism in the last year for which data are available. [250367]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

GCE A-level: Disadvantaged

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils eligible to receive free school meals attained an A level in *(a)* physics, *(b)* mathematics, *(c)* chemistry and *(d)* biology in 2008. [248593]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is provided in the following table.

Candidates[1] in schools[2] aged 16-18[3] eligible for free school meals[4] attaining an A level in physics, mathematics, chemistry and biology in 2008[4]

	Pupils eligible for FSM attaining an A level in 2008	
	Number	Percentage[5]
Physics	233	4.6
Mathematics	679	13.5
Chemistry	539	10.7
Biology	678	13.5

[1] 16-18 year old candidates entered for GCE/VCE applied A levels and double awards in 2008.
[2] Maintained schools only. Pupils taking A levels in independent schools or FE sector colleges are not included.
[3] Age at the start of the 2007-08 academic year ie 31 August 2007.
[4] Figures are based on amended data.
[5] Expressed as a percentage of all pupils eligible to receive free school meals.
Source:
National Pupil Database.

GCSE

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of Fresh Start schools reached the benchmark of pupils achieving five A* to C grade GCSEs including English and mathematics in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [244226]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is given in the following table. School-level figures for the proportion of pupils achieving five A* to C GCSEs including English and mathematics are not available prior to 2005.

Fresh Start schools reaching the benchmark of 30 per cent. or more of pupils achieving five A to C GCSEs including English and mathematics*

	Number of schools	Proportion of Fresh Start schools (Percentage)
2005	1	5.6
2006	2	10.0
2007	4	19.0
2008	9	37.5

Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables.

GCSE: Gifted Children

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many gifted and talented pupils *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals who obtained level 4 or above in key stage 2 tests in 2003 did not obtain five GCSEs at grade A* to C in 2007. [240601]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In 2007, of the identified gifted and talented pupils in the 2006/07 academic year who attained Level 4 or above in the 2003 Key Stage 2 tests, 3,472 (4.7 per cent.) did not attain five GCSEs at grade A* to C. Of those 562 pupils were eligible for free school meals and 2,910 pupils were not eligible for free school meals.

GCSE

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of those pupils studying GCSE chemistry were at *(a)* comprehensive, *(b)* independent and *(c)* grammar schools in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [247782]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of pupils at the end of key stage 4 who attempted GCSE chemistry and the percentage of these pupils who studied at comprehensive, independent and grammar schools.

Number of pupils at the end of key stage 4 attempting GCSE chemistry, by school type

		Percentage of which are from:		
Year	Number of pupils attempting GCSE chemistry	Comprehensive schools	Independent schools	Grammar schools
2004	43,650	48.7	34.2	16.5
2005	45,929	51.8	32.0	15.6
2006	49,241	54.5	29.8	15.0
2007	51,056	55.8	28.1	15.2
2008[1]	68,289	60.9	21.9	16.1

[1] Changes in science curriculum introduced.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of those pupils studying GCSE biology were at *(a)* comprehensive, *(b)* independent and *(c)* grammar schools in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [247784]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of pupils at the end of key stage 4 who attempted GCSE biology and the percentage of these pupils who studied at comprehensive, independent and grammar schools.

Number of pupils at the end of key stage 4 attempting GCSE biology, by school type

	Number of pupils attempting GCSE biology	*Percentage of which are from:*		
Year		*Comprehensive schools*	*Independent schools*	*Grammar schools*
2004	45,344	48.9	34.3	15.9
2005	48,347	52.2	32.1	14.9
2006	51,763	54.8	29.9	14.3
2007	54,168	56.0	28.5	14.3
2008[1]	74,654	61.8	21.2	15.0

[1] Changes in science curriculum introduced.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of students in schools with *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* arts, *(c)* sport, *(d)* science, *(e)* music, *(f)* technology, *(g)* business, *(h)* engineering and *(i)* humanities as a specialism achieved at least five GCSE A* to C grades in each of the last three years. [256019]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 10 February 2009]:* The information requested is set out in the following table.

		Percentage achieving 5+ A to C at GCSE or equivalent*		
Type of specialism	*Number of schools*[1, 2]	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Arts	454	57	60	64
Business and Enterprise	248	57	60	64
Engineering	64	58	60	64
Humanities	112	61	63	67
Language	224	67	69	73
Maths and Computing	258	62	63	68
Music	22	75	74	77
Science	324	66	67	71
Sports	360	54	58	63
Technology	561	62	64	68

[1] Specialism defined at September 2007 (i.e. the beginning of the 2007/08 academic year). Only schools with results in all three years have been included.
[2] Schools with combined specialisms are categorised by their first listed specialism.

Marriage Guidance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much of the money allocated through the Children, Young People and Families Grant 2008-09 constituted spending on marriage and relationship support as defined in his Department's document Moving Forward Together (Marriage and relationship support covers help, advice or information that helps people to establish and maintain successful relationships with their partners? Foreword: Moving Forward Together, a Proposed Strategy for Marriage Support for 2002 and Beyond, April 2002); [256477]

(2) how much of the money allocated through the Children, Young People and Families Grant 2009-10 as announced on 24 December 2008 is for the purpose of spending on marriage and relationship support as defined in his Department's document Moving Forward Together (Marriage and relationship support covers help, advice or information that helps people to establish and maintain successful relationships with their partners? Foreword: Moving Forward Together, a Proposed Strategy for Marriage Support for 2002 and Beyond, April 2002). [256478]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* In 2008-09 £3.2 million of grant funding was allocated through the Children, Young People and Families grant programme for the purpose of spending on marriage and relationship support as defined in the Department's document Moving Forward Together.

In 2009-10 £3.8 million of grant funding will be awarded through the Children, Young People and Families grant programme as announced on 24 December 2008 for the purpose of spending on marriage and relationship support as defined in the Department's document Moving Forward Together.

National Curriculum Tests: Disadvantaged

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of (1) *(a)* all children, *(b)* children in the five per cent. most deprived areas and *(c)* children in the 10 per cent. most deprived areas achieved the national standard in the Key Stage 1 assessments in each year since 1997; [257624]

(2) *(a)* all children, *(b)* children in the five per cent. most deprived areas and *(c)* children in the 10 per cent. most deprived areas achieved the national standard in Key Stage 1 (i) reading, (ii) writing, (iii) mathematics and (iv) science assessments in each year since 1997; [257606]

(3) children in receipt of free school meals achieved the national standard in all Key Stage 1 assessments in each year since 1997; [257611]

(4) children in receipt of free school meals achieved the national standard in Key Stage 1 *(a)* reading, *(b)* writing, *(c)* mathematics and *(d)* science assessment in each year since 1997. [257610]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families publishes most of these data annually. Data for 2007/08 can be found in the Statistical First Release: Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2007/08, which can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000822/index.shtml.

Pre-school Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* all children, *(b)* children in the five per cent. most deprived areas and *(c)* children in the 10 per cent. most deprived areas achieved the national

standard (1) in all Foundation Stage Profile assessments in each year for which records are available; [257625]

(2) in each of the Foundation Stage Profile assessments in each year for which records are available; [257627]

(3) in the Foundation Stage Profile assessments in (i) personal, social and emotional development, (ii) communication, language and literacy and (iii) mathematical development in each year for which records are available. [257621]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 23 February 2008]:* The information is presented in the following table for 2008 only as information for previous years is not available. Breakdowns by assessment scale can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Children achieving the national standard[1] in all foundation stage profile assessments by IDACF deprivation of pupil residence, 2008[3]

	Children achieving a good level of development in all foundation stage profile assessments	
	Number	*Percentage*
All children[4]	264,621	49
5% most deprived areas	13,891	34
10% most deprived areas	26,994	35

[1] A good level of development, defined as achieving six or more points in at least seven key scales and achieving 78 or more points across all scales.
[2] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices.
[3] Figures are based on unamended data.
[4] Only children of known residence are included.
Source:
National Pupil Database

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children in receipt of free school meals achieved the national standard in each of the Foundation Stage Profile assessments in each year for which records are available. [257626]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* In 2008, 31 per cent. of children eligible for free school meals achieved a good level of development compared to 52 per cent. of children not eligible for free school meals. A good level of development is defined as achieving at least 78 or more points across all 13 scales of the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and at least six or more points in each of the seven scales in Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy. Figures are not available for previous years.

Pupil Exclusions: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children attending schools in Suffolk between the ages of four and 11 years were suspended from school in each of the last five years. [256959]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on fixed period exclusions was collected for the first time for the school year 2003/04. In 2005/06 the method of data collection changed and information was collected from secondary schools only. In 2006/07 data were also collected from primary and special schools. The available information is shown in the table:

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2], pupils aged four to 11 receiving one or more episodes of fixed period exclusion[3], Suffolk LA 2003/04 to 2006/07

	Number of pupils with one-episode or more of fixed period exclusion	*As a percentage of the school population[4]*
2003/04	660	0.65
2004/05	590	0.58
2005/06[5]	410	0.75
2006/07	650	0.65

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained primary, secondary and special schools. For 2003/04 and 2004/05 excludes CTCs and academies
[3] Pupils aged as at 31 August at the beginning of the school year.
[4] The number of pupils with a fixed period exclusion expressed as a percentage of the headcount of pupils in January each year, excluding dual registrations.
[5] Data for 2005/06 exclude primary and special schools, information for secondary schools only is shown.
Source.
Termly Exclusions Survey.

Pupil Referral Units

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupil referral units are in special measures; and in which local authority areas those units are. [257449]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 23 January 2009]:* There are 10 pupil referral units currently in special measures and they are as follows:

	Units
Cumbria	1
Hampshire	2
Havering	1
Leicestershire	1
Norfolk	1
Poole	1
Staffordshire	1
Walsall	1
West Sussex	1

Source:
EduBase

Pupil Referral Units: Pupil Exclusions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were given a fixed-period exclusion from a pupil referral unit in 2008. [251085]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information on exclusions from pupil referral units in 2008 is not collected centrally.

Pupils: Absenteeism

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will change the formula for calculating attendance statistics for schools to prevent schools being penalised in the event of pupils not attending as a result of adverse weather conditions. [256501]

Jim Knight: The Government believe that every lesson counts and it is right that schools should stay open wherever reasonably practicable during severe weather conditions, subject to health and safety considerations. If some of a school's pupils whose home is not within walking distance of the school get to school by transport that is provided by the school or a local education authority, and that transport is not available because of adverse weather conditions, then if the school stays open, those pupils should be marked using code Y (forced and partial closure). Code Y does not count as absence in the statistics. All other children should be expected to attend and should be recorded as present/absent as normal. Our data do not enable us to alter the formula in any way that would isolate the absences due to inclement weather, or even the days concerned—we only have total numbers of absences for each term and cannot isolate particular days (or even weeks). This does mean that the absence percentage for a school that stays open may be higher than if it had closed if significant numbers of pupils are unable to attend. However, our main focus is on persistent absence (which we define as missing 20 per cent. or more of possible sessions). It is unlikely that persistent absence would be significantly affected by short periods of adverse weather. Moreover when looking at attendance, Ofsted inspectors look at trends over time. When looking at registers, if there appear to be specific days or periods of time when there is high absence inspectors will discuss with the school the reasons for it. Similarly the national strategies will take account of such circumstances in their support and challenge work on persistent absence with LAs and schools.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the proportion of students in receipt of free school meals is in *(a)* religious and *(b)* non-religious schools. [253493]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is shown in the table:

Primary, secondary and special schools[1]: school meal arrangements by denomination of schooF As at January 2008: England

	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals
Religious schools[3]	11.5
Other schools	15.7

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed, CTCs, academies and non-maintained special schools. Excludes hospital schools.
[2] Includes pupils with sole and dual main registration. Includes boarders.
[3] Includes schools of all denominations and religions.
Source:
School Census

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools had *(a)* between 30 and 50 per cent. and *(b)* more than 50 per cent. of pupils in receipt of free school meals in 2008. [256347]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information has been placed in the Libraries.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children resident in Hemel Hempstead received free school meals in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* each of the last five years. [256487]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information for 1997 is not available. Information for the last five years is shown in the following table:

Number of children[1,2] resident in Hemel Hempstead constituency eligible for free school meals

	Number
2004	1,686
2005	1,636
2006	1,533
2007	1,617
2008	1,543

[1] Includes all full-time and part-time pupils who are solely or dually (main) registered.
[2] Includes pupils attending nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, CTCs and academies.
Source:
School Census

Schools: Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps the Government are taking to protect Jewish schoolchildren from anti-Semitic attacks by other schoolchildren; and if he will make a statement; [256820]

(2) what assessment he has made of the incidence of *(a)* bullying and *(b)* intimidation of Jewish students in schools since December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [256819]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Schools are under a legal duty to promote race equality and it is compulsory for schools to have measures in place to prevent and tackle all forms of bullying, whatever the motivation. In March 2006 we published specialist guidance on bullying around race, religion and culture which focused on preventing and tackling racist and religious bullying in schools and included specific material on bullying related to anti-Semitism. We are funding the Anti-Bullying Alliance and national strategies to ensure the guidance is effectively embedded in local authorities and schools, and are monitoring the situation closely.

We have also published a toolkit to help schools contribute to the prevention of violent extremism. The toolkit includes advice on how to protect pupils from violent extremism, manage risks and respond to incidents locally, nationally or internationally that might have an impact on the school community.

We do not collect data on bullying or incidents of intimidation centrally although we are aware that Jewish pupils can be particularly vulnerable to bullying. We intend to introduce a new statutory duty on schools to record all incidents of bullying between pupils later this year, and will specifically consult on whether schools should be obliged to record racist incidents.

Schools: Boilers

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in Gloucestershire are heated by oil-powered boilers; and if he will make a statement. [256873]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The Department does not hold this information. However, we have contacted South Gloucestershire Council and Gloucestershire county council and they have told us that in South Gloucestershire there are 23 schools heated by oil-fired boilers out of a total of 115 local authority maintained schools and in Gloucestershire 40 schools out of a total of 310 schools are heated by oil. The majority of these schools are rural primary schools which do not have a gas supply.

Schools: Health Education

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to inform school children of the adverse effects of *(a)* smoking and *(b)* alcohol abuse. [254605]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Currently all schools should teach pupils about the effects of smoking and alcohol abuse, as part of drug education, through a well planned programme of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education. The Department's guidance, "Drugs: Guidance for Schools" (DfES 2004) sets out in broad terms what should be covered in each key stage.

We announced our intention to make PSHE education statutory in October 2008, in recognition of the key role it plays in equipping children and young people with the knowledge and skills they need to lead healthy and successful lives. At the same time we launched an independent review of how this might be achieved in the most effective and practicable way. Sir Alasdair Macdonald, the headteacher of Morpeth school in Tower Hamlets, is conducting the review and will report in April 2009. Proposals for the statutory implementation of PSHE will be the subject of a full public consultation.

We cannot expect drug and alcohol education on its own to "solve the drug problem" in this country. That is why we are also increasing our focus on intervening with families at risk and continue to improve the support and treatment that the vulnerable young people who are most likely to develop a problem need.

We need parents and Children's Services to join with schools and colleges to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks and impacts of drug and alcohol use.

It is important that Government presents information to young people in ways that they find accessible. For that reason, on 29 January 2009, we launched a consultation on 'Children, Young People and Alcohol' alongside the chief medical officer's guidance on 'safer drinking' to find out what information and advice parents and young people would find useful to inform their decisions about young people's drinking and to help reduce harm caused by it.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many and what proportion of schools where the proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals is *(a)* less than 10 per cent., *(b)* 10 per cent. to 20 per cent. and *(c)* over 20 per cent. Ofsted has evaluated teaching as (i) inadequate, (ii) satisfactory, (iii) good and (iv) outstanding in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [254868]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 10 February 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

Since the introduction of the current school inspection framework (commonly known as section 5) in September 2005, Ofsted has evaluated teaching as part of the judgement 'How effective are teaching and learning in meeting the full range of learners' needs?'

Table A shows that, of 7,862 school inspections carried out by Ofsted in 2007/08, 3,704 were of schools with less than 10% of pupils eligible for free school meals, 1,737 were of schools with between 10% and 20% of pupils eligible for free school meals, and the remaining 2,421 were of schools with greater than 20% of pupils eligible for free school meals. The table includes the inspection outcomes for each of these groups.

Table A: The effectiveness of teaching and learning in meeting the full range of learners' needs for schools inspected in 2007/08

		How effective are teaching and learning in meeting the full range of learners' needs							
		Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate	
Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals	Number of inspections of schools	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Less than 10%	3,704	602	16	2,159	58	904	24	39	1
Greater than or equal to 10% but less than or equal to 20%	1,737	171	10	840	48	668	38	58	3
Greater than 20%	2,421	213	9	1,080	45	1,009	42	119	5
All schools	7,862	986	13	4,079	52	2,581	33	216	3

Data on proportions of pupils eligible for free school meals are taken from the DCSF's 2008 Annual Schools' Census and are calculated as the percentage of compulsory school age pupils in the school. There are schools for which Annual Schools' Census 2008 data are available, but the free school meals eligibility field is blank. It has been assumed that they had 0% of pupils eligible for free school meals.

Please note that in 2007/08 one school was inspected twice and has been counted twice in this anal[illegible]. Four schools inspected in 2007/08 have been excluded fro[illegible]lysis: two of these only have provision for pupils aged 16 to 18, and there was no Annual Schools' Census 2008 data available for the remaining two.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt. Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Science: GCE A Level

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils

eligible for free school meals gained an A grade in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* physics and *(c)* chemistry A level in 2008. [251110]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is provided in the following table:

Candidates[1] in schools[2] aged 16-18[3] eligible for free school meals achieving grade A in mathematics, physics and chemistry A-level in 2008[4]

	Number of pupils eligible for FSM achieving grade A
Mathematics	195
Physics	43
Chemistry	96

[1] 16-18 year old candidates entered for GCE/VCE applied A-levels and Double Awards in 2008.
[2] Maintained schools only. Pupils taking A-levels in independent schools or FE sector colleges are not included.
[3] Age at the start of the 2007/08 academic year i.e. 31 August 2007.
[4] Figures are based on amended data.
Source:
National Pupil Database

Sixth Form Education: Finance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions he has had with the Learning and Skills Council on the funding of schools with sixth forms where the number of pupils exceeds the stated anticipated number; and if he will make a statement. [256876]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is currently agreeing with school sixth forms the funding allocations for 2009/10. Those allocations will take account of the number of pupils schools recruited and retained in 2008/09 and whether this was above or below planned expectations. We anticipate that where numbers exceeded plans in 2008/09, this above planned growth will be consolidated into 2009/10 allocations. However, this will be subject to affordability.

Under the current system, grant funded providers (schools and further education colleges) do not have their funding allocation varied during the year unless they can demonstrate their allocation causes them financial difficulty. Where this is the case the LSC will consider, on a case by case basis, the need for extra funding in exceptional circumstances. However, as announced in the LSC's Annual Statement of Priorities, published in November 2008, the DCSF and LSC are currently considering whether a more flexible system of funding is needed to best ensure that funding matches learner choice.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families under what circumstances schools receive exceptional funding support for sixth forms; and if he will make a statement. [256877]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* Exceptional funding for a school sixth form is only available on a case-by-case basis either from a local authority (LA) or from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

The financial viability of a sixth form cannot be distinguished from the overall financial viability of the school, which is the responsibility of the local authority. Local authorities have the discretion, through the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008, to support schools in financial difficulty providing that they have agreed with their schools forum the arrangements for implementation of such support. Where a school gets into a deficit it must agree a deficit recovery plan with the LA.

The only circumstances in which the LSC would consider exceptional financial support to a school sixth form would be if one year's funding allocation caused the school a particular financial difficulty. The LSC would consider such exceptional action only in relation to the individual circumstances arising in the school's sixth form.

Social Services: Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families into which children's services he has sent intervention teams in the last 12 months; what the remit of those teams has been; and whether he will make their findings public. [250375]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* Officials from the Intervention Unit in DCSF are routinely sent to each local authority that receives an inadequate judgment by Ofsted in their annual performance assessment (APA) and/or their joint area review (JAR). Judgments are published on Ofsted's website:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare_providers/list_by_la.

Ministers subsequently receive advice on the nature of any intervention considered necessary to bring about improvements in children's services. Ministers' decisions are communicated to the local authority and to other interested parties.

Social Services: Greater London

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many social workers in each London borough were agency employees at the latest date for which figures are available. [258200]

Beverley Hughes: Social workers are directly recruited by their employers. The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect information on how many agency staff are employed within these settings.

In their Children's, Young People's and Families' Social Care Workforce Survey 2006, the local authority workforce intelligence group estimated that the total number of children's social care work force agency staff employed by London boroughs was 1,290. The survey went on to suggest that around a third of these agency staff covered field social work posts.

In December 2008, we announced a social work taskforce which will make recommendations for long term development of social work; social worker recruitment and retention will be considered as part of this.

Special Educational Needs: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools in each decile of income deprivation affecting children indices had statements of special educational needs in each of the last five years. [256892]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested for 2004, 2007 and 2008 is shown as follows. The full-time series can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Number[1] of pupils[2] with statements of special educational needs by IDACI[3] decile of known residence, 2004, 2007 and 2008[4]

	Primary Schools			Secondary Schools[5]		
	2004	2007	2008	2004	2007	2008
0-10%	10,630	9,230	8,960	12,370	10,390	9,670
10-20%	9,300	7,980	7,490	11,170	9,660	8,950
20-30%	8,350	6,870	7,000	10,040	8,570	8,050
30-40%	7,390	6,470	6,110	8,610	7,730	7,120
40-50%	6,780	5,920	5,620	7,480	6,740	6,610
50-60%	5,870	5,300	5,240	6,850	6,140	5,860
60-70%	5,620	5,020	4,850	6,520	6,020	5,690
70-80%	5,380	4,850	4,700	5,770	5,490	5,310
80-90%	5,010	4,660	4,470	5,350	5,090	5,170
90-100%	4,860	4,640	4,370	4,410	4,480	4,510

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[3] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices.
[4] 0-10% = most deprived.
[5] Includes CTCs and academies.
Source:
School Census

Special Educational Needs: Pupil Exclusions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2117W on special educational needs: pupil exclusions, what the equivalent figures were for each year since 1997. [258245]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on fixed period exclusions was collected for the first time for the school year 2003/04.

In 2005/06 the method of data collection changed and information was collected from secondary schools only. We have consequently provided information for the school years 2003/04 and 2004/05, the only years for which comparable figures are available.

Maintained primary schools[1]: number of fixed period exclusions by special educational needs and by reason for exclusion 2003/04—England

	Pupils with SEN
Physical assault against a pupil	7,470
Physical assault against an adult	3,970
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against a pupil	1,270
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult	3,910
Bullying	510
Racist abuse	180
Sexual misconduct	170
Drug and alcohol related	80
Damage	550
Theft	220
Persistent disruptive behaviour	8,830
Other	1,910
Total[2]	29,090

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes two exclusions where the reason cannot be determined.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Maintained primary schools[1]: number of fixed period exclusions by special educational needs and by reason for exclusion 2004/05—England

	Pupils with SEN
Physical assault against a pupil	7,990
Physical assault against an adult	4,510
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against a pupil	1,430
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult	4,360
Bullying	440
Racist abuse	230
Sexual misconduct	190
Drug and alcohol related	70
Damage	650
Theft	230
Persistent disruptive behaviour	9,070
Other	1,430
Total	30,590

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Special Educational Needs: Young Offender Institutions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2263-64W, on special educational needs: young offender institutions, what the source was of the figure provided by the Learning and Skills Council for the number of young people in juvenile accommodation in young offender institutions referred to special educational needs co-ordinators. [258699]

Beverley Hughes: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) collects monthly returns from the educational providers with whom they contract to deliver learning and skills provision within juvenile young offender institutions. The providers are required to provide data returns, including information on the number of young people referred to the special educational needs co-ordinators, to the LSC on a monthly basis.

DEFENCE

Departmental Manpower

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian staff his Department employs in City of York constituency; and how many have been so employed in each year since 1994. [257827]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following table shows the number of military and civilian personnel based in York Unitary Authority at 1 April in each year since 2002. Figures prior to 2002 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Military	Civilian
2002	640	n/a
2003	n/a	n/a

	Military	Civilian
2004	n/a	n/a
2005	730	n/a
2006	710	700
2007	800	650
2008	640	650

n/a = Denotes not available.

Civilian figures are based on Full Time Equivalence (FTE). FTE is a measure of the size of the workforce that takes account of the actual hours worked by part-time employees.

2003-04 military figures are not available because of concerns over data quality.

Monitoring of civilian location data by Local and Unitary Authority was introduced in April 2006, prior to this date location data by Local and Unitary Authority is not available.

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department were recorded as having been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December in each of the last five years. [256632]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Numbers of MOD civilian staff who have been continuously absent for over 12 months due to sickness on 31 December for each of the last four years are given as follows:

	Number of staff with at least 12 months sick absence as at 31 December
2005	140
2006	170
2007	180
2008	170

Notes:

1. These figures are derived from the HRMS system which excludes staff in trading funds, the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, and locally engaged civilians. They have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Numbers are not given for 31 December 2004, as data were still being migrated to the system during this year.

Ex-servicemen: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many homes are provided for service personnel and their families in City of York constituency; and how many have been provided in each year since 1994. [257828]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There are currently 326 Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties in the City of York, with a further 13 families living in substitute SFA.

Information is not available for previous years.

Falkland Islands: Warships

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent assessment he has made of the performance of J.A.Gardner and Company in providing the Coastal Re-Supply Service in the Falkland Islands since 1982; [257917]

(2) for what reason the Royal Navy has declined to award a new Falkland Islands Coastal Re-Supply Service contract to J.A.Gardner and Company; [257918]

(3) whether the Royal Navy sent representatives to the Falkland Islands to assess the work of J.A.Gardner and Company in operating the Coastal Re-Supply Service before the decision not to renew the firm's contract was taken. [257919]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD currently operates two shipping contracts in the Falklands Islands: one with J and A Gardner who provide coastal re-supply services; and the other with Van Wijngaarden Marine Services B V, who carry out harbour support. Both companies provide a satisfactory service.

As the contracts with both companies are coming to an end, a decision has been made to merge both the coastal re-supply and harbour support services under one requirement rather than renew both contracts. This will deliver value for money for the taxpayer. In accordance with MOD and EU commercial regulations, the requirement was competed last year and both J and A Gardner and Van Wijngaarden submitted proposals along with a number of other companies. All the bids were evaluated on an equitable basis against declared technical and commercial evaluation criteria.

The tender evaluation panel was made up of MOD civilian personnel, some of whom visited the Falkland Islands on a number of occasions and who have, therefore, built up a good working knowledge of the requirement. The views of MOD personnel based on the Islands, who are responsible for the day to day operation of the service, were also obtained.

The contract was awarded to Van Wijngaarden, as theirs was the most technically advantageous and affordable proposal, on 23 January 2009 with service commencement on 1 April 2009.

HMS Vanguard

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received from the First Sea Lord on the recent collision between HMS Vanguard and Le Triomphant; whether the crew of HMS Vanguard sustained any injuries; whether he plans to commission an inquiry into the incident; and if he will make a statement. [258758]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Two submerged SSBN, one French and the other UK, were conducting routine national patrols in the Atlantic Ocean. The two submarines came into contact at very low speed. Both submarines remained safe and no injuries occurred. I can confirm that the UK's deterrent capability has remained unaffected at all times and there has been no compromise to nuclear safety. HMS Vanguard returned safely to Faslane under her own power on 14 February.

As one would expect, the MOD takes this incident very seriously and a thorough review is under way. We will act on any lessons that might be identified.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many transport and tanker aircraft were available for deployment by the armed forces in each year since 2001. [260703]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Quentin Davies to Liam Fox:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 22 January 2009 (Official Report, column 1675W), about the number of transport and tanker aircraft available for deployment by the armed forces in each year since 2001.

All aircraft in the Forward Fleet are available for potential deployments worldwide. The average Forward Fleet figures for each transport and tanker aircraft type are shown in the following table and are rounded to the nearest aircraft.

	Financial year				
Aircraft type	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]
Hercules C130 K	[2]...	14	12	13	12
Hercules C130 J	[2]...	22	20	19	19
VC10	[3]16	15	14	13	12
Tristar	[3]8	7	6	7	7
C-17	[3]3	3	3	4	5

[1] Numbers are provided as at 31 December 2008.
[2] Not recorded.
[3] Figure is an average for January-March 2005, prior to which the data is not available.

I hope this is helpful.

Veterans Day: Plymouth

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for Plymouth to participate in Veterans Day on 27 June 2009. [258560]

Mr. Kevan Jones: We are greatly encouraged that, along with many other towns and cities across the country, Plymouth city council are planning to hold an Armed Forces Day event on 27 June 2009. Armed Forces Day builds on the success of previous Veterans Day events and is intended to provide an opportunity for the whole nation to celebrate our armed forces, past, present and future. We expect that the veterans community, which includes all those who have served in the armed forces, widows and bereaved relatives of those who served and Merchant Mariners who saw duty on military operations, will remain very much at the centre of events.

Plymouth city council applied to the Ministry of Defence for a grant of £10,000 to assist towards the cost of their armed forces and veterans week and this has been awarded, together with the provisional allocation of a military band and a fly past from a DC3 of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight to support an memorial event planned for 28 June on Plymouth Hoe.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

NGOs

7. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make it his policy to introduce annual headquarter grants to non-governmental organisations which fall within his Department's area of responsibility. [257854]

Kevin Brennan: Government support for the sector has never been stronger, which is why we have committed £60 million to support strategic partnerships with third sector organisations. Over 5 years from 2006-11 we will provide core funding to a range of national and regional organisations. This type of grant funding offers real financial stability to our strategic partners, whilst enabling the views of the sector on the development of Government policy to be heard.

Third Sector

10. **Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what support his Department is providing to charities and voluntary organisations to assist them in mitigating the effects of the economic downturn. [257857]

Mr. Byrne: "Real help for communities: volunteers, charities and social enterprises" provides a £42.5 million package for the sector to support people through the downturn.

Social Mobility

11. **Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent progress has been made in implementing the measures announced in the social mobility White Paper; and if he will make a statement. [257858]

Mr. Byrne: The measures announced in the New Opportunities White Paper are for implementation between January 2009 and spring 2011.

There were three measures announced that were for implementation prior to today, all of which have been implemented on time.

The Cabinet Office is monitoring ongoing delivery by departments.

Social Entrepreneurs

12. **Rob Marris:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps he is taking to increase the number of social entrepreneurs. [257859]

13. **John Mann:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, what steps he is taking to increase the number of social entrepreneurs. [257860]

Mr. Byrne: I refer my hon. Friends to the answer I gave earlier today.

Voluntary Sector

14. **Mr. Flello:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what funding his Department is providing to voluntary sector organisations working to assist deprived communities in 2008-09. [257861]

Mr. Byrne: The Government are investing in deprived communities who need real help now. The third sector plays a vital role as a safety net and springboard for people in need and in recognition of this, investment by the Government in the third sector has doubled since 1997 to a total of £11 billion a year.

Two weeks ago, the Government launched the "Real Help for Communities Action Plan", which provides a further £42.5 million from April 2009 to help volunteers, charities and social enterprises deliver more real help to those who need it most.

This included the £15.5 million community resilience fund, targeted at areas most at risk of increasing levels of deprivation due to the recession.

Transport Network Resilience

15. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his responsibilities are for coordination of action across Government to ensure the resilience of the transport network. [257862]

Mr. Watson: Responsibility for the provision of resilient transport services rests primarily with the owners and operators of those services. Within Government, the Department for Transport and, where appropriate, the devolved Administrations work with the regulators, owners and operators to ensure, as appropriate, that standards are in place and effective contingency arrangements exist.

The Cabinet Office has departmental responsibility for the generic local response framework within England and Wales, including responsibility for the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. The Cabinet Office will, where appropriate, also provide support to the lead department on cross-cutting issues in an emergency as part of the Cabinet Office's wider role of supporting effective Government and collective ministerial responsibility.

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 614W, on apprentices, what progress has been made in increasing the number of apprentices in the Cabinet Office; and how many apprentices his Department currently employs. [251964]

Mr. Watson: The Department now employs four apprentices as part of the Government's pathfinder project. As part of the Department's Skills Strategy, there is a firm commitment to increase the number of apprentices to 20 by March 2010.

Cabinet: Visits

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the cost of the Cabinet visit to Leeds was; and what the cost of *(a)* staff time, *(b)* staff travel, *(c)* staff accommodation, *(d)* ministerial travel, *(e)* ministerial accommodation, *(f)* hire and additional costs of venue, *(g)* publicity, *(h)* security and *(i)* associated ministerial visit was; [248039]

(2) what the cost of the Cabinet visit to Liverpool was; and what the cost of *(a)* staff time, *(b)* staff travel, *(c)* staff accommodation, *(d)* ministerial travel, *(e)* ministerial accommodation, *(f)* hire and additional costs of venue, *(g)* publicity, *(h)* security and *(i)* associated ministerial visits was. [248040]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 738-39W.

Departmental Buildings

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether a display energy certificate has been produced for each building under his Department's administration in Whitehall. [258173]

Mr. Watson: Display Energy Certificates have been produced for all Cabinet Office buildings, and are displayed in receptions.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark) on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 390-91W.

Departmental Lobbying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether Ministers in his Department received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [255225]

Mr. Byrne: We have no record of receiving any representations to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster or his Ministers from Lord Moonie, Lord Taylor of Blackburn, Lord Snape or Lord Truscott in the last seven months.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge), of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 270-71W, on departmental public relations, in which areas of work or projects the external public relations firms were engaged; and for what reasons in-house communications staff were not used in each instance. [249380]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

This Department used companies from the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework for the following areas of work in the last three full financial years:

Company	*Area of work*	*Amount spent (£)*
2007-08[1]		
Geronimo Communications	Enterprising Britain	172,630.27
GCI	Employing People campaign	30,030
Total		202,660.27
2006-07[1]		
Fishburn Hedges	DTI Gap analysis	9,071
Geronimo Communications	Enterprising Britain	163,642
GCI	Business Link	179,113
Total		351,826
2005-06		
Geronimo Communications	Enterprising Britain	76,240
GCI	Small Business Service	105,786
Harrison Cowley	Consumer Direct	239,050

Company	Area of work	Amount spent (£)
Wright Communication	Consumer Direct	32,694
Total		453,770

[1] April to June 2007 as DTI and BERR from June 2007.
[2] Spend by the former DTI.
Note:
These costs are inclusive of COI fees.

In all cases, PR agencies were employed to carry out work for which there was no available in-house resource. PR campaigns by their nature are time-limited and so it would not be cost-efficient to retain staff internally to run them. Contracting outside agencies also enables the Department to gain external specialist expertise as well as supporting the creative industries. PR contracts are placed taking account of Cabinet Office Propriety Guidance.

Public Sector: Pensions

Dr. Vis: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 111-12WS, on guaranteed minimum pension calculations, how the errors in payments in some public service pensions were discovered. [255756]

Mr. Byrne: As part of its management and control of the Civil Service pension arrangements the Cabinet Office commissioned an exercise to check data held by its pensioner payroll contractor with Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) data. This exercise highlighted the fact that GMP information was missing for a small proportion of Civil Service pensioners. Other public service schemes have commissioned similar checks and have discovered that they are also affected by this issue.

Unemployment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 500-01W, on the unemployed, how many people aged 16 to 24 years were unemployed in each region *(a)* in each year since 1997 and *(b)* in each of the last eight quarters. [256672]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, Official Report, columns 500-1W, on unemployed, how many people aged 16 to 24 years were unemployed in each region (a) each year since 1997 and (b) in each of the last eight quarters. (256672)

The requested information is shown in the attached table. Estimates for October-December 2008 have also been included as these have become available since the previous answer was provided.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently the estimates from Q3 2006 are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, which are weighted using more up-to- date population estimates.

Unemployed people aged 16-24, by region, Quarter 3 1997 to 2008, all calendar quarters from quarter 4 2006 to quarter 4 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

		North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humberside	East Midlands	West Midlands	Eastern	London
1997	Q3	39	93	60	42	74	54	118
1998	Q3	34	87	67	44	61	46	105
1999	Q3	44	84	56	53	65	46	85
2000	Q3	45	74	61	44	63	35	99
2001	Q3	29	74	49	40	59	54	99
2002	Q3	28	69	63	40	73	47	97
2003	Q3	39	80	52	43	74	46	105
2004	Q3	36	76	60	40	80	48	118
2005	Q3	44	78	64	42	63	49	117
2006	Q3	42	96	81	62	86	59	122
2006	Q4	29	81	71	59	72	49	99
2007	Q1	33	78	67	61	68	51	93
2007	Q2	37	78	60	49	72	51	96
2007	Q3	40	106	68	66	85	72	104
2007	Q4	29	87	64	51	54	48	109
2008	Q1	30	82	53	56	64	54	95
2008	Q2	36	83	72	57[1]	64	58	96
2008	Q3	30	120	95	69	82	63	116
2008	Q4[1]	***42	**112	***72	***50	**80	***63	**110

Thousand

		South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Total
1997	Q3	74	40	38	69	23	724

		South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Thousand Total
1998	Q3	74	47	43	72	19	698
1999	Q3	64	37	38	63	[2]—	651
2000	Q3	58	38	39	64	[2]—	631
2001	Q3	64	39	32	69	20	628
2002	Q3	74	41	30	72	17	649
2003	Q3	73	36	34	70	[2]—	669
2004	Q3	68	40	36	62	[2]—	681
2005	Q3	81	46	37	66	[2]—	701
2006	Q3	88	49	38	60	[2]—	797
2006	Q4	72	43	39	50	[2]—	676
2007	Q1	73	51	33	51	[2]—	669
2007	Q2	73	39	42	62	[2]—	675
2007	Q3	98	53	38	60	[2]—	806
2007	Q4	92	34	30	57	[2]—	663
2008	Q1	70	40	28	56	[2]—	642
2008	Q2	76	35	29	54	[2]—	676
2008	Q3	96	52	49	55	[2]—	864
2008	Q4'	***92	***48	***40	***55	****[2]—	*793

[1] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:
[2] Sample size too small for reliable estimate.
Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
Key Coefficient of Variation ; CV) (%) Statistical robustness
* 0 = CV ≤ 5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 = CV ≤ 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 = CV ≤ 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.
Note:
It should be noted that the estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc).

Work Experience

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the proposed new national internship scheme will apply to the Civil Service. [258591]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to helping new graduates into work in these challenging economic times and one of our proposals is to increase the availability of graduate internships across a wide range of sectors. It is as yet too early for me to say exactly where those additional internships will be available, but we are currently consulting key stakeholders, including other civil service employers, about the development of our proposal.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bankruptcy: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* bankruptcy orders and *(b)* individual voluntary agreements were recorded in Milton Keynes in each year since 1997. [257403]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* Table 1 as follows shows the number of bankruptcies and individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs) in Milton Keynes in each year between 2000 and 2007, derived from postcodes provided by insolvent individuals[1, 2]. Earlier figures are not available on this basis; figures for 2008 are not yet available.

[1] Classifying bankrupts and IVAs into administrative geographies is done using the postcode that the insolvent individual provides. The use of this in assigning an individual to a borough is thus only as reliable as the postcode information provided.

[2] In particular, inaccurate or missing postcodes mean that the numbers in the above table will be subject to an element of missing data. Nationally, for bankruptcies, this proportion has been decreasing from about 12 per cent. in 2000 to less than 4 per cent. in 2007. For IVAs this proportion has been decreasing from about 15 per cent. in 2000 to about 3 per cent. in 2007.

Table 1

	Bankruptcies	IVAs
2000	83	29
2001	107	27
2002	109	29
2003	128	38
2004	178	50
2005	186	128
2006	304	235
2007	306	274

Broadband

Nick Herbert: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of households in rural areas *(a)* are connected to and *(b)* have the capacity to be connected to (i) 256 kb/s, (ii) 512 kb/s, (iii) 1MB/s and (iv) 2 MB/s broadband. [256374]

Mr. McFadden: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what his most recent estimate is of the number of households which have access to broadband internet in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* England; [256488]

(2) what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of households which own a computer. [256542]

Mr. McFadden: The matters raised are the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his most recent estimate of the number of households which have access to broadband internet in *(a)* Winchester, *(b)* Hampshire and *(c)* England is. [257790]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Broadband: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimates he has made of the cost of ensuring that every household in Wales can receive high speed broadband services. [254201]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 4 February 2009]:* This Department has not made any assessment of the costs of such action. However, the Welsh Assembly Government launched a programme of activities to transform broadband availability and take up across Wales in 2002. The Regional Innovative Broadband Support Scheme provided funding to upgrade 33 telephone exchanges in Wales, making broadband available to an additional 7,500 premises.

They are shortly to announce the awarding of a contract to look further into this "not spot" issue and how best to address it. This followed on from a registration scheme it set up to enable those who cannot access broadband to register their demand for broadband. To date there are over 1,400 registrations.

Broadband: West Yorkshire

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many households have access to broadband in *(a)* Leeds West constituency, *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan area and *(c)* West Yorkshire; [255470]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the number of households with *(a)* a computer and *(b)* access to broadband in Leeds West constituency. [255477]

Mr. McFadden: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to my right hon. Friend. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Caio Review

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what date the Caio Review was commissioned; and on what date it reported. [247420]

Mr. McFadden: The Caio Review was announced on 22 February 2008 and its findings published on 12 September 2008, in the report "The Next Phase of Broadband UK: Action now for long term competitiveness" at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file47788.pdf

and the Government published a formal response to the Caio report on 29 January alongside the Digital Britain Interim Report:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/digital_britain_interimreportian09_annex3.pdf

Company Liquidations

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many companies have gone into liquidation *(a)* in each of the last 10 financial years and *(b)* in 2008-09 to date in (i) North West Cambridgeshire constituency, (ii) Cambridgeshire, (iii) the East of England and (iv) England and Wales. [257459]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows the number of company liquidations in the last 10 financial years for England and Wales. Corporate liquidation statistics are not currently available on a regional basis within England and Wales.

Company liquidations[1, 2] in England and Wales

Financial year	*Number*
1998-99	13,850
1999-2000	14,005
2000-01	14,623
2001-02	15,170
2002-03	15,962
2003-04	13,635
2004-05	11,954
2005-06	13,447
2006-07	12,847

Company liquidations[1] [2] in England and Wales

Financial year	*Number*
2007-08	12,495
2008-09[3]	12,273

[1] Including creditors voluntary liquidations (CVLs) and compulsory liquidations.
[2] Not seasonally adjusted.
[3] Insolvency data for the current financial year are only available up to December 2008.

Departmental Manpower

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff were employed in his Department's Energy Change Group on 1 October 2008. [255936]

Mr. McFadden: On 1 October 2008, 536 full-time equivalent staff were employed in the Department's Energy Group.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been spent by his Department on staff reward and recognition schemes since its inception. [248717]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has a non-pay rewards scheme where staff or teams are given incentives in the form of gifts in recognition of one-off achievement and performance. These do not exceed £50 in value. These gifts can also be given as part of awards ceremonies in recognition of team performance and achievement in the Department. Since the creation of BERR in June 2007, £59,981 has been spent on these.

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department and its agencies in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and what was spent on such bonuses in each of those years. [249850]

Mr. McFadden: The former Department of Trade and Industry (up to June 2007) and the Department for Business, Enterprise, and Regulatory Reform paid non-consolidated non-pensionable performance awards to staff in the senior civil service to reward delivery of business objectives and personal contributions to wider organisational goals. Performance related awards are part of the pay system across the whole senior civil service, and are used to reward high performance sustained throughout the year, based on a judgement of how well an individual has performed relative to their peers.

The performance related pay scheme is designed to help drive high performance and support better public service delivery.

	Number of SCS awarded performance bonuses	*Total amount (£)*
2007	143	[1]1,126,000
2008	141	[2]1,211,500

[1] 7.6 per cent. of the SCS paybill
[2] 8.6 per cent. of the SCS paybill

The senior salaries review body (SSRB) makes recommendations each year for the amount Departments may allocate to bonuses. In 2007 the median bonus was £6,000; in 2008 the median was £6,250.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge), of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 270-01W, on departmental public relations, on which projects the external public relations and marketing companies worked; and for what reasons the work was not undertaken by departmental staff in each case. [252451]

Mr. McFadden: This Department used companies from the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework for the following areas of work in the last three full financial years:

Company	*Area of work*	*Amount spent (£)*
2007-08[1]		
Geronimo Communications	Enterprising Britain	172,630.27
GCI	Employing People campaign	30,030
Total		202,660.27
2006-07[2]		
Fishburn Hedges	DTI Gap analysis	9,071
Geronimo Communications	Enterprising Britain	163,642
GCI	Business Link	179,113
Total		351,826
2005-06		
Geronimo Communications	Enterprising Britain	76,240
GCI	Small Business Service	105,786
Harrison Cowley	Consumer Direct	239,050
Wright Communication	Consumer Direct	32,694
Total		453,770

[1] April to June 2007 as DTI and BERR from June 2007.
[2] Spend by the former DTI.
Note:
These costs are inclusive of COI fees.

In all cases, PR agencies were employed to carry out work for which there was no available in-house resource. PR campaigns by their nature are time-limited and so it would not be cost-efficient to retain staff internally to run them. Contracting outside agencies also enables the Department to gain external specialist expertise as well as supporting the creative industries. PR contracts are placed taking account of Cabinet Office Propriety Guidance.

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many new recruits his Department took on in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09; how many of these were taken on as (i) permanent, (ii) temporary and (iii) agency staff; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11. [254470]

Mr. McFadden: The number of new recruits[1] that joined the Department for the financial years requested are listed in the following table.

Status type	Year joined 2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Permanent[2]	72	52	70	73
Temporary[3]	48	29	41	66
Total	120	81	111	139

[1] New recruits represent staff that have joined BERR or its predecessor DTI and excludes our executive agencies.
[2] Permanent new recruits are staff employed by the Department on a permanent civil service contract.
[3] Temporary new recruits are staff that have been recruited on a short term or fixed term civil service contract.

With respect to estimates for the years 2009-10 and 2010-11, we cannot give forecasts of future staff recruitment as this is dependant on the needs of the business which at present is fluid.

Agency staff are new recruits that have joined the Department but are not on a civil service contract and are employed by a third party. The arrangements for employing agency staff in the Department are delegated locally to line management units. To provide such information could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Insolvency

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many pre-pack administrations there have been in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in the last 12 months. [257515]

Mr. McFadden: There is insufficient information held centrally, and in a readily available format, to provide an answer to this question. This is because:

Corporate insolvency statistics are not currently available at a sub national level.

Statistics are not currently available on the number of pre-pack administrations.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford of 27 November 2008 on his constituent, Mr. Russ Harrington of Broomfield, Chelmsford. [256516]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* I responded to the hon. Member on 5 February 2009.

North East Economic Forum: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* One North East has provided to the North East Economic Forum in the last 12 months. [257549]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has provided no direct funding to the North East Economic Forum. During the 12 months, February 2008 to January 2009, One North East provided £112,640 to the North East Economic Forum for costs associated with two major regional conferences and a number of associated events.

The aforementioned figure includes:

Contribution to the costs of the 2007 Annual Conference, various associated events, workshops and networking events which was invoiced in 2008.

Contribution to the costs of the 2008 Annual Conference held on 5 December 2008, various associated events, workshops and networking events.

Skills Event in July 2008.

Energy Event on 14 November 2008.

Regional Development Agencies: Land

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what land holdings each regional development agency owns. [253777]

Mr. McFadden: Tables showing regional development agency land holdings, as at February 2009, will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regional Development Agencies: Non-domestic Rates

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the cost to regional development agencies of paying national non-domestic rates in respect of empty commercial properties in 2009-10. [255740]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows the estimated cost to RDAs of paying national non-domestic rates in respect of empty commercial properties in 2009-10.

RDA	Estimated cost to RDAs of paying national non-domestic rates for empty commercial properties in 2009-10 (£000)
AWM	53
EEDA	90
EMDA	44
LDA	164
NWDA	112
ONE	200
SEEDA	325
SWRDA	272
YF	'918

[1] The economic regeneration of Yorkshire and Humber's main urban centres is a regional economic strategy priority. To support delivery of this priority YF has acquired strategic properties and sites. The economic downturn is lengthening the delivery of re-uses and new uses for these sites which impacts on rates and empty rates costs.

JUSTICE

Care Proceedings: Applications

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for care proceedings were made by local authorities in England and Wales in each month of *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [258201]

Bridget Prentice: The numbers of public law care and supervision applications under section 31 of the Children Act 1989 from April 2007 to December 2008 are shown in the following table. Public law cases are those brought

by local authorities or an authorised person (currently only the NSPCC). Figures relate to the number of children that are subject to each application, are for England and Wales, and have been rounded to the nearest 10. Please note that 2008 figures remain subject to change, particularly the later months of the year.

The majority of applications are made in Family Proceedings Courts (FPCs). There have been data quality issues with figures for FPCs, and a new method of data collection was introduced in April 2007 which has improved the quality and level of recording on previous years. Prior to April 2007 the collection was on a quarterly basis, meaning that monthly data are not available.

Comparisons between short time periods (one or two months) as presented in this table should be made with caution as these figures are subject to more volatility than those covering longer time periods.

Cemeteries: Safety

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1291-2W, on the Department for Constitutional Affairs Cemetery and Burials Advisory Group, what progress has been made in the review of the compensation culture referred to in the minutes of the Advisory Group meeting of 9 March 2006. [258026]

Bridget Prentice: Following publication of the Better Regulation Task Force's 2004 report "Better Routes to Redress", the Department took forward a programme of work to tackle perceptions of a "compensation culture" and to improve the compensation system for those with valid claims. One strand of this work related to risk management, which was the subject of the discussion at the Burial and Cemeteries Advisory Group. A number of initiatives were undertaken by individual Departments, including the production of guidance by the Health and Safety Executive on simplifying risk assessments, and this Department facilitated workshops aimed at improving understanding of issues relating to risk, involving other Departments, insurers, local government, the voluntary sector and other sectors.

Civil Proceedings: Legal Representation

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information he has on the number of criminal cases defended by litigants-in-person. [258015]

Mr. Malik: The criminal justice system does not collect information on the number of unrepresented defendants appearing before the magistrates court, Court of Appeal and House of Lords. The number of unrepresented defendants recorded as appearing before the Crown court in 2007-08 is set out in the following table.

Percentage of unrepresented defendants appearing before the Crown court in 2007-08 by type of case

	Trials	*Committals for sentence*	*Appeals*
Total	93,642	29,781	9,656
Legally aided	89,381	27,254	6,834
Privately represented	4,220	1,750	2,295
Unrepresented	41	777	527
Percentage unrepresented	0.04	2.6	5.5

Note:
The data presented are taken from the Crown court electronic records system which holds administrative data related to the Crown court. It does not include data from Newcastle and Bolton Crown courts.

Convictions

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in England are estimated to have an unspent conviction. [258228]

Maria Eagle: The information is not available.

Centralised police national computer (PNC) data only go back to 2000, with incomplete data available for 1997-99 and no centralised data available from before 1997. As prison sentences of over six months remain unspent for 10 years, and prison sentences of over 30 months never become spent, the data available would not provide an accurate indicator of the total number of individuals with unspent convictions in England today.

Moreover, data on whether convictions are spent or not are not routinely collected. They are only obtained when required for operational purposes (e.g. when a disclosure certificate is being prepared, or an individual is calculating whether they have to disclose a conviction). To produce a response to the question, even limited to the years for which there are central data, could therefore be done only at disproportionate cost.

Coroners

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of coroners' inquests likely to be held without a jury on the grounds of *(a)* national security, *(b)* the relationship between the United Kingdom and another country, *(c)* preventing or detecting crime, *(d)* protecting the safety of a witness or other person and *(e)* otherwise preventing real harm to the public interest, under clause 11 of the Coroners and Justice Bill, during the first year of operation of the legislation. [257292]

Bridget Prentice: At present, less than 2 per cent. of inquests are held with a jury (in 2007, 540 out of 30,841, or 1.75 per cent.), and we anticipate that only a very small number of those cases, perhaps one or two each year, will be affected by clause 11 of the Coroners and Justice Bill. It is not possible to speculate which limbs of the definition these one or two cases will fall under.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions an inquest has been closed without a recorded verdict in each of the last five years. [257635]

Bridget Prentice: An inquest may be adjourned under section 16 of the Coroners Act 1988 pending the outcome of criminal proceedings for a homicide offence relating to the death. An inquest may be adjourned under section 17A of the 1988 Act where there is a judicial

public inquiry into the death and the Lord Chancellor considers that the cause of death will be adequately investigated by the inquiry. In section 16 cases, the coroner will only resume the inquest after the conclusion of the criminal proceedings if in his opinion there is "sufficient reason" to do so. In section 17A cases, the coroner will only resume the inquest after the public inquiry if in his option there is "exceptional reason" to do so.

The number of inquests which were adjourned and not resumed by coroners in England and Wales prior to a verdict being reached, in each year between 2003 and 2007, is provided in the following table:

	Number
2003	908
2004	943
2005	1,008
2006	956
2007	926

Statistics for 2008 are not yet available, but are due to be published on the Ministry of Justice website in May in the National Statistics bulletin: "Statistics on deaths reported to coroners, England and Wales".

Cremation: Standards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1291-12W on Department for Constitutional Affairs Cemetery and Burials Advisory Group, and the minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Board on 25 February 2008, what assessment has been made of the adequacy of supply of *(a)* coffins, *(b)* crematorium services and *(c)* funeral services in the event of pandemic influenza. [258021]

Bridget Prentice: Following the Advisory Group meeting on 25 February 2008, the Home Office published 'Planning for a Possible Influenza Pandemic: A Framework for Planners Preparing to Manage Deaths' on 22 May. This provides guidance for local planners on providing cremation and funeral services in these circumstances. We have since been working with representatives of the funeral industry and coffin manufacturers to explore existing supply arrangements and options to increase capacity if necessary. This work continues.

Debt Collection

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many homes have been subject to forced entry by bailiffs under the provisions of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 in each year since those provisions were implemented. [257514]

Bridget Prentice: Since the introduction of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 the power to force entry has been used to execute warrants of arrest by magistrates court civilian enforcement officers (CEOs) on 386 occasions and to execute warrants of distress by private bailiffs contracted to Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) on two occasions. HMCS does not have a breakdown for each of the individual years available.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 870W, on debt collection: parking offences, (1) whether his Department plans to bring forward proposals to amend the law relating to bailiffs to extend rights to bailiffs to have a forced power of entry in relation to unpaid parking fines; [258019]

(2) when he expects the new powers of forced entry for bailiffs under the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 to be *(a)* commenced and *(b)* implemented. [258067]

Bridget Prentice: The enforcement provisions in the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 are far reaching reforms. The provisions have recently undergone a comprehensive reassessment by Ministers to ensure that they remain appropriate even under this difficult financial climate. This assessment has now concluded and a statement will be made shortly.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of each individual non-confidential response to his Department's consultation paper on the regulation of enforcement agents. [258068]

Bridget Prentice: A copy of each individual non-confidential response to the Department's consultation paper on regulation of enforcement agents has already been placed in the Library.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department's joint review with the Department for Communities and Local Government on the enforcement of council tax payments will include in its remit the enforcement powers of bailiffs. [258071]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice has completed an extensive review on the powers of bailiffs which culminated in the enforcement provisions in the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. The Ministry of Justice is working with the Department of Communities and Local Government to look at new ways to collect and enforce council tax, in particular by allowing councils to transfer council tax debts from magistrates to county courts. Any necessary legislation will be introduced as parliamentary time allows.

Debts: Court Orders

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* third party debt, *(b)* interim charging and *(c)* final charging orders were made by courts in each of the last five years. [258046]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the numbers of interim and final third party debt orders and charging orders made in the county courts of England and Wales in each of the last five years.

Number of interim and final third party debt orders[1] and charging orders[2] made in the county courts of England and Wales 2004–08[3]

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008[3]
Interim third party debt orders	6,217	6,551	6,428	6,364	7,349
Final third party debt orders	1,836	1,826	1,828	1,813	2,038
Interim charging orders	45,847	66,451	92,366	130,463	164,185
Final charging orders	33,235	49,218	67,090	97,026	135,663

[1] Third party debt orders secure payment by freezing and then seizing money owed or payable by a third party to a debtor.
[2] Charging orders obtain security for the payment against a property owned by the debtor.
[3] Figures for 2008 are provisional.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many language translators are employed in each of his Department's executive agencies; and what the cost of translating services provided by such people was in the latest period for which information is available. [257156]

Mr. Straw: Her Majesty's Courts Service does employ one translator within the Welsh Language Unit. Where other services are required, they are secured as and when required. Individuals providing those services are not directly employed by the MOJ.

Translator costs for HMCS and National Offender Management Service (excluding HMPS and probation service) are detailed as follows.

Financial year 2007-08	£
HMCS	200,000
NOMS HQ	8,906

Tribunals are unable to differentiate between the cost of translators and interpreters. The total cost of those services in 2007-08 was £6,058,000.

Information for Her Majesty's Prison Service and the probation service is not held centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which local authority electoral registration departments *(a)* do and *(b)* do not use bar coding on their electoral registration forms; [257323]

(2) how many local authorities have a *(a)* Plain English Campaign award and *(b)* Charter Mark certificate for their electoral registration forms. [257326]

Mr. Wills: A prescribed canvass form is available to all local authorities for the purpose of the annual canvass. The MOJ has not applied for this form to be awarded the Plain English Campaign award but will consider doing so. The design of rolling registration forms is a matter for electoral registration officers.

Charter Mark is awarded to organisations who successfully pass an accreditation process but there is no certification process for registration forms. Local authorities with Charter Mark status may endorse the Charter Mark emblem on any of their publications; it is not known how many print it on their canvass forms.

Information on which local authorities use bar coding on their registration forms is not collected centrally and to do so now would result in disproportionate costs, as we would need to contact every local authority.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the demographic profile of those people who are most likely not to be registered to vote; and if he will make a statement. [257490]

Mr. Wills: As the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham (Bridget Prentice) explained in answer to a similar question from my hon. Friend on 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 474W, the Government have not commissioned or evaluated any specific research on the demographic profile of people who are most likely not to be registered to vote. However, the Government do utilise some existing research concerning the attitudes and motivations of the electorate, as commissioned by the then Department of Constitutional Affairs in 2005, as a basis for further work towards identifying an evidence base for policy development and service targets in the electoral field.

The Electoral Commission found in their report, 'Understanding Electoral Registration', published in September 2005, that the most likely electors not to be registered to vote included young people, those residing in private rented accommodation and those belonging to certain minority ethnic groups.

Information arising out of the evidence base and the Electoral Commission's report were used to mount a registration campaign in London for 18 to 24-year-olds and to inform work on registration, which fed into various measures in the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

Electoral Register: Telephone Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what rules govern registration to vote by telephone; and whether he plans to change these rules; [257716]

(2) which local authorities use telephone registration to register electors. [257717]

Mr. Wills: Sections 10 and 10A of the Representation of the People Act 1983, in combination with regulations made under that Act, require an application to be added to the electoral register to be made in writing and signed by the applicant. This applies whether the application is made in response to the annual canvass or at any other time. The effect is that a fresh application for registration cannot be made by telephone.

By virtue of section 10A(5)(a) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, once a person is registered, he is entitled to remain on the register until such time as the registration officer is unable to satisfy himself that the person is resident at the address—either because the annual canvass form was not returned or because insufficient information was obtained as to whether the elector was resident at the address at the conclusion of the canvass. There is nothing in this provision to prevent a registration officer from satisfying himself that a person is still resident at the address on the basis of information provided by telephone by the person. As a result, it is possible for registration officers to accept telephone

confirmation of a person's continued entitlement to registration and, in such a case, the person's entry could remain in the register.

There are no current plans to change these rules.

Maintaining the registers is the responsibility of local electoral registration officers and no central record is kept regarding how many registration officers accept telephone confirmation of continued entitlement to registration.

Electronic Commerce: EC Law

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1171W, on homophobia, what compliance issues with the EU e-commerce Directive remain to be resolved. [257415]

Mr. Straw: The E-commerce Directive requires us to apply the offence to domestically established electronic service providers when they provide their services in other European economic area states.

In order to do this, we intend to make regulations under the European Communities Act 1972. But, as the offence relating to hatred on grounds of sexual orientation carries a maximum sentence of seven years imprisonment, we need powers to create penalties greater than those permitted by section 2(2) of that Act. Clause 123 of the Coroners and Justice Bill will amend the 1972 Act to allow us to do this.

HM Courts Service: Pay

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what financial settlement was reached with the former Chief Executive of HM Courts Service at the end of his tenure. [258243]

Mr. Straw: Details of the financial settlement reached with the former chief executive, HM Courts Service is available in the public domain as detailed in the Ministry of Justice's resource account 2007-08.

Sir Ron De Witt left the Department on 14 December 2007. He received a lump sum compensation payment upon the date of his departure of £405,000-£410,000. This included a special severance payment of £130,000-135,000.

Libra Project

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Libra project *(a)* has cost to date and *(b)* is expected to have cost on completion; and what implementation milestones have been set for the project. [258013]

Bridget Prentice: Rollout of the Libra application is now complete in all magistrates' courts. The outturn cost of the project is £444 million. A Welsh version of the application is scheduled to be available in September 2009.

Magistrates' Courts

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times magistrates courts hearings in each district have had to be postponed because the prosecution case paperwork was incomplete or misdirected in the last 12 months. [258012]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice does not hold information centrally concerning how many times hearings in each district have been postponed due to prosecution casework being incomplete or misdirected and this could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

However, figures for the prosecution's administrative lack of readiness in relation to vacated and ineffective trials are shown in the following table by Local Criminal Justice Board area. The data are gathered as part of the joint ineffective and vacated trial monitoring exercise and rely on the accurate recording of reasons that may, over time, be subject to amendment.

Nationally, the data for January to December 2008 show that 4.3 per cent. of all vacated trials were vacated because of reasons associated to the prosecution's administrative lack of readiness. In relation to ineffective trials, the reasons associated to the prosecution's lack of readiness led to 1.7 per cent. of all trials being ineffective.

Despite these relatively low figures, the Crown Prosecution Service has introduced a number of significant changes to its working practices to improve the effectiveness of its work in the magistrates' courts. These are under an initiative known as the 'Optimum Business Model' (OBM). The OBM comprises nine recommendations, the key element being the introduction of proactive case progression teams that ensure cases are ready in advance of the court hearing. OBM has focused on eliminating waste and duplication, streamlining processes and improving timeliness. It has been implemented across 40 of the 42 Crown Prosecution Service areas to date and considerable benefits have been gained not least in the improved timeliness of the prosecution review of cases, in better rates of readiness for trial and responses to correspondence. A system has been introduced to record numbers of adjournments and the reasons why they occurred which is currently under review. Early indications show a reduction of adjournments overall in line with the introduction of criminal justice simple speedy summary (CJSSS) processes and the contribution of OBM.

Details of Prosecution-related administrative lack of readiness by area January-December 2008—covering vacated and ineffective trials in magistrates courts

	Vacated trials				*Ineffective trials*			
Local criminal justice board area	*Prosecution not ready: prosecution not ready for trial, further preparation needed*	*Total vacated trials*	*Percentage of total vacated trials vacated because prosecution not ready for trial, further preparation needed*	*Prosecution not ready: served late notice of additional evidence on defence*	*Prosecution not ready: Other*	*Total prosecution-related reasons relating to administrative readiness*	*Total trials (including ineffective trials)*	*Percentage of total trials ineffective because of prosecution reasons related to administrative readiness*
Avon and Somerset	32	737	4.3	11	20	31	2,751	1.1

Details of Prosecution-related administrative lack of readiness by area January–December 2008 – covering vacated and ineffective trials in magistrates courts

	Vacated trials			Ineffective trials				
Local criminal justice board area	*Prosecution not ready: prosecution not ready for trial, further preparation needed*	*Total vacated trials*	*Percentage of total vacated trials vacated because prosecution not ready for trial, further preparation needed*	*Prosecution not ready: served late notice of additional evidence on defence*	*Prosecution not ready: Other*	*Total prosecution-related reasons relating to administrative readiness*	*Total trials (including ineffective trials)*	*Percentage of total trials ineffective because of prosecution reasons related to administrative readiness*
Bedfordshire	32	951	3.8	7	17	26	2,226	1.1
Cambridgeshire	4	250	1.6	1	5	6	1,597	0.4
Cheshire	21	735	2.9	7	20	27	3,136	0.9
Cleveland	27	873	3.1	11	25	36	2,660	1.3
Cumbria	26	896	2.9	4	35	39	1,742	2.2
Derbyshire	41	1,073	3.8	22	51	73	4,261	1.7
Devon and Cornwall	31	826	3.8	14	23	37	2,615	1.4
Dorset	50	719	7.0	3	30	33	2,277	1.4
Durham	30	951	3.3	13	28	41	1,516	2.7
Dyfed Powys	9	466	1.7	1	11	12	992	1.2
Essex	85	1,107	7.2	26	104	130	4,540	2.9
Gloucestershire	4	429	0.9	3	21	24	1,596	1.5
Greater London	412	6,151	6.7	126	546	672	32,273	2.1
Greater Manchester	96	2,086	4.6	66	144	210	10,670	2.0
Gwent	11	674	1.6	8	18	26	1,867	1.4
Hampshire and I/W	69	2,204	3.1	15	50	65	5,402	1.2
Hertfordshire	15	1,560	1.0	11	51	62	4,237	1.5
Humberside	27	651	4.3	5	27	32	2,365	1.4
Kent	83	1,313	6.3	16	50	70	5,325	1.4
Lancashire	50	1,951	3.0	25	60	85	6,466	1.3
Leicestershire	13	592	3.3	14	30	44	3,366	1.3
Lincolnshire	18	783	2.3	6	22	28	1,673	1.7
Merseyside	59	1,385	4.3	25	37	62	5,000	1.4
Norfolk	38	716	5.3	9	15	24	1,795	1.3
North Wales	23	960	2.4	13	25	38	2,198	1.7
North Yorkshire	35	798	4.4	6	17	25	1,632	1.5
Northamptonshire	15	192	7.8	6	6	12	1,843	0.7
Northumbria	149	2,123	7.0	27	98	125	7,299	1.7
Nottinghamshire	94	1,992	6.3	20	80	100	4,370	2.3
South Wales	98	1,674	5.7	27	76	103	4,486	2.3
South Yorkshire	40	1,622	2.6	21	46	67	4,461	1.5
Staffordshire	31	812	3.8	15	40	55	3,500	1.6
Suffolk	32	603	5.3	5	8	13	915	1.4
Surrey	10	550	1.2	2	28	30	2,661	1.1
Sussex	70	1,521	4.6	5	30	35	4,282	0.8
Thames Valley	26	1,357	1.9	20	70	90	6,264	1.4
Warwickshire	5	155	3.6	1	2	3	493	0.6
West Mercia	52	986	5.2	15	42	57	4,993	1.3
West Midlands	66	3,030	2.2	62	173	235	13,225	1.8
West Yorkshire	62	1,370	4.5	23	87	110	7,305	1.5
Wiltshire	27	296	9.1	3	24	27	1,637	1.6
England and Wales	2,140	40,205	4.3	716	2,324	3,040	163,502	1.7

National Offender Management Service: Redundancy

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the total monetary value of all redundancy packages given to regional offender managers is. [257571]

Mr. Straw: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) appointed regional offender managers (ROMs) as commissioners of services. As a result of structural changes in NOMS, Directors of Offender Managers have now been appointed (due to be announced imminently). The ROMs will remain in post until 31 March 2009. The role will then end as the new structure comes into place. The expectation is that there will be no redundancies as a result of this change as our objective is to redeploy the ROMs into other roles.

Offenders: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what types of offences were committed by people on bail in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [256064]

Maria Eagle: Court proceedings data held by the Ministry of Justice do not identify whether persons were on bail at the time of committing an offence.

Office of the Public Guardian: Complaints

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints about the Office of the Public Guardian were received in each month of the last three years. [257629]

Bridget Prentice: The number of complaints received by the Office of the Public Guardian each month for the last three years is shown in the following table.

	2006	2007	2008
January	42	67	147
February	65	69	138
March	40	72	136
April	33	43	264
May	67	65	227
June	45	54	229
July	70	40	301
August	55	57	253
September	52	47	208
October	59	65	230
November	72	142	164
December	54	101	125

Prison Sentences

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection have been set a tariff of *(a)* less than 12 months, *(b)* between 12 months and two years and *(c)* over two years; [257468]

(2) how many prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection who have served sentences longer than their tariff have served *(a)* fewer than six months, *(b)* between six months and one year and *(c)* more than one year over their tariff. [257469]

Maria Eagle: The number of prisoners in custody on 12 February 2009 serving an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection broken down by length of tariff is as follows:

	Number of prisoners
Awaiting confirmation of tariff	329
Tariff less than 12 months	253
Tariff 12 months to two years	1,122
Tariff over two years	3,355
Total	5,059

The number of prisoners in custody serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection longer than their tariff on 12 February 2009 was 1,487. This is broken down as follows:

	Number of prisoners
Past tariff by fewer than six months	525
Past tariff six to 12 months	394
Past tariff 12 months or more	568
Total	1,487

These figures are taken from the National Offender Management Service's records. As with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing.

The tariff is the minimum period which an indeterminate sentenced prisoner must serve for punishment and deterrence. It is for the independent Parole Board to determine whether to direct the release of an indeterminate sentenced prisoner once his tariff has expired, based on all relevant information as to the risk of harm which the prisoner presents.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are serving *(a)* life sentences and *(b)* other indeterminate sentences. [257470]

Maria Eagle: At the end of December 2008 there were 4,963 prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection in all prison establishments in England and Wales, and 7,031 serving life sentences.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been released early in error in the last five years; for what offences they were serving sentences; what the length of the original sentence was in each case; how long each had left to serve on release; and if he will make a statement. [257458]

Mr. Hanson: It is a mandatory requirement that prisons check the correctness of the calculation of a prisoner's release date 14 days and two days before release. At this point, a check is also made to ensure that there is no other reason a prisoner should be detained in custody, such as, if they are remanded to custody on further charges or held on immigration matters. Additionally, re-calculations and checks are also carried out during the course of the sentence should a prisoner be transferred from one establishment to another. Prison Service Order 6650 provides details of the sentence calculation checks required.

The number of known releases in error are reported to the national operations unit in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) by prison establishments. The number of releases reported is as follows:

	Number of releases in error (RIEs) reported	Total number of prisoner discharges	Percentage of discharges that are RIEs
2005	32	84,500	<0.04
2006	36	78,535	<0.05
2007	36	77,146	<0.05
2008	57	n/a	

n/a = Not available

Information on how early the release was in each case and the details of the offences are not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The number of releases in error remains very small as a percentage of total discharges (less than 0.05 per cent. in 2007, the last year for which discharge figures are currently available) and must be viewed in the context of increased prisoner movement to accommodate the rising population.

Prisoners: Racial Harassment

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many incidents classified as racially-motivated were reported by prisoners in each of the last five years. [257637]

Mr. Straw: The following table presents the number of incidents of alleged racism reported by prisoners. This is broken down into those about the behaviour of other prisoners and those concerning service provision or the actions of members of staff. While all reports are investigated few consist of allegations of misconduct by staff and all such matters are subject to disciplinary investigation under the code of conduct and discipline.

'Race Review 2008', recently published by the National Offender Management Service, which is available in the Library of the House, sets out the current assessment of race equality in the Prison Service, including the effectiveness of these systems and plans for work further to improve them.

	Total	*Prisoner behaviour*	*Service/actions of staff*
2004-05	5,641	2,268	3,373
2005-06	6,912	2,719	4,193
2006-07	7,569	2,993	4,576
2007-08	8,051	2,758	5,293
2008-09[1]	6,862	2,186	4,676

[1] Figures for year up to 31 December 2008

Prisoners: Suicide

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what steps he is taking to reduce the incidence of suicide in prisons; [258753]

(2) how many prisoners died in HM Prison Winchester in each of the last five years; and how many of those deaths were suicides; [258754]

(3) how many prisoners died in prisons in England and Wales in each of the last five years; and how many of those deaths were suicides. [258755]

Mr. Malik: The National Offender Management Service has a broad, integrated and evidence-based prisoner suicide prevention strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all those in prison. This encompasses a wide spectrum of prison and Department of Health work around such issues as mental health, substance misuse and resettlement. Any prisoner identified as at risk of suicide or self-harm is cared for using the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) procedures. ACCT is the prisoner-centred flexible care-planning system introduced across the prisons estate in partnership with the Department of Health during 2005 to 2007 to replace the old F2052SH system.

Any death in custody is a tragic event. The Government are committed to learning from such events and reducing the number of self-inflicted deaths in state custody. We are implementing many of the recommendations of Robert Fulton's Review of the Forum for Preventing Deaths in Custody. From April 2009, a new three tier Ministerial Council on Deaths in Custody will replace the existing forum and the Ministerial Roundtable on Suicide.

The numbers of deaths at HMP Winchester in the last five calendar years, broken down by type, are detailed in the following table.

Type of death	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009[1]*
Natural causes	3	1	1	3	—	1
Other non-natural	—	—	—	—	—	—
Self-inflicted	—	1	—	—	3	1

[1] Up to and including 24 February.

The numbers of deaths in English and Welsh prisons in the last five calendar years, broken down by type, are detailed in the following table.

Type of death	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009[1]*
Homicide	2	3	—	2	3	—
Natural causes	102	88	83	92	97	19
Other non-natural	9	5	3	—	2	1
Self-inflicted	95	78	67	92	61	14
Unclassified	—	—	—	—	1	—

[1] Up to and including 24 February.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many visitors to prisons were found to be in possession of illegal drugs in 2007-08; how many such visitors were referred to the police; and what steps were taken in respect of those not referred to the police. [256749]

Mr. Hanson: The data are not available in the format requested.

It is the National Offender Management Service's policy for all prison visitors found in possession of illicit drugs to be referred to the police. As a result of which in 2007-08 the police made 424 arrests of prison visitors the majority of which would have been for drug offences.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the length is of each custodial sentence, other than suspended sentences, handed down under the provisions of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 since the Act came into force; and when each such sentence was handed down; [258740]

(2) how much has been received in fines imposed under the provisions of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 in each year since its entry into force; and how the receipts have been allocated; [258744]

(3) how many persons prosecuted under the provisions of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 received custodial sentences, other than suspended sentences, in *(a)* each year since 2006 and *(b)* 2009 to date. [258745]

Mr. Hanson: The available information is shown in the following table.

Sentences imposed for offences under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992—1993 to 2007

		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Fines imposed										
Cruelty to badgers	Average fine amount (£)	355	272	465	266	516	478	—	283	213
	Number of offenders fined	14	12	13	6	3	4	—	3	4
	Sum of fines imposed (£)	4,970	3,264	6,045	1,596	1,548	1,912	—	849	852
Not giving up dog for destruction[1]	Average fine amount (£)	51	167	240	200	183	51	41	51	49
	Number of offenders fined	9	3	5	2	3	6	14	11	27
	Sum of fines imposed (£)	459	501	1,200	400	549	306	574	561	1,323
Lengths of immediate custodial sentences										
All offences under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992	Up to 3 months	1	5	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
	Include 3 up to 6 months	1	1	3	5	9	—	2	—	—
	Total custodial sentences	2	6	3	5	10	—	4	—	—

		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Fines imposed							
Cruelty to badgers	Average fine amount (£)	300	1,466	250	2,000	—	—
	Number of offenders fined	1	3	2	1	—	—
	Sum of fines imposed (£)	300	4,398	500	2,000	—	—
Not giving up dog for destruction[1]	Average fine amount (£)	47	51	51	64	69	78
	Number of offenders fined	21	10	7	8	4	4
	Sum of fines imposed (£)	987	510	357	512	276	312
Lengths of immediate custodial sentences							
All offences under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992	Up to 3 months	3	—	1	—	—	—
	Include 3 up to 6 months	—	—	—	8	1	1
	Total custodial sentences	3	—	1	8	1	1

Notes:
1. The offence of 'Failing to give up a dog for destruction having custody of a dog whilst disqualified' is an offence under the Badger Act (1992) and the Dangerous Dogs Act (1991). It has been included in these figures, although it is not possible to tell which Act was intended when sentencing.
2. The statistics are presented on the principal offence basis, where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed, where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.
3. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Data on the collection of fines for specific offences are not held, therefore the answer given shows the sum of all fines imposed for offences relating to the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, the actual amount collected is not known. As with all collected fines the receipts are paid into the Consolidated Fund at HM Treasury and are then allocated according to Government spending priorities as part of the spending review process.

Statistics for 2008 will not be available until Sentencing Statistics 2008 is published in late 2009.

Repossession Orders

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court orders for home repossession have been issued in Eastbourne constituency in each month of the last two years. [257083]

Bridget Prentice: Figures for Eastbourne parliamentary constituency are not available. However, the following table shows the number of mortgage and landlord possession actions in Eastbourne county court.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, Eastbourne county court may cover areas other than the Eastbourne constituency. Therefore not all possession actions at this court necessarily relate to Eastbourne constituency.

Court level statistics on mortgage and landlord repossession actions from 1987 to 2008 are available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/mortgagelandlordpossession.htm.

These figures do not indicate how many homes have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made, while not all court orders result in repossession.

Number of mortgage[1] and landlord[2] possession actions in Eastbourne county court by each month, 2007 to 2008[p]

	Mortgage possession				Landlord possession			
	Eastbourne		HMCS South East		Eastbourne		HMCS South East	
	Claims issued	Orders made[3] n.[4]	Claims issued	Orders made[3] n.[4]	Claims issued	Orders made[3] n.[4]	Claims issued	Orders made[3] n.[4]
January 2007	32	—	2,267	1,840	36	—	2,273	2,056
February 2007	25	—	2,037	1,305	31	—	2,107	1,344
March 2007	43	—	2,254	1,505	31	—	2,138	1,607
April 2007	21	—	1,851	1,411	16	—	1,806	1,496
May 2007	53	—	2,297	1,396	50	—	2,182	1,399
June 2007	31	—	2,211	1,530	45	—	2,287	1,545
July 2007	33	—	2,399	1,522	32	—	2,199	1,585
August 2007	40	—	2,174	1,457	37	—	2,036	1,596
September 2007	20	—	1,898	1,479	25	—	2,055	1,642
October 2007	25	—	2,193	1,747	35	—	2,447	1,795
November 2007	36	—	2,308	1,507	39	—	2,340	1,709
December 2007	17	—	1,816	1,170	20	—	1,760	1,421
January 2008	33	—	2,551	1,837	41	—	2,616	1,973
February 2008	49	—	2,617	1,575	38	—	2,432	1,670
March 2008	25	—	2,316	1,639	24	—	2,162	1,649
April 2008	42	—	2,553	1,955	24	—	2,311	1,981
May 2008	41	—	2,318	1,756	15	—	2,056	1,593
June 2008	27	—	2,340	1,869	27	—	2,281	1,733
July 2008	40	—	2,480	1,862	26	—	2,543	1,928
August 2008	44	—	2,348	1,764	23	—	2,246	1,659
September 2008	42	—	2,206	1,892	28	—	2,327	1,843
October 2008	32	—	2,187	1,818	25	—	2,582	1,940
November 2008	*26	—	*1,626	1,623	18	—	2,005	1,709
December 2008	*11	—	*786	1,414	17	—	1,913	1,536

[1] Includes all types of mortgage lenders.
[2] Includes all types of landlord whether social or private.
[3] Landlord actions include those made under both standard and accelerated procedures. Landlord actions via the accelerated procedure enables the orders to be made solely on the basis of written evidence for shorthold tenancies, when the fixed period of tenancy has come to an end.
[4] Figures for the latest month are provisional.
[5] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This enables the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.
[6] Includes outright and suspended orders, the latter being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually require the defendant to pay the current mortgage or rent instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.
[7] The rollout of the Possession Claim On-Line (PCOL) system in late 2008 has affected the availability of court-level data. Only those county courts which do not have direct on site access to PCOL were affected. Consequently, upward adjustments have been applied which estimate the effects of the missing data. The figures for Eastbourne court are adjusted at Her Majesty Courts Service (HMCS) regional level, which for Eastbourne is the south east.
[8] The Mortgage Pre Action Protocol for possession claims relating to mortgage or home purchase arrears was introduced in November 2008. In the short term, it has led to substantial fall in the number of new possession claims. More details are available in the recent repossession action bulletin available on Ministry of Justice website.

Source:
Ministry of Justice

Repossession Orders: Wandsworth

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court orders have been issued for the repossession of homes in Putney, Roehampton and Southfields in each of the last 10 years. [258361]

Bridget Prentice: Figures for Putney, Roehampton and Southfields constituency are not available. However, statistics on mortgage and landlord possession orders for London county courts (1987 to 2008) are available via the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/stats-landlord-mortgage-historic-20-02-09.xls

These include figures for Wandsworth county court, which is nearest to Putney, Roehampton and Southfields constituency.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, geographical boundaries of county courts may not necessarily be consistent with other administrative or constituency boundaries. Repossession orders made at Wandsworth county court may therefore relate to properties in other constituencies besides Putney, Roehampton and Southfields.

These figures do not indicate how many homes have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made, while not all court orders result in repossession.

Residence Orders

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for residence orders were made during *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [257512]

Bridget Prentice: The number of applications for residence orders made during 2006 and 2007 are given in the following table. There have been data quality issues with figures for Family Proceedings Courts (FPCs), and a new method of data collection was introduced in April 2007 which has improved the quality and level of recording on previous years. Comparisons between 2006 and 2007 should therefore be made with caution in this jurisdiction.

Number of Section 8 residence applications made, by whether private or public law and tier of court, 2006 and 2007: England and Wales

	Family Proceedings Courts[1]	*County Courts*[2]	*High Courts*	*Total*
2006				
Public Law	330	288	37	655
Private Law	4,300	28,802	313	33,415
2007				
Public Law	250	291	88	629
Private Law	5,100	29,514	210	34,824

[1] There have been data quality issues with figures for FPCs, and a new method of data collection was introduced in April 2007 which has improved the quality and level of recording on previous years. Pre April 2007, there are weighted estimates based on data from a subset of courts. To reflect data uncertainty FPC figures have been rounded.
[2] Research undertaken on behalf of Ministry of Justice has identified that some cases that have transferred from the Family Proceedings Court to the County Court have been incorrectly recorded as new applications in the County Court, thus inflating the reported number of new applications through double counting (see Masson et al 2008)
Notes:
Figures relate to the number of children subject to each application.
Source:
HMCS FamilyMan system and manual returns

Television: Licensing

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were fined for television licence evasion in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what the average fine was. [257025]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is shown in the following table.

Number of persons fined and average fine amount for offences relating to TV licence evasion[1]*, 2007*

	Number/£
Number of persons fined	120,114
Average fine amount (£)	137

[1] The TV licensing provisions of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 were replaced by new provisions in the Communications Act 2003 which came into effect on 1 April 2004.
Notes:
1. These are the numbers fined against for all offences under the Wireless Telegraphy Act which mainly but not exclusively covers TV licensing offences.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system
Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Great Grimsby of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 53W, on the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007, if he will place a copy of the report of the recently completed scoping exercise in the Library. [258142]

Bridget Prentice: The scoping exercise involved a series of meetings with stakeholders to discuss implementation. The enforcement provisions in the Tribunals, Court and Enforcement Act 2007 are far reaching reforms. The provisions have recently undergone a comprehensive reassessment by Ministers to ensure that they remain appropriate even under this difficult financial climate. This assessment has now concluded and a statement will be made shortly.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Cars

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles each Minister in his Department has travelled in a ministerial car in each of the last five years; how many such journeys each Minister made in each of those years; and what estimate has been made of the amount of resultant carbon dioxide emissions in each year. [258163]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Driving Standards Agency: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1385W, on the Driving Standards Agency: alcoholic drinks, for what reason public money was used to purchase alcohol for staff attending the operations conference in September 2008. [258170]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This annual conference gathered together senior management staff from locations across Great Britain to discuss operational issues affecting the Agency. It involved an overnight stay and a dinner was part of the event which allowed staff, who seldom meet together as a group, to continue discussions on issues of the day in a less formal setting. It was considered reasonable to offer limited drinks (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) as part of that meal. The normal subsistence allowance was not paid to attendees.

Driving Standards Agency: Public Relations

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what payments the Driving Standards Agency has made to *(a)* (i) management and (ii) public affairs and relations, *(b)* advertising agencies and *(c)* other external consultancy organisations in each of the last five years. [257697]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Transport, to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 386-88W.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons were for the increase in the driving licence application fee to £50 in 2008. [257350]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The increase in the first provisional driving licence fee from £45 to £50 in 2008 was implemented to ensure that the Driver Vehicle and Licensing Agency's driver and vehicle registration costs continue to be covered by the fees levied. At the same time there was a similar increase in the vehicle first registration fee from £50 to £55. These are necessary for the agency to comply with its statutory duties as an executive agency and trading fund.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many prosecutions of driving licence holders there have been for failure to notify a change of address in the last year for which information is available. [258216]

Jim Fitzpatrick: By law, a driver licence holder is required to notify the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) of any changes to their personal details such as name and/or address. Failure to do so could result in prosecution and a fine of up to £1,000.

Any action to enforce a fine is brought by the police and not DVLA. DVLA holds no figures on the number of prosecutions brought by the police.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has estimated the proportion of driving licence addresses which are inaccurate. [258217]

Jim Fitzpatrick: An accurate record is defined as one where the registered keeper of the vehicle or the driving licence holder can be traced from the details contained on the database.

The latest estimate of the accuracy of the vehicles record showed it was 96.9 per cent. accurate. This equates to 1,052,662 records that are inaccurate.

The latest estimate of the accuracy of the drivers record showed it was 81.5 per cent. accurate. This equates to 7,906,275 records that are inaccurate.

The responsibility for notifying the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA) of a change of address lies with the vehicle keeper or licence holder. So far as vehicle records are concerned, there is an annual requirement to tax the vehicle and this transaction is a regular prompt to owners to fulfil the requirement to notify change of address. There is no equivalent annual driver transaction that prompts a notification.

DVLA works hard to maintain accuracy. The task is to encourage and support drivers and vehicle keepers to meet their obligations, and to that end, a dedicated accuracy improvement team has been established. Current initiatives in hand include checks of credit reference agency databases for current addresses and working with others in the cross government "Tell Us Once" initiative to obtain early notification of the death of a licence holder.

Electric Vehicles

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of battery-powered motor vehicles purchased in the UK in each of the last five years. [256946]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of battery-powered vehicles registered in each of the last five years is set out in the following table. These data include all mechanically-powered vehicles which are required to be registered under the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 (VERA), such as passenger cars and quadricycles such as the G-Wizz, but excludes invalid carriages or "mobility scooters". It includes vehicles whose propulsion type is listed as 'electricity' (where the vehicle is powered solely by electricity supplied from an on-board battery) and excludes hybrid vehicles and electric fuel cell vehicles.

	Number of new registrations
2004	569
2005	742
2006	922
2007	1,374
2008	1,322
Total	4,929

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to encourage the use of battery-powered motor vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [256947]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government already provide generous support for motorists using Electric Vehicles (EVs) through the tax system (e.g. exemptions from vehicle excise duty and fuel duty). Over £100 million has been provided into research, development and demonstration of EVs and other low carbon vehicles. In addition, on 15 January 2009, the Secretary of State for Transport announced funding worth £250 million to build a system of consumer incentives to build the market for ultra-low emission vehicles, including EVs.

First Capital Connect: Finance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much public subsidy was paid to *(a)* First Capital Connect and *(b)* the predecessor franchisee WAGN in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [258356]

Paul Clark: This information is published annually by the Office of Rail Regulation in National Rail Trends. Copies are available in the Library of the House and on the Office of Rail Regulation's website at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Heathrow Airport: Noise

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of individuals *(a)* residing within the area of a 50 decibel

contour of Heathrow Airport on the latest date for which figures are available and *(b)* likely to be residing within the area of a 50 decibel contour of the airport in 2020. [257497]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Although 54 dBA aircraft noise contours are sometimes produced as a sensitivity analysis, aircraft modelling below such levels is generally considered to be unlikely to generate accurate and reliable results.

In the case of night time contours where air traffic levels are lower, the corresponding noise contours are smaller, such that a 50 dBA L night contour is much closer to the airport and can therefore be estimated with reasonable precision.

Under the European Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC, member states are required to produce strategic noise maps every five years for major airports.

The directive requires that maps should represent annual average noise values and requires the use of four different parameters including contours—in five dB steps—for 50 to 70 dBA L night (23.00-07.00).

Population figures for L night in respect of Heathrow were produced in 2007, based on 2006 movements. The population within the 50-55 dBA band was 145,300.

Further information is contained in ERCD Report 0706 "London Heathrow Airport Strategic Noise Maps 2006" available on Civil Aviation Authority's website at:

http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/ERCD0706.pdf

Heavy Goods Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of miles heavy goods vehicles registered in *(a)* the United Kingdom and *(b)* overseas travelled on roads in the UK in each year since 1997. [256991]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department's Continuing Survey of Road Goods Transport (CSRGT) provides an estimate of the distance travelled by British registered HGVs. The information is provided in the following table extracted from table 1.1 in Road Freight Statistics 2007:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/freight/goodsbyroad/roadfreightstatistics2007

Distanced travelled by GB registered HGVs—1997 to 2007

	Billion Vehicle kms
1997	23.1
1998	23.3
1999	23.1
2000	23.0
2001	22.2
2002	22.2
2003	22.2
2004	22.3
2005	22.2
2006	22.3
2007	22.4

Information on foreign registered HGVs is not routinely collected. However in the 2003 Survey of Foreign HGV Activity it was estimated that foreign registered HGVs travelled 0.9 billion kilometres. A similar survey will be taking place in 2009 to provide an update of this estimate.

High Speed Trains: Public Appointments

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the process of recruitment was which led to the appointment of Mr Andrew McNaughton to his role within High Speed Two. [258238]

Paul Clark: "Britain's Transport infrastructure: High Speed Two", published in January 2009, said that High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd. would draw on resources from Network Rail and the Department for Transport. The process for recruitment of these resources is a matter for the HS2 company.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the names are of the directors and other members of senior management of High Speed Two. [258239]

Paul Clark: The directors of High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd. are Sir David Rowlands, Alison Munro, Timothy Wellburn and Sir Brian Briscoe (as non-executive). Sir David Rowlands is the interim chairman, and Alison Munro is the chief executive.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the process of recruitment was which led to the appointment of Sir David Rowlands as interim chairman of High Speed Two. [258240]

Paul Clark: High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd. was set up to carry out detailed work on the feasibility of a new high speed line and to report to Government by the end of the year. Sir David Rowlands was appointed as the interim chairman in order to take forward this work without delay. Sir David has unique experience in the field of high-speed rail and is highly qualified for the role. An open competition will take place to appoint a permanent chairman in due course.

Humber Bridge

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions his Department had on proposals to write off the debt on the Humber Bridge; and if he will make a statement. [256992]

Paul Clark: Department for Transport officials met with the Humber Bridge Board to discuss the revision of the Humber Bridge debt interest rate which came into force on 19 June 2007. A copy of the new loan agreement was placed in the House Libraries at that time.

The revised debt interest rate covers the five year period from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2011 at which time the debt interest rate will be reviewed.

There have been no further discussions about the Humber Bridge debt since June 2007.

Railways: Northern Region

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with Network Rail on improvements to the railway line between Newcastle and Edinburgh to increase its *(a)* passenger and *(b)* freight capacity. [257956]

Paul Clark: Department for Transport officials have been in discussion with Network Rail about the Intercity Express Project and the published East Coast Main Line and Freight Route Utilisation Strategies in relation to improvements to passenger and freight capacity, including between Newcastle and Edinburgh.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has to fund the purchase of snow ploughs in the next 12 months. [257748]

Paul Clark: It is the responsibility of each local highway authority in England to develop a winter service strategy for its highway network. The Department for Transport is providing, as part of the local transport plan settlement, capital funding of £693 million in 2009-10 for local authority highways maintenance, though this is not ring-fenced to particular activities.

The Highways Agency has completed the first phase of a four year procurement contract worth £45 million, to replace all winter fleet vehicles, including snow ploughs. The first phase has covered the North West, East and part of the South East. In the next 12 months, the Agency will be purchasing 43 dedicated snow ploughs and a further 182 vehicles adapted for the use of snow ploughs. These will cover areas in the North East, the Midlands and part of the South East.

Taxis: Criminal Records

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many licensed taxi drivers have a criminal record for *(a)* motoring offences, *(b)* violent crimes and *(c)* sexual offences. [258752]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold this information centrally.

Responsibility for licensing taxi drivers rests with local licensing authorities outside London and Transport for London in London. The relevant legislation requires them to determine whether an applicant for a taxi driver licence is a 'fit and proper' person to hold a licence. As part of this process, it is standard procedure to request a disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau. The authority will then decide whether any information contained in the disclosure means that the applicant should not be granted a licence.

Under the Notifiable Occupations Scheme, when an individual comes to the notice of the police and identifies their occupation as a taxi driver, the police should notify the appropriate licensing authority of convictions and any other relevant information that indicates that a person poses a risk to public safety. It would then be for the licensing authority to decide whether to revoke or suspend the licence.

Trains

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the number of new trains will be *(a)* hybrid, *(b)* diesel and *(c)* electric models. [257957]

Paul Clark: Assuming no further electrification of the rail network, the mix of train types is approximately one third electric, one third self-power (diesel) and one third bi-mode (electric and diesel capability). That ratio will be subject to change depending on future decisions about further electrification.

Trains: York

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on the location in York of the proposed train assembly and manufacturing factory. [257953]

Paul Clark: The choice of the UK train assembly and manufacturing site from a site in East Midlands, Yorkshire or the north-east is a matter for the train manufacturer.

West Coast Railway Line

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the effect of adding an additional hourly service to the Manchester to London railway line on local commuter services in Greater Manchester. [258564]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport meets train operating companies on a four weekly basis to review delivery of rail services and their ability to meet passenger requirements, particularly noting timetable changes.

Performance for the four weeks to 31 January 2009 for Manchester commuter services achieved a level of 91 per cent., which suggests that the timetable is running well.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animals

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff within her Department deal with animal-related matters as part of their remit. [256643]

Mr. Woolas: It is not possible, without contacting individuals, to identify who deals with animal-related matters.

Asylum

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department has had with the Department for International Development on establishing training programmes in developing countries to enable asylum claimants from those countries to be returned safely. [257213]

Mr. Woolas: Regular discussions, including about training programmes, take place as part of a programme of work funded by the Returns and Reintegration Fund (which is a cross-government fund supported by the Department for International Development, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the UK Border Agency, and with expertise from the Ministry of Justice. It is administered by the FCO.)

The Fund aims to increase the numbers of failed asylum seekers returned to overseas countries and provide reintegration assistance. One of the Fund's objectives is to ensure that those who return voluntarily have the best possible chance of making their return a successful one.

The Assisted Voluntary Return programme, which is supported by the Fund, provides in-country reintegration assistance including training programmes for returnees.

Asylum: Democratic Republic of Congo

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Democratic Republic of Congo nationals *(a)* arrived in the UK as family reunion cases, *(b)* applied for asylum and *(c)* were granted asylum in each of the last 12 months. [257246]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* Annual statistics showing the categories under which passengers are granted leave to enter the United Kingdom can be found in chapter 2 of the Home Office publication "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2007." This publication may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1008.pdf.

The following table shows the asylum application and grants of asylum figures for nationals of the Democratic Republic of Congo for the last 12 months that have been published. Figures are provisional and rounded to the nearest five.

Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Annual figures on principal asylum applications are available in Table 2.1 and on grants of asylum in Table 3.1 of Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 2007 published on 21 August 2008. Quarterly figures are available in the supplementary web tables published with the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistics Summary. The Q4 2008 Quarterly Statistics Summary will be available on 24 February 2009 from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum applications[1] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions[2, 3] on applications, October 2007 to September 2008, nationals of Dem. Rep. of Congo

Principal applicants

Dem. Rep. of Congo	*Applications*			*Decisions*	
	Total	*Port*	*In country*	*Total decisions*	*of which grants of asylum*
October 2007	35	5	25	20	5
November 2007	20	[4]—	20	20	0
December 2007	30	10	20	15	5
January 2008	30	10	20	20	5
February 2008	40	5	35	20	5
March 2008	30	10	25	20	5
April 2008	25	5	25	25	5
May 2008	30	10	25	20	[4]—
June 2008	25	5	20	25	10

Asylum applications[1] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions[2, 3] on applications, October 2007 to September 2008, nationals of Dem. Rep. of Congo

Principal applicants

Dem. Rep. of Congo	*Applications*			*Decisions*	
	Total	*Port*	*In country*	*Total decisions*	*of which grants of asylum*
July 2008	20	5	15	25	10
August 2008	15	0	15	25	5
September 2008	25	5	20	15	[4]—
Total	330	70	260	250	50

[1] Provisional figures rounded to nearest 5.
[2] Information is of initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
[3] Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period.
[4] 1 or 2.
Source:
Home Office, Migration Statistics

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment has been made of the safety of people returned to the Democratic Republic of Congo under immigration legislation. [257248]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* On 3 December 2008 the Court of Appeal upheld an Asylum and Immigration Tribunal finding that there is no evidence that failed asylum seekers who are returned from the UK to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) face a general risk on return. The UK Border Agency continuously monitors the situation in asylum intake countries and is not aware of any subsequent allegations of ill-treatment of returnees to the DRC.

Asylum: Standards

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the performance figures for the asylum tipping point target were for each quarter since 2004. [257387]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* Levels of unfounded asylum applications and whether the tipping point target has been met in each quarter of 2004, 2005 and 2006 can be found on the UK Border Agency website at the following address:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/publicperformancetarget/

Annual performance for 2007 was also published on the UK Border Agency website in November 2008.

Asylum: Zimbabwe

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of Zimbabwean nationals resident in the UK *(a)* in total and *(b)* with (i) asylum seeker status or exceptional leave to remain and (ii) a valid visa or other form of permission on the latest date for which figures are available. [257756]

Mr. Woolas: The Office for National Statistics collects data on nationality through the Annual Population Survey (APS). Estimates from the APS for the April 2007 to March 2008 period show that there were 63,000 Zimbabwean nationals in the UK.

Information is not available from the Home Office on Zimbabwean nationals in the UK *(b)* with (i) asylum seeker status or exceptional leave to remain and (ii) a valid visa or other form of permission as a person may leave the UK voluntarily without informing the UK Border Agency.

Information on immigration and asylum flows is published annually and quarterly and is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department were recorded as having been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December in each of the last five years. [256629]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office management information databases do not record sickness information in the form requested and to obtain it would incur a disproportionate cost.

Deportation: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who previously resided in the Peterborough City Council area and had no legal basis to remain in the United Kingdom were deported in the three months up to September 2008; and if she will make a statement. [257966]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 24 February 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1830W, in which he asked a similar question. The information could be obtained only by detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what visa application procedures are in place for visitors from *(a)* Croatia, *(b)* Serbia, *(c)* Montenegro, *(d)* Macedonia and *(e)* Bosnia-Herzegovina. [254798]

Mr. Woolas: Nationals of Croatia are non-visa nationals and therefore not required to obtain entry clearance before visiting the UK. Nationals of Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina are visa nationals and must apply for entry clearance and be issued with a visa before travelling to the UK for a visit or any other purpose.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to change the visa application procedures for visitors from *(a)* Serbia and *(b)* Macedonia. [254799]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Secretary recently announced the outcome of the UK's first global review of its visa regimes. No changes were proposed to the visa requirements for nationals of either Serbia or Macedonia.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for visas were approved under the *(a)* International Graduates Scheme, *(b)* Science and Engineering Graduates Scheme and *(c)* Working in Scotland Scheme (Fresh Talent) in 2008; and how many dependants were included in such visas in each category. [257365]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The number of visas issued in 2008 to participants in these schemes is shown in the following table. We cannot state how many visas were issued to dependents of those who have entered in these specific employment categories. This is because they are admitted under the same provision in the immigration rules as dependents of those entering in other employment categories, and separate records are therefore not kept.

Entry Clearances: EU Countries

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many EU nationals from each other EU member state have been refused entry into the UK on the grounds that their presence would threaten public safety in each of the last five years. [258252]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the total number of EU and EEA nationals who have been refused admission into the UK since 2004, under regulation 19 of the Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006, on the grounds that their presence would threaten public policy, public security or public health.

Nationality	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Grand total*
Austria	—	—	1	1	1	3
Belgium	—	2	7	15	20	44
Bulgaria	—	—	—	15	10	25
Cyprus	—	—	—	—	1	1
Czech Republic	—	—	7	6	18	31
Denmark	—	—	2	1	1	4
Estonia	—	—	—	1	—	1
Finland	—	—	—	—	3	3
France	—	6	26	39	36	107
Germany	1	2	27	31	38	99
Greece	—	—	2	2	2	6
Hungary	—	2	6	3	5	16
Iceland	—	—	1	—	—	1
Ireland	—	—	1	3	—	4
Italy	—	1	10	24	11	46
Latvia	—	—	7	15	5	27
Lithuania	—	3	26	25	29	83
Luxembourg	—	—	—	—	1	1
Netherlands	—	2	21	53	38	114
Norway	—	—	—	1	1	2
Poland	—	3	16	22	27	68
Portugal	—	2	18	11	21	52
Romania	—	—	—	63	60	123
Slovakia	—	2	6	11	8	27
Slovenia	—	—	1	1	1	3
Spain	—	—	4	3	3	10
Sweden	—	—	6	4	2	12

Nationality	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Grand total
Grand total	1	25	195	350	342	913

The data provided are based on locally-collated management information, which may be subject to change and does not represent published national statistics.

Entry Clearances: Marriage

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications were made for marriage visas to enter the UK where the intended spouse was resident in the London Borough of Bexley in the last 12 months. [254804]

Mr. Woolas: In 2008, six applications for entry clearance as a fiancé, and a further 66 for entry clearance as a spouse, were received where the sponsor (ie the intended spouse or spouse) was resident in the London borough of Bexley.

This information is unpublished and should be treated as provisional.

Immigrants: Stop and Search

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* illegal and *(b)* legal immigrants were (i) stopped, (ii) searched and (iii) arrested by the police in each police authority area in each of the last five years. [258165]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Information on stops and searches and resultant arrests reported to the Home Office does not include information on the immigration status of persons searched.

Immigration: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 819W, on immigration: Peterborough, how many of the 200 other non-EEA nationals were of each nationality; and if she will make a statement. [257965]

Mr. Woolas *[Holding answer 25 February 2009]:* The following table details the number, by nationality, of 'Other non-EEA nationals' in Peterborough who were awaiting a decision on their leave to remain application as at 15 January 2009 pursuant to the answer given on 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 819W.

Nationality	No. Of Cases
Albania	5
Algeria	5
Angola	—
Australia	—
Bolivia	—
Botswana	—
Brazil	—
Burundi	—
China	—
Congo (Democratic Republic)	—
Egypt	—
Ethiopia	—
Yugoslavia	—
Gambia(The)	—
Georgia	—
Ghana	—
Guinea-Bissau	—
Guyana	—
India	10
Iran	5
Jamaica	10
Kazakhstan	—
Kenya	5
Kosovo	5
Liberia	—
Libya	—
Macedonia	—
Malawi	5
Malaysia	—
Montenegro	—
Morocco	—
Namibia	5
Nepal	—
Nigeria	10
Pakistan	40
Philippines	5
Serbia	—
Russia	—
Rwanda	—
Somalia	—
South Africa	10
Sri Lanka	—
Thailand	—
Turkey	15
Uganda	—
Ukraine	5
Tanzania	—
United States	5
Zimbabwe	25
Total	195

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department at which location the UK Border Agency holds paper files on people resident in the administrative area of Peterborough City Council who are applying for indefinite leave to remain; and if she will make a statement. [257967]

Mr. Woolas *[Holding answer 24 February 2009]:* All files where an application for indefinite leave to remain is extant and requiring further work are sent to Beddington Cross in London for storage. Files are not held in the regional public enquiry office (PEO) as the team operates a fast turnaround policy for processing applications and therefore file storage is not required.

Asylum case files remain with individual caseowners until conclusion upon which they are sent to 'layby'. It should be noted however that asylum cases will not be classed as applications for ILR as those granted status are given leave of up to five years after which ILR may or may not be granted.

All ILR application cases that are concluded are sent to 'layby'; one central source is in Canning Town, Unit 3C, East London. Files sent to this location require no further work.

National Identity Register: Data Protection

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a person who has consented to share across Government information held on her Department's database will be able to withdraw the consent. [258115]

Mr. Woolas: There is no single departmental database in the Home Office. If the Home Office is sharing personal information, including across Government, it needs to have a legal power to do so and it needs to be a lawful exercise of that power. The Home Office therefore needs to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998 when sharing personal information.

While consent is one of a number of conditions that can be relied on for data sharing to be considered fair and lawful under that Act, it is not the only condition, therefore the sharing of personal information can take place without the individual's consent. However, if consent is being relied on to enable the data sharing to take place, an individual has the right to withdraw that consent. If consent is withdrawn and there is no other basis for the sharing then it would stop.

National Security: Data Protection

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many certificates were issued under Section 28 of the Data Protection Act 1998 in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008; and if she will make a statement. [252513]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* I can confirm the existence of one certificate signed by the Home Secretary, relating to Transport for London Traffic data signed in July 2007; and also of another signed in March 2008 relating to the Security Service. Copies of both these certificates have been placed in the Library in response to a parliamentary question from my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak (Lynne Jones) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2277W.

In line with the established policy of successive governments when asked about national security matters, I can neither confirm nor deny whether these certificates represent all certificates.

Departmental Lobbying

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Ministers in her Department received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [255242]

Mr. Woolas: No ministers in my Department have received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscot in the last seven months.

Police: ICT

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information is intended to be recorded via the Pentip computer system; and how the system is intended to be implemented by police forces. [253324]

Mr. Coaker: PentiP will provide a single national computer system and improved business processes for the processing of penalty notices. It will replace the existing VP/FPO systems that are used in most police forces and magistrates courts in England and Wales. It will enable them to process the various types of penalty notices more efficiently and effectively than is possible with the existing systems.

PentiP will record offence and offender information pertinent to the processing of the following disposal methods; penalty notices for disorder (PND), endorsable and non-endorsable road traffic offences, vehicle defect rectification scheme (VDRS), HO/RT1 and HO/RT2, national driver offender retraining schemes (NDORS), graduated fixed penalties (GFP), roadside deposits and verbal warnings.

The primary data items that will be recorded on PentiP are as follows:

Title
Name
Address
DOB
Gender
Ethnicity
Offence
Date of offence
Time of offence
Location of offence
Licence Number
Vehicle Plate Number
Vehicle make, model, colour
Vehicle defects

PentiP will be rolled out across police forces in England and Wales over a period of 12 months, commencing in September 2010.

Repatriation: Zimbabwe

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review her policy on assisting Zimbabwean nationals resident in the UK to return to their country of origin to take account of changes in the political situation in Zimbabwe. [257757]

Mr. Woolas: Zimbabweans have continued to return home voluntarily. Each returnee has been eligible for the basic voluntary assisted return and reintegration package to assist with their reintegration needs on return. This programme is implemented by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

We recognise that the economic situation within Zimbabwe presents major challenges to Zimbabwean returnees. In order to make a more effective contribution to sustainable return it was decided that with effect from 1 February 2009 the reintegration assistance available would be enhanced as follows:

A relocation grant increased from £500 to £1,000. This is given in sterling at the airport, before departure, where it can be converted into US dollars.

An in-kind business set-up grant increased from £2,000 to £3,000. £2,500 worth of assistance will be available initially to obtain supplies and a further £500 will be available after a six month review of individual circumstances.

Health education and advice as well as a supply of water purification tablets and a basic commodities and dry goods package.

The enhancement will be implemented for six months as a pilot project.

Surveillance: EU Action

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether police forces of other EU member states are authorised to conduct surveillance operations of private property in the UK, including but not limited to personal computers, without a warrant; and if she will make a statement. [250875]

Mr. Coaker: Pursuant to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 94W, I can confirm that no police forces of other EU member states are authorised to conduct remote or covert surveillance of private property in the UK.

Vetting

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many disclosure applications the Criminal Records Bureau *(a)* received in 2007-08 and *(b)* has received in 2008-09 to date; and what steps she is taking to enable the Bureau to deal with any increases in such numbers. [254285]

Meg Hillier: The number of disclosure applications received by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) in 2007-08 and 2008-09 to date is detailed in the following table:

Financial year	*Disclosure applications received (million)*
2007-08	3.4
2008-09 to date	3.3

The CRB has continued to receive a higher than anticipated volume of disclosure applications. There are a number of reasons for this, but the volumes have put a great deal of pressure on both the CRB and the police forces. Forces have been responding effectively and positively to these high intakes and this has enabled record numbers of disclosures to be issued in recent months.

Unfortunately, it is taking more time for some local police forces to recruit and train the extra staff that they need to be operating at full capacity. Consequently, some applications are taking longer to deal with. That said, over 85 per cent. of all disclosure applications received by the CRB are being completed within the 28 day target figure.

For those forces which, for a variety of reasons, have been having greater difficulty with the increased demand, the CRB has been working very closely with them to address what additional help and support they may need. The CRB has provided assistance and support to them in the form of IT and workflow management expertise, accommodation and a 10 per cent. increase in staff resources. The CRB has also increased its own staff resources by 11 per cent. to provide support for the police disclosure units and the bureau continues to monitor their performance regularly.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Mineworkers' Pension Scheme

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will hold discussions with the trustees of the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme on ways to improve benefits for scheme members. [245425]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: An actuarial valuation of the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme is being conducted at present. Should any surplus emerge, Ministers will discuss with the scheme trustees how they might use their share to improve members' benefits.

Nuclear Power: Consultants

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Answer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1431-2W, on nuclear power: consultants, what role *(a)* Mr David Hughes, *(b)* Professor John Raine, *(c)* Mr Bernard Whittle and *(d)* Mr Phillip Woodward have in the generic design assessment. [255963]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

Professor David Hughes, Professor John Raine, Mr. Bernard Whittle and Mr. Phillip Woodward are members of the independent Process Review Board set up by the Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations. The purpose of this board is to provide additional assurance to him that appropriate governance processes have been applied during the Generic Design Assessment (GDA) process for new nuclear power stations. The full terms of reference for the board can be seen at:

www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/terms.htm

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Inland Waterways: Repairs and Maintenance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the sum required to clear the maintenance backlog experienced by British Waterways; and if he will make a statement. [256164]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The KPMG report commissioned by British Waterways concluded that there is a significant gap between current expenditure and that required under steady state to maintain its waterways. However, British Waterways have advised that current expenditure is sufficient to maintain the network in a reasonable and safe condition for this comprehensive spending review (CSR) period. In this context, there is no safety backlog

through British Waterways estimates that it would cost around £200 million to bring all principal and non principal assets up to steady state condition.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* were in structured care-planned treatment and *(b)* discharged from an alcohol treatment programme in each strategic health authority area in each month since the commencement of national alcohol treatment monitoring. [257173]

Dawn Primarolo: Since 1 April 2008, the National Treatment Agency has collected data on individuals who receive specialist care-planned alcohol treatment, through the National Alcohol Treatment Monitoring System. As this is a new system, and services' reporting compliance is still being improved, data are not yet robust. The information can however be found at:

www.ndtms.net

Aortic Aneurysms: Screening

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bolton South East of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 343W, on aortic aneurysm: screening, when he expects the second stage of the phased implementation of the NHS abdominal aortic aneurysm screening programme to begin; and which NHS trusts will participate in that stage. [256898]

Ann Keen: It is anticipated that the next phase of implementation will begin in autumn 2009.

At this stage no decisions have been made about which national health service trusts will take part in the next phase.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bolton South East of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 343W, on aortic aneurysm: screening, how many NHS trusts *(a)* applied to participate in the early implementation phase of the abdominal aortic aneurysms screening programme and *(b)* have applied to participate in subsequent phases of the programme. [256899]

Ann Keen: 16 national health service trusts applied to take part in the early implementation phase.

36 trusts have applied to be considered for the next phase of implementation.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts *(a)* have a screening programme for abdominal aortic aneurysms and *(b)* have ever operated such a screening programme. [256970]

Ann Keen: In addition to the following six early implementation sites: West Sussex (Royal West Sussex NHS Trust), Leicester (University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust), Gloucester (Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust), South Manchester (University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust), South Devon and Exeter (South Devon NHS Foundation Trust and Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust) and South West London (St George's Healthcare NHS Trust), we are aware that abdominal aortic aneurysms screening has also taken place in:

Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Hospitals Trust; and

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.

However these are not part of a national coordinated screening programme at this stage.

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 364W, on apprentices, how many apprentices his Department employs. [252064]

Mr. Bradshaw: Government Skills is planning to prepare a central response based on the numbers participating in the National Apprenticeship Pathfinder in 2008-09. This will be in the form of a table showing participating Departments and number of apprentices on the programme.

The Department does not employ apprentices as part of the National Apprenticeship Pathfinder scheme. However, three staff are participating in the scheme in 2008-09 as part of their personal development.

We have also made a commitment in the Next Stage Review to double our investment in apprenticeships by 2012-13, but we aim to go further and faster and we are starting with an additional 5,000 apprenticeships across health and social care next year.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 364W, on apprentices, what progress his Department has made towards meeting its share of the Government's commitment to employ over 1,000 apprentices in central Government Departments and agencies in 2008-09. [256255]

Mr. Bradshaw: Government Skills is planning to prepare a central response based on the number participating in the National Apprenticeship Pathfinder in 2008-09. This will be in the form of a table showing participating Departments and number of apprentices on the programme.

The Department is working with Government Skills on this initiative and three staff are participating in the National Apprenticeships Pathfinder during 2008-09 as part of their personal development.

We have also made a commitment in the Next Stage Review to double our investment in apprenticeships by 2012-13, but we aim to go further and faster and we are starting with an additional 5,000 apprenticeships across health and social care next year.

Cancer: Research

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department has allocated to research into renal cancer in each of the last three financial years; how much he plans to allocate for that purpose in each of the next three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [257364]

Dawn Primarolo: Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's research and development budget has been allocated to and managed by national health service organisations. Those organisations have accounted for their use of the allocations they have received from the Department in an annual research and development report. The reports identify total, aggregated expenditure on national priority areas, including cancer. They do not provide details of research into particular cancer sites.

The National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI), a United Kingdom wide partnership between Government, charities and industry, makes cancer research information available online via the international cancer research portfolio database at

www.cancerportfolio.org.

The NCRI's 2004 strategic analysis of the directly funded cancer research supported by Government and charities showed that 62 per cent. of total funding was dedicated to supporting research that could be applicable to all cancers.

The usual practice of the Department's National Institute for Health Research and of the Medical Research Council is not to ring-fence funds for expenditure on particular topics: research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. Future levels of expenditure on renal cancer research will be determined by the success of relevant bids for funding.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the progress of ongoing clinical trials of treatments for renal cancer; and if he will make a statement. [257413]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health Research Cancer Research Network (NCRN) provides the health service infrastructure to support clinical trials for people with cancer. One of the aims of the NCRN is to improve the quality, speed and co-ordination of clinical research by removing the barriers to research in the national health service.

The NCRN is currently supporting eight clinical trials for people with renal cancer. Four of these trials have completed patient recruitment and patients are being followed up. One trial is in the process of being set up, and three trials are currently open to recruitment. The three trials that are open to recruitment are progressing according to plan, and are on target to finish on time.

Health Centres

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* postcode, *(b)* expected service commencement date and *(c)* primary care trust area of each planned GP-led health centre is according to the most recent monthly update from primary care trusts. [255369]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested has been placed in the Library and relates to information received in January.

Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* name and *(b)* postcode location of each (i) accident and emergency department, (ii) minor injuries unit and (iii) NHS walk-in centre in England listed on the NHS choices website is. [255368]

Mr. Bradshaw: The NHS Choices service, launched in June 2007, is the Department's and the national health service's primary online service to the public for health-related information and advice. All data records published via NHS Choices are freely available to the public via the NHS Choices website at www.nhs.uk. This includes listings for 213 accident and emergency departments, 223 minor injury units, and 93 walk-in centres.

The name and postcode location of each accident and emergency department, minor injuries unit and NHS walk-in centre listed on NHS Choices has been placed in the Library.

HIV Infection

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has issued guidance to primary care trusts with a high level of HIV infection following recommendations by the Health Protection Agency that HIV tests should be offered as a matter of routine to patients registering with GPs. [258221]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is funding eight pilot projects in London and other sites in England aimed at testing new approaches to HIV testing, especially in high prevalence areas. Primary care settings are included in these pilots. The projects will be evaluated, to determine whether guidance to primary care trusts is needed.

Hospital Wards: Gender

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to his announcement of 28 January 2009 on mixed-sex accommodation in the NHS, what definition of sharing of sleeping accommodation or toilet facilities is used in his Department's guidance to trusts; [255367]

(2) with reference to his announcement of 28 January 2009 on mixed-sex accommodation in the NHS; how many improvement teams there will be; what the size of each team will be; how much will be allocated to each team; what qualifications members of teams will have; and to which hospitals the teams will provide support; [255369]

(3) with reference to his announcement of 28 January 2009 on mixed-sex accommodation in the NHS, how he plans to create a greater focus on measuring and improving patient experience of mixed-sex accommodation. [255370]

Ann Keen: The Government are committed to reducing mixed sex accommodation to an absolute minimum. This means that men and women should not share sleeping accommodation unless this can be justified by their need for treatment. In mental health units, this should never happen.

We have recently announced a package of measures as follows:

- a £100 million 'Privacy and Dignity Fund' to support improvements—with changes using this money expected to be implemented by no later than June this year;
- tough financial penalties for those hospitals who do not deliver, to be introduced from 2010-11; and
- the establishment of improvement teams to go into those hospitals that need more support, to help them focus on improving patient experience in this area.

We know from our success in driving down health care associated infections (HCAIs), that the improvement team approach has a good track record in delivery. We are therefore setting up a short-term central improvement team for mixed sex accommodation with an expected life of around six months. The intention is that thereafter responsibility will be devolved to the NHS. The fine details of who will be employed in the teams, and how they will be deployed will depend on local needs, and are currently being developed.

Funding from the privacy and dignity fund will not be specifically attached to improvement teams, rather it will be distributed against detailed plans drawn up by each SHA. Distribution of resources within SHAs will be based on those schemes that demonstrate the greatest return for the planned investment.

Our existing definitions in respect of the environment are still relevant, and are set out below. However, we have expanded this to move towards a definition based on individual patient experience, rather than on buildings.

It is not acceptable for people to share sleeping accommodation unless it can be clinically justified for each patient. Some of the circumstances in which this might apply are as follows:

patient needs very high-tech care, with one-to-one nursing (e.g. ICU, HDU);

patient needs very specialised care, where one nurse might be caring for a small number of patients and cannot safely leave the room other than for very short periods (e.g. immediately following major surgery); and

patient needs very urgent care (e.g. rapid admission following a heart attack)

Inevitably, applicability of the above circumstances calls for a fine judgement that needs to be made on an individual basis. For instance, in a four-bed bay, it means that mixing must be justifiable for all patients, not just one. It is also a judgement that needs to be revisited regularly—for example, in the very early stages following a stroke, when the patient has reduced consciousness and needs regular observation, then mixing might be justifiable. However, in the later stages of recovery, when the patient is receiving rehabilitation (or palliative care), then we would expect greater segregation.

Men and women should not normally have to share sleeping accommodation or toilet facilities. Irrespective of where patients are, staff should always take the utmost care to respect their privacy and dignity.

Single-sex accommodation can be provided in:

single-sex wards (i.e. the whole ward is occupied by men or women but not both);

single rooms with adjacent single-sex toilet and washing facilities (preferably en-suite); and

single-sex accommodation within mixed wards (i.e. bays or rooms which accommodate either men or women, not both; with designated single-sex toilet and washing facilities preferably within or adjacent to the bay or room).

In addition, patients should not need to pass through opposite sex accommodation or toilet and washing facilitates to access their own.

There are no exceptions to delivering high standards of privacy and dignity. The exceptions established under 'Mixed-sex accommodation: Health Service Circular 1998/143' were reporting exceptions only, and no longer apply.

In Vitro Fertilisation

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of a policy of single embryo transfer on the full implementation of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on fertility by primary care trusts; [257359]

(2) what recent assessment his Department has made of how a policy of single embryo transfer will be implemented in fertility clinics; and if he will make a statement; [257360]

(3) what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department have had with (i) primary care trusts and (ii) other organisations on implementing a policy of single embryo transfer. [257363]

Dawn Primarolo: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) in partnership with professional bodies and other stakeholders, including patient groups and representatives of the national health service (NHS), has developed a national strategy to significantly reduce the incidence of multiple births resulting from in vitro fertilisation (IVF) and related treatments. This strategy is known as the One at a Time campaign and includes promoting greater use of single embryo transfers (SET) where this is clinically appropriate for individual patients, leaving scope for the exercise of clinical discretion. The Department has observer status on the group that has determined the strategy.

The HFEA policy aims to lower the average national multiple birth rate from the current rate of just under 23 per cent. of all live birth events following IVF and related treatments to 10 per cent. For 2009, HFEA licensed treatment centres are expected not to exceed the 24 per cent. figure, a figure determined by the HFEA, on the basis of national average at the time the Year 1 target was agreed. This target will be progressively lowered towards a 10 per cent. national target. The HFEA will carefully monitor the impact of its policy, including any impact on fresh embryo treatment cycle pregnancy rates, to ensure that all the target rates set are appropriate. The HFEA will set a Year 2 maximum multiple birth rate in the light of progress during 2009. The HFEA wrote to all directors of public health in primary care trusts about this on 4 February 2009.

The HFEA has required all licensed treatment centres to have in place a documented multiple births minimisation strategy, setting out how they intend to reduce their annual multiple birth rates and to ensure that they do not exceed the maximum rate set. These strategies must include criteria for SET. Centres are required to send copies of their strategies to the HFEA.

The Department has established an expert group on commissioning NHS infertility provision to identify the barriers to the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) fertility guideline in England and to help NHS commissioners to progress towards full implementation of the guideline. The expert group produced an interim report in August 2008, which recognised that patients are more likely to accept SET if they are assured that provision of services is established in line with the NICE guideline.

Local Public Health Laboratories

Mr. Ilsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has for the future funding of local public health laboratories; [257802]

(2) how many public health laboratories have closed in the last 10 years. [257803]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available concerning closures of public health laboratories between 1999 and 2003, when public health laboratories were the responsibility of the Public Health Laboratory Service (PHLS). Responsibility in England for the public health laboratory function was transferred from the PHLS to the Health Protection Agency (HPA) on 1 April 2003. There have been no closures of public health laboratories since 1 April 2003, although there have been some changes in the service configuration.

The Department plans to continue funding the HPA to carry out this function locally, as well as regionally and nationally, in line with its responsibilities under the Health Protection Agency Act 2004.

NHS: Construction

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the compliance of NHS trusts undertaking construction projects with Government guidance requiring payment of invoices submitted by tier one contractors within 10 days. [258747]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service prompt payments to suppliers' performance information, is collected on a quarterly and on an annual basis against a 30 day target. Information on performance by industry sector or supplier is not collected.

David Nicholson, NHS chief executive, wrote to all NHS trust chief executives on 21 October asking them to examine and review existing payment practices and payment performance and to move as closely as possible to the 10-day payment commitment that has been set for Government Departments wherever practical. Bill Moyes, executive chair, Monitor, has written similarly to all foundation trusts.

However we do not currently collect performance data of total NHS bills paid within 10 days because no specific requirement has yet been placed on NHS bodies to meet this target.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department has issued guidance to primary care trusts on the funding of drugs commonly used towards a patient's end of life via exceptional case procedures; [257210]

(2) what his Department's policy is on the provision of drugs commonly used towards the end of life for patients with rarer cancers; [257211]

(3) what his Department's policy is on the disparities which exist between different health care trust areas in the provision of those drugs commonly used by NHS patients approaching the end of their lives; and if he will make a statement. [257212]

Phil Hope: On 21 January 2009, the Department issued draft Directions to primary care trusts (PCTs) on decisions about drugs and other treatments along with a guiding principles document aimed at helping PCTs improve the consistency and quality of local decision making on drug funding in England. Copies of the draft Directions and the guiding principles have been placed in the Library. The National Prescribing Centre will shortly be publishing a handbook of good practice offering practical advice to help PCTs in making drug funding decisions.

On 2 January 2009, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) issued supplementary advice to its Appraisal Committees, to provide more flexibility in the evaluation of higher-cost drugs, which have been shown to extend the lives of terminally ill patients with less common conditions. This advice is available on NICE's website at:

www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/howwework/devnicetech/technologyappraisalprocessguide/guidetothemethodsoftechnologyappraisal.jsp

"The NHS Constitution", which was published on 21 January 2009, includes a right for patients to access drugs and treatments that have been recommended by NICE for use in the NHS if they are clinically appropriate. A copy has already been placed in the Library. It also sets out the right of patients to expect local decisions on the funding of other drugs and treatments to be made rationally following a proper consideration of the evidence.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Department has spent on legal fees in completed actions against individual NHS staff in each of the last five years, broken down by case. [256712]

Ann Keen: The Department does not take legal action against individual national health service staff.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has budgeted for legal fees in respect of actions against NHS staff in 2008-09. [258796]

Ann Keen: The Department does not take legal action against individual national health service staff, and therefore does not set a budget for such activity.

Nutrition: Screening

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with healthcare professionals on the inclusion of nutritional screening as a directed enhanced service in the community pharmacy contract. [257181]

Phil Hope: The Department has had no discussions on the inclusion of nutritional screening as a directed enhanced service in the community pharmacy contract.

The provision of healthy lifestyle advice, including advice on diet and nutrition is already an essential service to be provided by all community pharmacies for people presenting prescriptions for diabetes, those at risk of heart disease, those who are hypertensive, who smoke and are overweight. Educational resources were

distributed to all community pharmacies in March 2007, to help them provide healthy lifestyle advice in a consistent manner. They are available at:

www.pharmacymeetspublichealth.org

Pharmacy: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of pharmacy consultations which result in referral to other healthcare services; [255442]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of pharmacies which provide an influenza vaccination service; [255454]

(3) what progress his Department has made towards applying world-class commissioning competencies to the commissioning of pharmaceutical services, as referred to on page 23 of his Department's White Paper, Pharmacy in England, Cm 7341; [255458]

(4) what progress his Department has made in discussions on appropriate measures to support adherence to medicines, as referred to on page 33 of his Department's White Paper, Pharmacy in England, Cm 7431; [255501]

(5) what progress his Department has made on research to establish the extent to which medicines are not used, as referred to on page 32 of his Department's White Paper, Pharmacy in England, Cm 7431; [255502]

(6) what methodology was used to calculate the figure of £100 million for the costs of unused and unwanted medicines referred to in his Department's White Paper, Pharmacy in England, Cm 7431; and what estimate he has made of this cost in the last 12 months; [255503]

(7) what progress his Department has made in developing further incremental implementations of repeat dispensing, as referred to on page 31 of his Department's White Paper, Pharmacy in England, Cm 7431; [255504]

(8) which primary care trusts commission services from community pharmacies to stock medicines that people may need at the end of their life, as referred to on page 36 of his Department's Pharmacy White Paper, Pharmacy in England, CM 7431; [255514]

(9) what reasons he has identified for the decline in the number of local enhanced home delivery services commissioned by primary care trusts in England between 2006-07 and 2007-08, as referred to in table 6 of the General Pharmaceutical Services in England and Wales 1998-99 to 2007-08 bulletin; [255525]

(10) if he will place in the Library a copy of the Public Health Leadership Forum for Pharmacy's work programme for 2008-10, referred to on page 52 of his Department's White Paper, Pharmacy in England, Cm 7431; [255527]

(11) what progress has been made by NHS Connecting for Health in scoping arrangements for electronically capturing information about *(a)* interventions made and *(b)* advice given by pharmacists in promoting health lifestyles, as referred to on page 53 of his Department's White Paper, Pharmacy in England, Cm 7431; [255528]

(12) what progress his Department has made in incorporating minor ailments schemes within the community pharmacy contractual framework since 3 April 2008; [255529]

(13) what assessment he has made of the extent to which pharmacies have been included in local schemes to help reduce unintended pregnancies, as referred to on page 56 of his Department's White Paper, Pharmacy in England, Cm 7431; [255530]

(14) what contributions which pharmacies can make to the care of people with diabetes have been identified to date by the National Clinical Director for Diabetes and the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, as referred to on page 58 of his Department's White Paper, Pharmacy in England, Cm7431; [255531]

(15) what progress has been made in introducing a support service for people who are newly prescribed a medicine to treat a long-term condition within the community pharmacy contractual framework, as referred to on page 65 of his Department's White Paper, Pharmacy in England, Cm 7431; [255532]

(16) what steps he is taking to develop *(a)* professional and *(b)* contractual arrangements to ensure that people with symptoms from cancer are efficiently referred onwards by pharmacists, as referred to on page 67 of his Department's White Paper, Pharmacy in England, Cm 7431; [255533]

(17) on what dates in 2008 the working group on pharmacy medical and public representatives referred to on page 74 of his Department's White Paper, Pharmacy in England, Cm 7431, met; if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* agenda for and *(b)* minutes from each of the meetings; what progress the working group has made in promoting more effective professional relationships between pharmacists and other healthcare professionals; and if he will make a statement; [255545]

(18) what progress he has made in planning communications which will *(a)* highlight the breadth of services and skills available in pharmacies, *(b)* illustrate the role that pharmacies can play in promoting good health, *(c)* raise awareness of the knowledge of the role that pharmacies can play in managing long-term conditions and reducing health inequalities and *(d)* increase the use of pharmacy services, as referred to on page 72 of his Department's White Paper, Pharmacy in England, Cm 7431; what the target audience is for each strand of communications; what further qualitative research he has commissioned to develop a better understanding of the particular needs of these audiences as referred to on page 72 of the White Paper; when he plans to introduce the communications programme; what expenditure he estimates his Department will incur on the communications programme in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11; and if he will make a statement; [255556]

(19) what research the National Institute for Health Research has undertaken into pharmacy since its establishment; and what priorities have been identified for research into pharmacy by the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, as referred to on page 78 of his Department's White Paper, Pharmacy in England, Cm 7431; [255566]

(20) what steps he is taking to utilise the pharmacy network to promote pharmacovigilance, as referred to on page 79 of his Department's White Paper, Pharmacy in England, Cm 7431; [255567]

(21) what assessment his Department has made of the availability of specialist pharmacy services across England; and if he will make a statement; [255568]

(22) if he will place in the Library a copy of the workforce planning for pharmacy undertaken to inform the NHS Next Stage Review, as referred to on page 99 of his Department's White Paper, Pharmacy in England, Cm 7431; [255570]

(23) what progress is being made in reviewing the requirements contained within pharmaceutical needs assessments, as referred to on page 106 of his Department's White Paper, Pharmacy in England; when he expects the review to be completed; whether the results of the review will be piloted; if he will make it his policy to ensure that primary care trusts are judged to be competent in conducting pharmaceutical needs assessments prior to doing so; and if he will make a statement; [255571]

(24) from what date his Department intends to include directed enhanced services within the community pharmacy contractual framework, as referred to on page 109 of his Department's White Paper, Pharmacy in England; what progress has been made in deciding which services to include in directed enhanced services; whether he plans to introduce an enhanced services expenditure floor for pharmacy services; and if he will make a statement; [255572]

(25) what arrangements his Department has put in place to *(a)* identify and *(b)* address unwarranted variations in standards and quality of pharmacy service delivery, as referred to on page 111 of his Department's White Paper, Pharmacy in England, Cm 7431; [255573]

(26) what the outcomes were of the annual pharmacy-based audit, as referred to on page 112 of his Department's White Paper, Pharmacy in England, Cm 7431 in each year since it became operational; what progress has been made in strengthening the clinical audit of pharmacy services; and if he will make a statement. [255574]

Phil Hope: Good progress is being made in implementing the White Paper "Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths—delivering the future" to achieve the Government's future vision for pharmaceutical services in this country. The two national clinical directors for pharmacy have been appointed to champion the development of pharmaceutical services and help deliver the White Paper's objectives.

As chapter 3 of the White Paper sets out, we are keen to improve the way medicines are accessed and used. Research has been commissioned from the universities of York and London to examine the scale and cost of medicines wasted, as well as the complex and varied reasons why people do not take their medicines as intended. The findings are expected later this year and will inform policy development for influencing both health professionals and members of the public to reduce the amount of unwanted medicines and provide value for money for the national health service. The figure of £100 million for the costs of unwanted and unused medicines in the White Paper is no more than a cautious estimate. The 2000 Spending Review stated that "various small scale studies have suggested that the value of medicines returned to pharmacies amounts to 1.5-2 per cent. of the overall drugs bill", which was £5,160 million in 2000-01. No estimate has been made of this cost in the last 12 months.

The research on the extent and reasons why medicines are not used will also inform measures to support adherence to medicines. These measures will be subject to discussions with key stakeholders and interested parties, taking into account guidance, such as the recently published report from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) "Medicines adherence: Involving patients in decisions about prescribed medicines and supporting adherence" published in January 2009, as well as local enhanced services already being commissioned by primary care trusts (PCTs).

Information on the services PCTs commission from community pharmacies to stock medicines that people may need at the end of their life—a local enhanced service termed 'on demand availability of specialist drugs—is contained in table 6 of "General Pharmaceutical Services in England and Wales 1998-00 to 2007-08" and a breakdown by PCT is in its online appendix—both of which were published by the Information Centre for health and social care in November 2008. Copies of the documents have already been placed in the Library. Home delivery services are commissioned by PCTs according to patients' needs locally. Many pharmacies voluntarily provide such a service.

Pharmacists have been established reporters to the yellow card scheme since 1998. They have a particularly important role in detecting and reporting suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) in association with over the counter medicines including herbal products and newly reclassified medicines. By the end of January 2009, the Medicines Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) had received in excess of 20,000 reports from the profession, contributing 13 per cent. of all yellow cards annually.

The MHRA recognises that pharmacists have a crucial role to play in pharmacovigilance, not just in the submission of suspected ADR reports, but also in raising public awareness of patient reporting. Following a successful national campaign to raise awareness of the yellow card scheme in community pharmacies during 2008, there was a 50 per cent. increase in patient reporting and a doubling in online reporting.

The MHRA is now exploring further use of the pharmacy network in conjunction with the chief pharmaceutical officer for England. To recognise the important role pharmacists play in pharmacovigilance, specific information pages for pharmacists are being launched on the MHRA website at the end of February 2009. These will provide up to date information and guidance on ADR reporting.

A wider range of services is being commissioned from pharmacies according to local need. Some PCTs are commissioning community pharmacies to provide seasonal influenza vaccination following training and accreditation, to help GPs attain their targets. Information on the proportion of all pharmacies providing this service is not collected centrally. In many parts of the country, pharmacies are one of the main sources of access to emergency hormonal contraception, either through over the counter sales or through the use of patient group directions. In addition, a total of £26.8 million of additional funding has been allocated in 2008-09 to special health authorities (SHAs) and PCTs

to improve women's knowledge of, and access to, the full range of contraception, to help reduce the number of teenage pregnancies and abortions. It is for SHAs and PCTs to determine how to use this funding most effectively to meet the needs of their local populations. SHAs have been working with PCTs to agree local action plans to develop innovative schemes, including pharmacy-based schemes, to improve awareness of and access to all types of contraception. The extent to which pharmacies have been included in local schemes to help reduce unintended pregnancies has not been assessed.

Many pharmacies are already providing services to people with diabetes—ranging from blood glucose testing and carrying out blood pressure measurements to providing healthy lifestyle advice. The Department is working with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and the National Pharmacy Association to develop resources to support the further integration of pharmacy into the care of people with diabetes, which will be endorsed by the national clinical director for diabetes and the chief pharmaceutical officer for England. These resources, expected to be completed by autumn 2009, will identify how pharmacy can play its part in the integrated care of people with diabetes to help ensure that patients get seamless care.

Pharmacists also have an important role in raising awareness of symptoms of cancer. The Department has funded leaflets containing key messages on lung cancer awareness, which will be distributed to all community pharmacies shortly. The Department will be discussing with key stakeholders and interested parties, how best to incorporate referral systems for people with symptoms indicative of cancer, within the community pharmacy contractual framework. The Department is also considering how to engage pharmacists further in raising awareness of other cancers and referring on to other healthcare professionals, where appropriate.

The introduction of a support service for people who are newly prescribed a medicine to treat a long-term condition will be informed by ongoing discussions with key stakeholders and interested parties, as will the incorporation of minor ailments schemes within the community pharmacy contractual framework. Both services will take account of local enhanced services already being commissioned by PCTs, research into public awareness and knowledge, and will be subject to further negotiation. Similarly, the use of directed enhanced services within the community pharmacy contractual framework is subject to further discussions and negotiations taking into account local enhanced services already being commissioned by PCTs.

No estimate has been made of the proportion of pharmacy consultations, which result in referrals to other healthcare services, as this information is not collected centrally.

In keeping with the NHS next stage review, pharmacy has an important role in prevention, as well as treatment. The public health leadership forum for pharmacy has identified its work programme for 2008-09 as the development of educational resources on sustainable development, sexual health and mental health for distribution to all community pharmacies in England. Resources for sustainable development were published and distributed in September 2008. The resources for sexual health and mental health are expected to be published by the end of 2009. The Forum has agreed that its programme of work for 2009-10 will consist of:

developing a model for healthy living centre pharmacies, which will identify the services that might be provided as well as what such pharmacies might look like;

taking steps to enable pharmacy staff to become health trainers; and

facilitating the development of a plan to develop leadership training for senior pharmacists working within PCTs so they can influence commissioning decisions.

Initial scoping of the extent of the provision of specialist pharmacy services across England has been completed and advice is being sought from the specialist commissioning group directors network and the national specialist commissioning group on the commissioning of these services.

These developments need to be underpinned by effective professional relationships, communications and information technology. The Department asked NHS employers in 2008 to convene and lead a working group of pharmacy, medical and public representatives to formulate a series of actions to promote more effective professional relationships. Further details of the working group are held by NHS employers. One aspect of the group's remit was to identify and agree mechanisms that can support further incremental implementation of repeat dispensing. In January 2009, the working group published "Guidance for the implementation of repeat dispensing" for general practices, to support this. A copy has been placed in the Library. In addition, the working group have published guidance for general practices on the medicines use review service, and have issued a joint letter to community pharmacists, general practitioners and their local representatives to help facilitate discussions between general practitioners GPs and pharmacists on key work areas including repeat dispensing. The three documents can be found at:

www.nhsemployers.org/pay-conditions/primary-211.cfm.

To support communication planning the Department commissioned an extensive qualitative research programme in September 2008 that was completed, as scheduled, in December. The research identified key segments within the population and gave insight into their differing uses of, and attitudes towards, pharmacy. The Department is considering the implications of these findings for the communications programme and expects to publish the research together with an outline communications plan later this spring. Further qualitative research is being commissioned by the Department on the opinions of the pharmacy profession towards delivering the services outlined in the White Paper. This research will be completed by this summer. £65,000 has been spent in 2008-09 to date on the research to support the communications programme. Estimates for future years' expenditure are not yet available.

A pharmacy information technology programme is being established by the Department and NHS Connecting for Health. One of its first responsibilities will be to progress the White Paper commitment to electronically capture information about interventions made and advice given, by pharmacists.

Structural and legislative reform is also needed and the Department consulted on a number of proposals in autumn 2008, including PCTs assessing pharmaceutical needs. A preliminary report of the outcome of that consultation on those elements which require changes

to the primary legislation was published on 16 January 2009 alongside the Health Bill 2009. The Bill proposes placing a requirement on PCTs to undertake and to publish their assessments of pharmaceutical needs. Subject to parliamentary approval, regulations would then set out the structure and content of these assessments, how PCTs should carry them out and the requirements for publication. The Department expects to work closely with interested parties, including NHS and contractors' representatives, on drafting the regulations. At this stage, the Department does not propose to pilot these requirements, but to roll them out across PCTs with appropriate support and training programmes.

The Department asked NHS Employers to set up a short-term working group in 2008 to review the structure of, and data requirements for, PCTs' pharmaceutical needs assessments and to develop a support programme so that these assessments will be an effective and robust commissioning tool, which support local decisions. NHS employers published the first element of this support programme—"Guidance for PCTs on pharmaceutical needs assessments (PNAs) as part of world class commissioning", which has been prepared to dovetail with the world-class commissioning programme—on 7 January 2009. A copy has been placed in the Library. It is available at:

www.nhsemployers.org/PNAguidance.

Further resources will be published later this spring. These will include guidance on how to commission pharmaceutical services and more detailed advice on the information these needs assessments should contain. These resources are designed to provide a comprehensive support programme for PCTs to achieve the necessary capability to be world-class commissioners of high quality pharmaceutical services.

The Department is committed to continuing to work with the NHS and the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee to devise proposals to ensure that effective arrangements are in place to address unwarranted variations in standards and quality of pharmaceutical service delivery. Following consultation last autumn, provisions in the Health Bill 2009 will, subject to parliamentary approval, introduce new powers to enable PCTs, through regulations, to issue remedial notices to contractors or to withhold payments due to them. These new powers will form part of the Department's programme to ensure appropriate discretionary levers are available to PCTs to secure quality pharmaceutical services and to manage contractors' performance. Subject to discussions with key stakeholders and negotiation, this will be supported by strengthening the clinical governance requirements of the contractual framework which already require amongst other things, contractors to carry out an annual patient survey and one pharmacy-based and one multi-disciplinary audit. These audits are undertaken locally and no data is held on them centrally.

Research to inform future developments and an appropriate pharmacy workforce are also important. Research into pharmaceutical services is a relatively new area. Its focus has largely been on the acceptability and uptake of services by the public and on perceptions of the profession and their job satisfaction. Measures to date have largely been expressed in terms of inputs and outputs, rather than in terms of service quality, outcomes and relative cost effectiveness.

Therefore, chapter 6 of the White Paper sets out action by the chief pharmaceutical officer for England to convene an expert panel to advise on research priorities to improve the evidence base underpinning the value and effectiveness of pharmacy services.

This will be informed by:

the extensive and ongoing qualitative research programme commissioned through the pharmacy White Paper;

the ongoing composite review of the relevant research literature on the contribution of community pharmacy to improving the public's health, covering the period 1990-2007, which will be completed and published in due course; and

the outcome of an event hosted by the Pharmacy Practice Research Trust, held on the 5 and 6 November 2008, to which the chief pharmaceutical officer for England contributed. The event was designed to begin to develop a UK wide research strategy for pharmacy and brought together key stakeholders across pharmacy and academia to initiate discussions around the concept of an overarching profession led UK wide research strategy for pharmacy.

Pharmacy workforce planning forms part of the arrangements to strengthen workforce planning for all professions set out in "A High Quality Workforce", published in July 2008. A copy has been placed in the Library. The chief pharmaceutical officer for England has established the modernising pharmacy careers programme board to provide professional advice and scrutiny on workforce plans where these concern pharmacists and other pharmacy staff (for example pharmacy technicians) providing NHS services. The pharmacy professional advisory board will work closely with Medical Education, England, which will provide professional, high level scrutiny of and advice on the quality of workforce planning at a national level for doctors, dentists, pharmacists and healthcare scientists. Arrangements are in place for the modernising pharmacy careers programme board's first meeting in February 2009

Sickle Cell Diseases

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure the implementation of the Standards for the Clinical Care of Adults with Sickle Cell Disease in the UK endorsed by his Department. [256911]

Ann Keen: The Department has recently commissioned an informal review of the current clinical service provision for Haemoglobin disorders. It is due to report in spring 2009. The standards documents produced by the Sickle Cell Society and the UK Thalassaemia Society have been used as a basis for local discussion for the service review.

This review will inform our considerations about how best to support the national health service in further improving the quality of clinical services for Haemoglobin disorders.

Smoking

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls have been made to the smokefree compliance line in each year since it was established; and how much the line cost *(a)* to establish and *(b)* to operate in each year since it was established. [258157]

Dawn Primarolo: Details of the number of calls are published on the Smokefree England website at

www.smokefreeengland.co.uk,

and on page seven of the report "Smokefree England—one year on".

The Smokefree Compliance Line has been in operation since 1 July 2007.

In 2007-08 the set up costs for the Smokefree Compliance line was £8,810, and the operating costs from July 2007 to March 2008 was £57,595. The operating costs in 2008-09 to date is £29,717.

A copy of the report "Smokefree England—one year on" has been placed Library.

Social Services: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure recruitment of adequate numbers of social workers in the Leeds city area; [257076]

(2) how many social worker vacancies there are in the Leeds metropolitan area. [257077]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally.

Recruitment of social work staff is a matter for the employer concerned.

The Department has worked with stakeholders and employers in planning this year's national social care recruitment campaign.

Steroid Drugs

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in each Government region *(a)* under 18 years old and *(b)* in total were treated for steroid-related health problems in each of the last five years. [253949]

Dawn Primarolo: A direct answer cannot be given as it is hard to define what is meant by the term "steroid-related health problems". Information is available on a count of hospital admissions for 'poisoning (improper use) by steroids' by age group and government office region for the last five years, and is shown in the following table. The footnotes to the table should used for data interpretation.

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, an independent body advising the Government on drug related issues, is concerned about the misuse of anabolic steroids by the general public and in particular young people, and has established a working group to consider the evidence of harms more fully.

Count of hospital admissions for 'poisoning (improper use) by steroids'[1] by Age and Government office region Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	2006-07				2005-06				2004-05			
	Under 18	18 and over	Unknown	Total	Under 18	18 and over	Unknown	Total	Under 18	18 and over	Unknown	Total
A-North East	21	246	—	267	11	208	—	219	9	214	—	223
B-North West	50	492	—	542	59	459	—	518	26	440	—	466
D-Yorkshire and The Humber	17	222	—	239	2	236	—	238	16	205	—	221
E-East Midlands	13	282	—	295	13	345	1	359	11	368	—	379
F-West Midlands	14	308	—	322	19	281	—	300	16	298	—	314
G-East of England	25	512	—	537	22	489	—	511	15	384	—	399
H-London	27	395	—	422	20	323	2	345	16	237	—	253
J-South East	43	473	—	516	28	476	—	504	27	430	—	457
K-South West	26	651	1	678	38	571	24	633	27	486	5	518
Non-England and Unknown	6	48	39	93	3	48	—	51	5	56	—	61
Total	242	3,629	40	3,911	215	3,436	27	3,678	168	3,118	5	3,291

	2003-04				2002-03			
	Under 18	18 and over	Unknown	Total	Under 18	18 and over	Unknown	Total
A-North East	4	263	—	267	14	259	—	273
B-North West	30	483	—	513	23	563	—	586
D-Yorkshire and The Humber	30	236	—	266	20	301	—	321
E-East Midlands	12	380	—	392	23	327	—	350
F-West Midlands	13	263	—	276	11	419	—	430
G-East of England	21	435	—	456	27	383	—	410
H-London	12	222	—	234	23	221	—	244
J-South East	23	405	1	429	32	434	2	468

	2003-04				2002-03			
	Under 18	*18 and over*	*Unknown*	*Total*	*Under 18*	*18 and over*	*Unknown*	*Total*
K-South West	24	488	1	513	13	585	—	598
Non-England and Unknown	3	49	3	55	5	62	32	99
Total	172	3,224	5	3,401	191	3,554	34	3,779

[1] The ICD-10 codes for poisoning (improper use) by steroids are:
T38.0 Glucocorticoids and synthetic analogues
T36.5 Other estrogens and progestogens
T38.7 Androgens and anabolic congeners
T50.0 Mineralcorticoids and their antagonists
All of the following ICD-10 Y codes would be found in a secondary position and would indicate that the preceding condition was an adverse effect of steroids in therapeutic use (i.e. the adverse effect of a prescribed steroid drug):
Y42.0 Glucocorticoids and synthetic analogues
Y42.5 Other estrogens and progestogens
Y42.7 Androgens and anabolic congeners
Y54.0 Mineralocorticoids
Y54.1 Mineralocorticoid antagonists (aldosterone antagonists)

Notes:
1. Finished admission episodes: A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Data quality: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
3. Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
4. Number of admissions in which the patient had a 'poisoning (improper use) by steroids'[1] primary or secondary diagnosis: These figures represent the number of admissions where the diagnosis was recorded in any of the 14 primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each admission episode is only counted once in each count, even if the diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Vioxx

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department *(a)* has undertaken, *(b)* plans to undertake and *(c)* has evaluated on (i) the side-effects of (A) Vioxx, (B) SSRI antidepressants and (C) Salmeterol and (ii) the use of complementary and alternative medicines to treat the conditions such drugs were developed to address; and if he will make a statement. [256529]

Dawn Primarolo: As with all medicines authorised in the United Kingdom, the safety of Vioxx (a selective COX-2 inhibitor for the treatment of arthritic conditions and acute pain), the selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitor (SSRI) antidepressants and salmeterol (a long-acting adrenoceptor beta agonist, or LABA, used in the management of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) are kept under close and continuous scrutiny by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) using a wide variety of data sources. These include spontaneous adverse drug data from the UK and worldwide, clinical trials and epidemiological studies, worldwide published medical literature, data from the manufacturer and information from worldwide regulatory authorities.

If a new safety issue is identified, the MHRA thoroughly evaluates all relevant data with input from UK and European Expert Advisory Committees, as necessary. Action is taken where appropriate to minimise risk to patients, optimise safe use and issue updated prescribing advice.

Vioxx (rofecoxib) was voluntarily withdrawn by the manufacturers in 2004 when the risk of thrombotic cardiovascular events became apparent. Although no formal research was undertaken directly by the Department, all available safety information was continuously evaluated by the MHRA as it emerged. Throughout these reviews, additional data and analyses were requested from the company where necessary to facilitate thorough assessment. Product information for prescribers and patients was updated during the course of these reviews, in line with expert advice.

In response to public concern, in May 2003, an Expert Working Group was established to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the available data relating to the safety of SSRI antidepressants, in particular, the risk of suicidal behaviour and withdrawal reactions. The Expert Group considered the findings of laboratory, clinical and observational studies along with information relating to reports of patient experiences. In relation to the risk of suicidal behaviour, the MHRA conducted a study using the UK General Practice Research Database (GPRD). Full information on the data considered as part of this review has been published in the group's report which is available on the MHRA's website at:

www.mhra.gov.uk/Safetyinformation/Safetywarningsalertsandrecalls/Safetywarningsandmessagesformedicines/CON1004259

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Since completion of this review, every effort has been made by the MHRA to evaluate new data as they have arisen and issue updated prescribing advice as appropriate. This has included updated advice regarding safety of use of paroxetine in pregnancy following findings from new international studies that certain birth defects are more common in babies whose mothers took paroxetine early in pregnancy. Further advice has also been issued regarding the risk of suicidal behaviour to reflect the findings of review of data from clinical trials conducted by the US Food and Drug Administration.

The MHRA has evaluated the risk of side effects associated with use of salmeterol on a number of occasions, leading to updates to product information and communications to remind health care professionals of the appropriate use of LABAs in the treatment of asthma. The balance of risks and benefits of LABAs was recently reviewed and considered to be favourable in the treatment of asthma in adults and adolescents, provided they are used with inhaled corticosteroids.

The MHRA have not received any applications for marketing authorisations for complementary or alternative medicines for the treatment of major conditions such as osteoarthritis or asthma, therefore the MHRA has not undertaken or evaluated any research in this area. The MHRA do not have any specific plans to undertake such research but would assess all data associated with any application, should one be received in the future.

Some years ago, the MHRA considered a number of applications for marketing authorisations for products containing St. John's Wort ('Hypericum perforatum' L.) for mild to moderate depression. The data submitted by the companies intending to market the products, including any UK and international research, were thoroughly reviewed. However, the applications were refused due to lack of adequate evidence of safety and efficacy.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will publish a copy of his Department's website accessibility plan. [257222]

Mr. Woodward: Accessibility standards of the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) website are included in the Northern Ireland Office Departmental Disability Action Plan.

The NIO website follows the internet standards of coding and design as set out by the World Wide Web Consortium. The website complies with WAI-AA standards, (World Accessibility Initiative AA standard). This means that the website conforms to level Double A for all priority one and two checkpoints defined in the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.

Accessibility standards are regularly reviewed.

Departmental Vehicles

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1068-9W, on departmental vehicles, what the cost of leasing the vehicles was in each of the last five years. [257342]

Mr. Woodward: The Department's expenditure on leased vehicles, excluding Agencies and Executive NDPBs, in the last five years is shown in the following table.

	Expenditure (£)
2007-08	42,827
2006-07	24,277
2005-06	43,005
2004-05	59,361
2003-04	65,633

Where possible, when a lease is up for renewal, the NIO considers all options in reducing costs to the department while maintaining the standard required.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which of the recommendations made by the Independent Licensing Fees Review Panel relating to local authority revenue and costs have been implemented to date. [256715]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Independent Licensing Fees Review Panel made recommendations on future fee levels, and identified a shortfall between local authority costs and income during the period of transition. The response to these matters needs to be agreed across Government and I hope to be able to respond shortly.

National Lottery: Complaints

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 984W, on National Lottery: complaints, what information is routinely collected by Camelot and the National Lottery Commission on disputes between retailers and players. [256417]

Barbara Follett: Complaints to the National Lottery Commission are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. It would not be possible to establish how many of the cases dealt with have involved a dispute between a player and retailer without a manual review of the correspondence for each case. This task could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

The information routinely collected for any complaint or inquiry received by the Commission is:

a. Information required for NLC performance monitoring and reporting.

b. Correspondent contact details.

c. A brief description of the nature of the inquiry or complaint.

d. A note of the action taken.

e. Correspondence and supporting information.

Camelot has advised us that all player complaints are also recorded and dealt with on a case-by-case basis. The information collected varies according to the case in question.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what capital adequacy ratio banks are required to maintain. [254944]

Ian Pearson: The capital adequacy ratio is the ratio of a bank's capital expressed as a percentage of its risk-weighted assets.

The regulatory minimum ratio derives from the Basel 2 Accord, implemented in the European Union via the Capital Requirements Directive (CRD) which came into force on 1 January 2008 (Directives 2006/48/EC and 2006/49/EC). The framework consists of three pillars.

Pillar 1 sets the minimum capital requirements required to meet credit, market and operational risks. Pillar 2 requires firms and supervisors (in this case the Financial Services Authority—FSA) to take a view on whether a firm should hold additional capital against risks not covered in Pillar 1. Pillar 3 requires firms to publish certain details of their capital and risk management.

Full details of these capital requirements can be found in FSA "GENPRU" and "BIPRU" rulebooks, available via the FSA's website.

The regulatory minimum capital adequacy ratio under Pillar 1 is 8 per cent. of total capital, of which a minimum of 4 per cent. must be tier 1 capital, which includes ordinary shares and reserves. In practice firms' regulatory capital may be higher than this, and firms may also decide to hold more capital than the regulatory minimum.

As the FSA made clear in its statement of 19 January, the purpose of the recent bank recapitalisation exercise was to ensure that participating institutions held sufficient capital to ensure a buffer against challenging economic conditions. This did not constitute creating new statutory capital requirements for the UK banking sector.

Consolidated Fund

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid into the Consolidated Fund from fines in each year since 1997. [258370]

Yvette Cooper: The Consolidated Fund does not separately identify revenue surrendered to the Exchequer relating to fines. Public bodies involved in the collection of fines will hold the information on their revenue and will publish accounts of their activities.

Income Tax: Northern Ireland

Mark Durkan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people resident in each constituency in Northern Ireland were employed in the Republic of Ireland and were liable for UK income tax in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [257580]

Mr. Timms: Where a person is resident for tax purposes and domiciled in the United Kingdom, they pay tax on their worldwide income and gains in the United Kingdom on an arising basis subject to the application of any double taxation agreement.

It is not possible to identify the country in which income arises or the nature of the income on which foreign tax has been paid. However, the number of individuals tax resident in Northern Ireland and claiming foreign tax credit relief for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are provided in the following table. This provides an upper limit to the number of individuals resident in Northern Ireland and employed in the Republic of Ireland. Information for 2007-08 is not yet available.

Number claiming foreign tax credit relief

Constituency of residence	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Belfast, East	200	250
Belfast, North	100	150
Belfast, South	450	500
Belfast, West	50	50
East Antrim	250	250
East Londonderry	300	350
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	750	800
Foyle	600	600
Lagan Valley	400	500
Mid Ulster	250	350
Newry and Armagh	850	950
North Antrim	200	250
North Down	400	450
South Antrim	250	250
South Down	600	650
Strangford	350	400
Upper Bann	300	350
West Tyrone	500	600

Loans: Interest Rates

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what interest rate is used to assess the taxable benefit arising on beneficial loans; and whether this rate is changed in line with the Bank of England base rate. [258763]

Mr. Timms: The official rate of interest used to assess the taxable benefit arising on beneficial loans has been reduced from 6.25 per cent. to 4.75 per cent. with effect from 1 March 2009. The rate is set by reference to prevailing average bank and building society mortgage rates.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the hon. Member for Billericay's letter of 7 January 2009 on his constituent Mr D. Randall. [258756]

Ian Pearson: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the hon. Member for Billericay's letter of 14 January 2009 on his constituent Mr D. Williams. [258757]

Ian Pearson: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the hon. Member for Billericay's letters of 17 November 2008 and 22 January 2009 on his constituent Mrs N. Finley. [258758]

Mr. Timms: I replied to the hon. Member on 14 January.

Revenue and Customs: Security

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many breaches of security have occurred at HM Revenue and Customs in the last five years; and what procedures are followed when a breach of security relates to personal data. [250731]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 26 January 2009]*: HMRC uses the term 'security incident' to relate to a wide range of security breaches, including unlocked cupboards or drawers within a locked building as well as losses, theft, suspicious behaviour and vandalism. These incidents also include near misses, which are monitored to identify potential weaknesses so that they can be put right. HMRC takes every security incident report seriously and deals with each one in accordance with its departmental guidance and procedures.

Since HM Revenue and Customs' creation in April 2005 there have been a total of 11,266 reported security incidents among approximately 90,000 staff. HMRC has improved centralised control mechanisms and raised staff awareness about the importance of data security and the need to report all incidents.

All incidents relating to personal data are investigated by senior managers within the responsible business area and incidents designated as serious are elevated to director level and to relevant external authorities if this is required. This system was introduced in August 2007, since when only 3.6 per cent. of all security incidents have been classified as serious.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue to accrue from stamp duty land tax in 2009-10; on what assumptions this estimate is based; and what estimate he has made of the revenue which would be forgone in offering a stamp duty land tax holiday to first time housebuyers in the next 12 months. [258557]

Ian Pearson: The latest published forecast revenue from stamp duties for 2009-10 was given in table B12 of the PBR 2008. The published figure includes stamp duty land tax, stamp duty reserve tax and stamp duty, and was based on the PBR economic forecast and assumptions.

An estimate of the cost of the current SDLT holiday, covering residential transactions completed between 3 September 2008 and 2 September 2009 with a selling price between £125,000 and £175,000, was also published in the PBR.

No estimate has been made of the cost of the stamp duty holiday described.

Tax Evasion

Derek Twigg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were employed in tackling tax (a) fraud and (b) evasion in each year since 1997. [257015]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs' compliance activity covers all aspects of compliance behaviour from error through to evasion. As a consequence, it is not possible to provide the information requested.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of tax evasion in the last 12 months. [257161]

Mr. Timms: There are no estimates of the revenue lost specifically to tax evasion in the last 12 months. HMRC has published its latest available estimates of tax losses in the 2008 Autumn Performance Report:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/autumn-report-2008.pdf

While the estimates given in this report include evasion they also encompass other causes of losses, for example, failure to take reasonable care and tax avoidance.

VAT: Construction

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the revenue effects would be of reducing the rate of value added tax on rebuilding and renovation work to *(a)* 3 per cent., *(b)* 4 per cent., *(c)* 5 per cent., *(d)* 6 per cent., *(e)* 7 per cent., *(f)* 8 per cent. and *(g)* 9 per cent. [258576]

Mr. Timms: Using data from the Office for National Statistics' Construction Statistics Annual 2008, and assuming all of this expenditure to have been subject to the standard rate of VAT (17.5 per cent. in 2007) then the following illustrative costs can be estimated for different rates:

Alternative VAT rate (percentage)	*Illustrative revenue impact, (£ million)*
3	-2,100
4	-1,950
5	-1,800
6	-1,650
7	-1,500
8	-1,350
9	-1,200

Note:
Under EU laws the minimum permitted reduced rate of VAT is 5 per cent.

These estimates are very tentative. The definition of expenditure used in the data covers a wide range of activities, some of which will already be subject to the current 5 per cent. reduced rate of VAT (while complete demolitions and rebuilds of houses are currently zero rated). The estimates also do not factor in behavioural responses, the current 15 per cent. standard rate of VAT, those businesses not registered for VAT or developments in the relevant markets since 2007.

WALES

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will publish a copy of his Department's website accessibility plan. [257226]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales office seeks to make its website accessible and easy to use for everyone, no matter what browser they use.

Wales office website accessibility is guided by the Worldwide Web Consortium's (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines and intends to comply with Level Double-A of the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines by December 2009.

Details on accessibility can be found on the Wales Office website:

www.walesoffice.gov.uk/footer/accessibility

SCOTLAND

Railways

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will work with the Scottish Executive to secure the *(a)* replacement of Caledonian sleeper rolling stock and *(b)* long-term operation of the cross-border service. [257760]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend is happy to work with the Scottish Government and his right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on these matters. Sleeper services are an integral part of the First Scot Rail franchise agreement, which is managed by the Scottish Government. I understand that the recent Franchise Extension Agreement includes an obligation for First Scot Rail to develop additional proposals to improve the sleeper service.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Houses of Parliament: VAT

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the retail ticket prices for the summer opening tours of Parliament will be reduced in line with the reduction in valued added tax. [258360]

Nick Harvey: Yes. The summer opening programme has to break even over a three-year period, during which time prices are held; the current period is 2007-09. Full price adult tickets sold for the 2008 summer opening cost £12. With the reduction in VAT rate, in 2009 these will cost £11.70. Other ticket types will be similarly reduced.

PICT: Electronic Equipment

Rosie Cooper: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission when the trial of use of BlackBerries by PICT staff will be completed. [258577]

Nick Harvey: Parliamentary ICT (PICT) commenced a 60 day trial of Research in Motion's BlackBerry service using their Blackberry Enterprise Service on 9 February 2009. The trial will be completed by mid-April and will then be evaluated.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 26 February 2009

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the effect of the Government's limit on carbon dioxide emissions from aviation on lifeline flights in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the UK; [258159]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of any future breach of the Government's target for airline emissions on the future of *(a)* lifeline flights and *(b)* airports serving lifeline flights. [258160]

Jim Fitzpatrick: *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* In January this year, the Government announced a new target to get UK aviation carbon dioxide emissions in 2050 below 2005 levels and asked the Committee on Climate Change to advise on the best basis for its development. The Committee is due to report by December 2009. The Committee's advice will inform the Government's approach in ensuring achievement of the target. In developing this approach, the Government will take into account a range of different factors.

The Government recognise the important economic and social benefits that lifeline air services can bring to remote areas of the UK and continue to support the measures consistent with EU law that help sustain such services in Scotland and Wales.

Bus Services: Concessions

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many local authorities have withdrawn *(a)* companion bus passes for those accompanying (i) deafblind and (ii) other disabled people and *(b)* peak bus travel entitlement since the introduction of the national concessionary bus fares scheme. [258264]

Paul Clark: These concessions may be offered to eligible concessionaires at the discretion of individual local authorities based on their judgment of local needs and circumstances and their overall financial priorities; accordingly the Government do not hold these figures. The introduction of the national concessionary travel scheme has not affected the flexibility of local authorities to offer such discretionary concessions.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether a disability equality impact assessment was conducted prior to the introduction of the new national concessionary bus fares scheme; and if he will make a statement. [258300]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport published a Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 in July 2007. This included an assessment of the sectors and groups that would be affected by the new national concessionary travel scheme, including disabled people.

In addition, in March 2008 the Department published an Impact Assessment of Concessionary Bus Travel Passes, which included a disability equality impact assessment.

The Government also consulted widely with stakeholders, including the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC), prior to the introduction of the national concessionary travel scheme.

Driving Standards Agency: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1385W, on the Driving Standards Agency: Alcoholic Drinks, on how many other occasions in 2008 the Driving Standards Agency purchased alcohol for other conferences and management meetings. [258171]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving Standards Agency has paid for wine served before and during dinner at three other conferences for different grades of managers held in May and June 2008 on a similar basis to the September event. The conferences involved people staying away from their homes overnight and working in their own time.

Lorries: Working Hours

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department takes to monitor the compliance of haulage firms with the EU Working Time Directive; and what guidance his Department issues on the definition of a driver's *(a)* working time and *(b)* period of availability for the purposes of the Directive. [258827]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) monitors compliance with European Directive 2002/15/EC on the working time of mobile workers, by examining working time records when undertaking visits to operator bases, and by responding to any complaints made by employees about working time.

The Department has published guidance on the implementing GB regulations. This guidance defines working time as the time from the beginning of work, during which the mobile worker is at the workstation at the disposal of the employer and exercising his or her functions or activities.

The guidance defines a period of availability (PoA) as waiting time, the duration of which is known about in advance by the mobile worker.

A full description of what functions/activities are included in the definition of working time, along with examples of what does and does not constitute a PoA, can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/freight/road/workingtime/rdtransportworkingtimeguidance

M25: Hertfordshire

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on the General Permitted Development Order in respect of the proposed compound to be developed near Junction 17 of the M25. [258734]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* Representations regarding the General Permitted Development Order concerning the proposed site compound at M25 Junction 17 have been received from the hon. Member, Three Rivers district council and from local residents. All have been opposed to the location.

The concerns of the representations have been considered by the Highways Agency and a decision has been made not to site the compound at Junction 17 as originally proposed.

Public Transport: Expenditure

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent per capita on public transport in *(a)* Greater Manchester and *(b)* Greater London in each year since 1997. [258565]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* Public spending to support non-commercial public transport services in Greater Manchester and Greater London is largely the responsibility of the relevant local authorities. Figures for local authority expenditure on transport are available in published Local Government Finance Statistics at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/index.htm

The Department for Transport also allocates funding which supports rail services in Greater Manchester and Greater London. Funding to support rail services in England is not however available on the basis of local authority boundaries.

Public Transport: Greater Manchester

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has for its future spending levels for provision of public transport in Greater Manchester. [258566]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* Local Transport Plan funding for Greater Manchester will increase from £73.753 million in 2008-09 to £79.317 million in 2009-10 and £84.642 million in 2010-11. In addition, Greater Manchester has been awarded £978,356 (between 2008-09 and 2009-10) from the Congestion Performance Fund.

Funding for major schemes (those over £5 million) is determined through the regional funding allocation (RFA) process. The north-west region is currently considering how to prioritise the £1,314 million available through to 2018-19.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the funds available from the Transport Innovation Fund for public transport improvement in Manchester will be held in reserve until new proposals are put forward by the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities. [258567]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* The funding previously available from the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) for Greater Manchester is now available to other high quality TIF proposals. Were the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities to put forward another TIF proposal, it would be assessed against the published criteria just as with any other proposal.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Foreign Workers

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Upper Bann of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1972W, how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals work as agency or temporary staff in his Department. [258008]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested relating to the nationality of agency or temporary staff is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. In my reply to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1972W, I stated that my Department employed no EU foreign nationals and no non-EU foreign nationals whereas the answer should have been that the information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many language translators are employed in his Department's executive agency; and what the cost of translating services provided by such people was in the latest period for which information is available. [257151]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department's executive agency, the Royal Parks, has not incurred any translating services costs in the latest period for which information is available.

World Heritage Sites

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what further reports he intends to submit to the World Heritage Committee on UK World Heritage sites in advance of its 2009 session; and what the timetable for submission is. [259116]

Barbara Follett: My Department submitted to UNESCO's World Heritage Centre a State of Conservation report for Gough and Inaccessible Islands World Heritage Site on 6 February 2009. A report for the Palace of Westminster, St. Margaret's Church and Westminster Abbey World Heritage Site will be submitted by 28 February 2009.

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which UK World Heritage sites he is evaluating in advance of the World Heritage Committee's 2009 session. [259117]

Barbara Follett: My Department does not carry out evaluations of UK World Heritage Sites on behalf of the World Heritage Committee, but has provided information on the state of conservation of a number of UK World Heritage Sites as requested by the World Heritage Centre.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Billy Wright Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many security officials the Wright Inquiry employs. [257111]

Mr. Woodward: The Billy Wright Inquiry does not directly employ security guards and holds a contract with a private company for the provision of security services.

Inquiry staff also deal with security issues as part of their duties.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Wright Inquiry has spent on *(a)* information technology and *(b)* information technology consultants. [257114]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Billy Wright Inquiry that the Inquiry has spent £5.50 million on information technology and £611,000 on IT consultants to the end of January 2009.

Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many security officials the Saville Inquiry employs. [257120]

Mr. Woodward: The Bloody Sunday Inquiry does not directly employ security guards and holds a contract with a private firm for the provision of security guards. Inquiry staff also deal with security issues as part of their duties.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Saville Inquiry has spent on *(a)* information technology and *(b)* information technology consultants. [257122]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Bloody Sunday Inquiry that the Inquiry has spent approximately £31.7 million on information technology and approximately £2 million on information technology consultants to the end of January 2009.

Crime Rate

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what the property crime rate in Northern Ireland was in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* the last four months of 2008; [259412]

(2) what the violent crime rate in Northern Ireland was in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* the last four months of 2008; [259413]

(3) what the property crime rate in South Antrim constituency was in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* the last four months of 2008; [259414]

(4) what the violent crime rate in the South Area of Northern Ireland was in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* the last four months of 2008. [259415]

Paul Goggins: These data are collated by the Police Service of Northern Ireland. I have asked the Chief Constable to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [256203]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office has no central record of EU and non-EU foreign nationals in our employment. Since November 2007, the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS), which also carries out recruitment on behalf of the NIO, has collected the nationality details of applicants for vacancies. This information is retained for those who are successful and are appointed to posts in the NICS and NIO. Nationality details are not yet held for the vast majority of staff recruited before November 2007.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 773W, on departmental ICT, for what reasons the budget of the Causeway Programme has increased by £18.3 million. [257266]

Paul Goggins: The Causeway Programme is a key element in the continuing modernisation and reform of the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland. At its inception, total costs were estimated at £42.7 million but a later review of the business case estimated that these would increase to £61 million. The most recent estimate, after reviewing the Programme content, is that total costs will be £58 million. This represents an increase of some £15 million against the original projections. The increased costs have arisen in three main areas:

Additional costs arising from the complexity of integrating six agencies' business processes and separate computer systems—£5 million;

Contract changes—£6 million.

Programme development and office costs arising from delay—£4 million.

Following the end of the Programme, additional enhancements to the system—originally intended to be part of the Programme—may be taken forward through one-off projects, subject to stringent cost and benefit analysis.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1415W, on departmental marketing, how much of the total for the year 2007-08 was funded by the Firearms and Explosives Branch. [257272]

Paul Goggins: Firearms and Explosives Branch funded £173,312.38 of the total for the year 2007-08.

This was spent on the 2007 Fireworks Safety Campaign and covered creative, agency and production costs; media advertising; education packs; and initiatives for schools.

EC Grants and Loans

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much in European regional aid structural funding was allocated to Northern Ireland

for 2000 to 2006; how much of this funding had been spent by 31 December 2008; and whether a request was made to the European Commission to extend the spending deadline beyond this date. [255461]

Mr. Woodward: The information is not available in the form requested. I am advised by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland, which has responsibility for these matters, that European regional aid structural funding of €1,434,485,611 (approx £1,141,541,061) was provided for the period 2000-08.

In the UK, managing authorities made the decision whether to extend their programmes. BERR officials consolidated those requests (which included a request from Northern Ireland) in a letter to the European Commission. This letter included the request to extend the Northern Ireland Objective 1 transitional programme and the Northern Ireland/Republic of Ireland INTERREG Strand A programme.

Inquiries

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent to date on lawyers and legal firms employed by the *(a)* Hamill, *(b)* Wright and *(c)* Nelson inquiries. [257142][1]

Mr. Woodward: The following amounts have been spent by the Inquiries to the end of January 2009 on lawyers and legal firms:

(a) The Robert Hamill Inquiry—£8.74 million;

(b) The Billy Wright Inquiry—£4.87 million;

(c) The Rosemary Nelson Inquiry—£13.05 million.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what guidance his Department provided to local authorities in Northern Ireland on their investment strategies during periods of direct rule since 1997. [258069]

Mr. Woodward: Local government matters are devolved in Northern Ireland. I have been advised by the Northern Ireland Minister for the Environment that no specific guidance on investment strategies was issued to local authorities by his Department during the periods of direct rule since 1997.

The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 and the Trustee Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 provide for district councils in Northern Ireland to invest funds. The Trustee Act contains a general power of investment and sets out standard investment criteria, to which district councils are expected to adhere.

Robert Hamill Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Hamill Inquiry has spent on *(a)* information technology and *(b)* information technology consultants. [257123]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Robert Hamill Inquiry that it has spent £3.71 million on information technology and £707,000 on IT consultants to the end of January 2009.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many security officials the Hamill Inquiry employs. [257125]

Mr. Woodward: The Robert Hamill Inquiry does not directly employ security guards. It holds a contract with a private company for the provision of security guards for the Inquiry's Belfast accommodation, and a separate company provides staff to carry out overnight and weekend guarding for the building as a whole.

Inquiry staff also deal with security issues as part of their duties.

Rosemary Nelson Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many security officials the Nelson Inquiry employs. [257104]

Mr. Woodward: The Rosemary Nelson Inquiry does not directly employ security guards. It holds a contract with a private company for the provision of security guards for the inquiry's Belfast accommodation, and a separate company provides staff to carry out overnight and weekend guarding for the building as a whole.

Inquiry staff also deal with security issues as part of their duties.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Nelson Inquiry has spent on *(a)* information technology and *(b)* IT consultants. [257106]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Rosemary Nelson Inquiry that the inquiry has spent £5.97 million on information technology and £975,000 on IT consultants to the end of January 2009.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Genetically Modified Crops

6. **Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what area of genetically modified crops was cultivated in the UK in 2008. [258781]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In England GM crops were grown in trials last year on no more than two hectares of land, and it has been reported that a limited area of an EU-approved GM maize was grown commercially in Wales.

Marine Environment

7. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to protect the marine environment. [258782]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government are taking forward a number of measures aimed at achieving our vision of clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas. The Marine and Coastal Access Bill currently before the House of Lords will improve

1. *[Official Report, 20 April 2009, Vol. 491, c. 1MC.]*

the way in which we sustainably manage our marine environment. The Government are also committed to work to achieve Good Environmental Status under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and action towards sustainable fisheries management.

Upland Farmers

8. **Charlotte Atkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps he has taken to assist farmers in the uplands. [258783]

Hilary Benn: The Government provided a total of £168 million in funding to upland farmers through the hill farm allowance and the single payment scheme in 2008. Rural development funding in 2007 also provided upland farmers with £56 million from agri-environment schemes.

The HFA will be replaced by Uplands ELS in 2010. Based on uptake of 80 per cent., funding will be around £25 million a year. Further to this, a significant amount of new Higher Level Stewardship funding will go to upland farmers.

Pitt Report

9. **Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of the recommendations in Sir Michael Pitt's report from the 2007 floods "Lessons learned" have been implemented. [258784]

Hilary Benn: I last met Sir Michael Pitt to discuss the response in November. My officials and I will continue to consult him on progress in implementing his recommendations.

The Government's response to the Pitt Review set out what had been implemented before December 2008 and the further steps required to implement its recommendations in the future. The Government will report further on implementation every six months, beginning in June 2009.

Recycling: Household Waste

10. **Laura Moffatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to encourage people to continue to recycle household waste. [258785]

Jane Kennedy: The economic downturn poses new challenges, especially because of volatility in markets; and we are keeping a very close watch on the situation. The clear message to householders is that there are markets for most materials and we should continue to recycle.

Both the DEFRA-funded 'Recycle Now' campaign and the Local Government Association are disseminating information to local authorities and the public about the continued benefits of recycling.

Animal Disease Strategy

11. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in his Department's discussions with the farming industry on sharing the costs of the animal disease strategy. [258786]

Jane Kennedy: There has been considerable progress, as reflected in the 2006 report of the Joint Industry-Government Working Group and the work of the Consultative Forum between December 2007 and July 2008.

The National Farmers Union and the Country Land and Business Association as key players are in agreement with us that there should be an independent body with responsibility for animal health.

Food Labelling

12. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in discussions with the European Commission on new rules on country of origin food labelling. [258787]

Jane Kennedy: The EU Commission is aiming to simplify existing general food labelling and nutrition labelling legislation and published the "EU Proposal for a Regulation on the Provision of Food Information to Consumers" in February 2008.

There have yet to be substantive discussions on this issue in Europe under the proposed Food Information Regulation. But the Government will be pressing for much clearer rules backing up origin claims.

16. **Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the use of country of origin labelling for food and food products. [258791]

Jane Kennedy: We receive representations from the farming community about this issue on a regular basis.

Departmental Nursery Provision: York

13. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what nursery provision is made by his Department for the children of its staff working in York. [258788]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA staff in York are supported through an onsite subsidised nursery. The nursery currently supports a total of 50 children of staff from DEFRA, the Pesticides Safety Directorate (now part of the Health and Safety Executive) and the Meat Hygiene Service, who are all located on the Kings Pool site.

Single Farm Payment Scheme

14. **Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the operation of the single farm payment scheme; and if he will make a statement. [258789]

Jane Kennedy: I am pleased to confirm that the Rural Payments Agency met the first of its formal targets for payments under the 2008 single payment scheme, to pay 75 per cent. by value by the end of January, and is on course to meet its next target, to pay 90 per cent. by value by the end of March. Latest figures show that just under £1.37 billion (84.35 per cent.) has been paid to nearly 96,000 customers (over 90 per cent.)

Floods and Water Bill

17. **Mr. Atkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish the draft Floods and Water Bill. [258793]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We intend to publish the draft Bill for public consultation and pre-legislative scrutiny later in the spring.

Pitt Report: Funding

18. **James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department has allocated for implementation of the recommendations of Sir Michael Pitt's review of the floods of the summer of 2007. [258794]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government set aside £34.5 million of the £2.15 billion total for flood and coastal erosion in this year and the following two years to implement Sir Michael Pitt's Review. This response also draws upon other budgets available for flood risk management activity in order to invest a total of over £60 million in delivering the recommendations over the same period.

Food Security

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to increase UK food security. [258790]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has a new role to co-ordinate food policy across Government and has a new departmental strategic objective for a sustainable, secure and healthy food supply. We are working across Government and with stakeholders for sustainable production, distribution and consumption of food, ensuring that it is available and affordable for all sectors of society, and considering the sustainability impacts of meeting global food needs.

Air Pollution

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether he has received a request from Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council for exemption from the Clean Air Act 1993 to facilitate the burning of wood pellets in coal-fired boilers; [257805]

(2) what representations he has received on the pilot trials undertaken by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council of burning wood pellets on fossil fuel appliances. [257807]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Barnsley metropolitan borough council wrote to DEFRA in September last year regarding exemptions under the Clean Air Act 1993 and in October, following a request from my Department for further information. My hon. Friend the Member for Barnsley, West and Penistone (Mr. Clapham) also wrote to the Secretary of State in September last year regarding the council's pilot trials.

DEFRA replied to Barnsley metropolitan council on 5 December 2008 and explained that, in this case, it was considered that a general exemption was not appropriate but that it was open to the council to make a local exemption to enable wood pellets to be used in certain coal fired boilers in their area.

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proposals he has to simplify the procedure for applying for an exemption under the Smoke Control Areas (Exempted Fireplaces) Order. [257808]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In 2006, the Government, in response to the Biomass Task Force 2005 Report, agreed to ask the British Standards Institute to review their guidelines for testing appliances for smokeless operation with a view to simplifying the exemption procedure. We have since implemented changes to streamline and simplify the application and testing procedure for exempting appliances for use in smoke control areas. We will continue to keep these procedures under review but currently have no plans to introduce further simplifications.

A copy of the Government's response is available on the DEFRA website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/crops/industrial/energy/biomasstaskforce/pdf/btfreportgovresponse.pdf.

Biodiversity

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department plans to take to maintain and increase biodiversity. [258777]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Our plans are set out in 'Conserving Biodiversity—the UK Approach'. Working in partnership with others, and applying the ecosystem approach, our priorities are: protecting the best wildlife sites; promoting the recovery of priority species and habitats; embedding biodiversity in all sectors of policy and decision-making; engaging people and developing the evidence base. We have set targets to 2020 to increase the extent and quality of priority habitats and the range and populations of priority species.

Bluetongue Disease

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases of human infection by the bluetongue virus have been reported in each of the last four years. [258360]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* Bluetongue is a disease of animals affecting all ruminants, including sheep, cattle, deer, goats and camelids (camels, llamas, alpacas, guanaco and vicuna). It does not affect humans.

BSE

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to his Department of amending and updating the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Regulations was. [257418]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA does not keep records for amount of time spent on individual pieces of TSE work. The approximate cost of amending and updating the TSE regulations was £9,500.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on the consultation for the proposed changes to the system of testing for bovine spongiform encephalopathy. [257420]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA does not keep records for the amount of time spent on individual pieces of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy work. The approximate cost of the consultation on increasing the age above which cattle must be tested was £5,800.

Carbon Emissions: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 429W, on Carbon Emissions: Finance, if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent accounts of each of the three bodies. [252433]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

The Carbon Trust and The Energy Saving Trust are independent private companies limited by guarantee, and, as such, their accounts are a matter of public record and accessible at Companies House. Summaries are available on the Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust's websites at:

www.carbontrust.co.uk/Publications/publicationdetail.htm?productid=CTC735&metaNoCache=1

and

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/corporate/Global-Data/Publications/Annual-Review-2007-2008

Their accounts are not routinely placed in the Library of the House.

Envirowise is a service to business providing free and independent advice on how to make cost savings from improved resource efficiency. It is delivered under contract for DEFRA by AEA Technology which publishes its annual financial statement on its website at:

www.aeatannualreport.com/

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 161-62W, on departmental air travel, when he plans to place in the Library a copy of the figures for the financial year 2007-08. [250190]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From information held centrally, 2007-08 air travel mileage figures available currently for all Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF) participants are as follows:

Participant	*Domestic miles*	*Short-haul miles*	*Long-haul miles*	*Total miles*
DFID	2,442,620	3,925,809	42,143,843	48,512,272
MOD	1,482,742	8,013,589	34,520,713	44,017,044
Red Arrows	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
HMRC	13,803,977	1,885,521	2,435,769	18,125,267
VOA	67,078	6,180	32,297	105,554
BERR	1,850,032	2,798,771	11,157,261	15,806,064
HO	3,096,510	1,616,014	3,956,040	8,668,564
IPS	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
CRB	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
PS	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
FSS	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
DWP	3,825,984	650,331	867,756	9,344,071
HMT	1,568,881	249,645	916,195	2,734,720
DEFRA	3,612,104	2,486,524	5,204,594	11,303,222
CEFAS	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
DCMS	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
DH	413,688	576,208	1,456,328	2,446,224
CO	183,400	7,400,286	2,466,762	10,050,448
No.10	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
DfT	693,997	821,311	1,939,471	3,454,778
RH	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
GCDA	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
DCLG	98,617	297,057	195,831	591,505
DfES	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
LOD	63,425	395,429	1,053,994	1,512,848
CPS (LOD)	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
SFO (LOD)	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
RCPO (LOD)	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
AGO (LOD)	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
HMCPSI (LOD)	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Tsol(LOD)	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
NIO	1,992,239	60,536	160,637	2,213,412
MOJ	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
TLR	13,842	25,650	99,170	138,663
TTBC	27,958	49,171	222,404	299,532
ECGD	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Parl HC	1,049,576	1,072,394	2,674,252	4,796,222
BAPG	TBC	TBC	121,271	121,271
Parl HL	177,949	249,940	419,955	847,844
TRS	9,180	0	0	9,180
GLA	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
MPS	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
TfL	54,569	690,967	1,458,757	2,204,293
LDA	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
SDC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

Note:
As the deadline for returns is 30 April 2009, the abbreviation TBC is used to signify where finalised returns are yet to be confirmed/supplied.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of maintaining the databases owned and managed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies was in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [256141]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA and its agencies own or maintain a wide range of databases reflecting its diverse policy and regulatory functions. The costs of maintaining these databases are included within the costs for each of these functions. Separating out the costs of maintaining databases for such a broad range of activities could be provided only at disproportionate cost to the Department.

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many new recruits his Department took on in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09; how many of these were taken on as (i) permanent, (ii) temporary and (iii) agency staff; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11. [254465]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 5 February 2009]:* The following table shows the number of staff recruited by DEFRA in each financial year since 2005-06.

Financial year	*Permanent*	*Short-term appointments*	*Total*
2005-06	343	351	694
2006-07	211	136	347
2007-08	207	74	281
2008-09[1]	184	63	247

[1] Period covered is 1 April to 31 December 2008.

Information on agency staff is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For both 2009-10 and 2010-11, our plans for recruitment in future years will depend on available budget, turnover and the needs of the business.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many language translators are employed in each of his Department's *(a)* executive agencies and *(b)* non-Ministerial departments; and what the cost of translating services provided by such people was in the latest period for which information is available. [257148]

Huw Irranca-Davies: None of DEFRA's Executive agencies employ translators but can use core DEFRA services. Their share of the costs of these in 2007-08 was £26,497. The Forestry Commission employs one translator. Their translation services in 2007-08 cost £40,665.

Disease Control: Research

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on research to support the development of the *(a)* Exotic Animal Disease Contingency Plan and *(b)* Farm Animal Welfare Council Opinion on the Welfare of Farmed Gamebirds. [257417]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is as follows:

(a) DEFRA funds research on a range of exotic diseases of animals. The research provides evidence that contributes to policy development aimed at better prevention and control of exotic diseases. This evidence is utilised in the Exotic Animal Disease Contingency Plans. In the financial year 2008-09, the Department will be spending £7.3 million on research on exotic diseases of animals.

(b) The Department spent £341,362 on research to inform the Farm Animal Welfare Council Opinion on the Welfare of Farmed Gamebirds. The cost of research carried out by Farm Animal Welfare Council members was approximately £17,100. The cost of Secretariat and DEFRA veterinary advice provision was approximately £9,200.

Energy Conservation: Research

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the future skills needs of low carbon, resource-efficient environmental sectors. [256463]

Jane Kennedy: In 2008, DEFRA commissioned a review of the evidence of the skills that are, or will be, needed for a low carbon resource-efficient economy. The research was commissioned to identify gaps in the evidence base and help inform policy development in this area.

Entry Level Stewardship Scheme

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many claims made under the Entry Level Stewardship scheme were invalid in each of the last four years. [258562]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* The Entry Level Stewardship scheme (ELS) was launched in 2005 and there are now over 37,000 live ELS agreements covering over 5 million hectares of land.

Payments under ELS are made every six months for the five-year duration of the ELS agreement. Each of these payments is made automatically, apart from the final payment for which a claim must be submitted. As the earliest ELS agreements have not yet reached the final payment stage, no claims have been submitted under the scheme to date.

We do track the number of applications that were invalid and not accepted into the scheme. For the four years of operation so far, these are:

	Number
2005-06	868
2006-07	837
2007-08	376
2008-09	274

Flood Control

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of jobs that will be created by bringing forward funding for flood defence schemes. [256356]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Approximately 400 jobs are likely to be created or sustained in 2009-10 by the £20 million brought forward from 2010-11.

Food Supply: Research

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department has allocated for each category of research into sustainable forms of agriculture in each of the last four years. [257800]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The information requested is as follows:

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Agriculture and climate change	—	—	2,209,308	3,827,331	4,022,592
Climate change[1]	382,506	145,562	62,669	124,607	—
Environmental protection (Agriculture)[1]	5,325,982	3,923,582	2,331,042	995,858	352,723
Non-food crops[1]	2,565,337	3,265,384	2,011,493	—	950,762
Organic farming[1]	2,031,738	1,974,492	1,214,314	792,108	553,066
Plant health	685,878	715,613	935,273	792,422	686,395
Resource efficient and resilient food chain[2]	—	—	958,309	1,570,636	1,566,439
Sustainable arable[1]	5,714,102	5,545,388	3,583,963	2,164,176	1,327,236
Sustainable farming systems and biodiversity	—	—	1,956,107	3,740,230	6,189,668
Food (production component)[1,2]	570,000	583,000	110,000	110,000	—
Sustainable horticulture[1]	9,475,040	8,880,970	6,245,066	4,116,408	3,756,355
Sustainable livestock[1]	8,215,670	7,700,465	5,482,683	2,084,134	881,911
Sustainable water management	—	—	1,439,754	3,467,561	4,048,468
	34,966,253	32,734,456	28,539,981	24,921,796	24,335,615

[1] R&D programmes closed to new projects in 2005.
[2] Excluding post-farm gate R&D.

Hazardous Substances: Waste Disposal

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which sites in England deal with hazardous waste; what the distance is between each site and the nearest unit of housing; and if he will make a statement. [251945]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* There are about 1,300 sites permitted to store hazardous wastes, including asbestos, some batteries, television sets and fluorescent tubes. These permitted sites consist of approximately 740 hazardous waste transfer stations; 370 hazardous waste treatment facilities; 31 hazardous waste incinerators including clinical waste incinerators; 33 in-house hazardous waste storage facilities; 102 hazardous waste landfill sites (30 of which are in the process of closing); and 68 pet crematoria.

Lists of the sites have been placed in the Library of the House. The lists record the distance of each site from human occupation. Postcode specific searches for this information can be obtained on a case by case basis via the Environment Agency's website. Information on some of the sites is not available as it is not held or the site is new.

Pollution Control

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* research and *(b)* consultations for the introduction of local authority industrial pollution regulations. [257419]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The current system of local authority industrial pollution regulation began in 1991. DEFRA's annual research expenditure on this system varies annually, but on average is around £40,000 a year. Consultations are undertaken periodically, including an annual consultation on the level of fees and charges payable by regulated businesses. In the last six months, separate consultations have been undertaken on a better regulation review of the system, and on the principles to underpin the forthcoming review of statutory guidance notes on pollution standards. Separate data are not held which distinguishes the cost of these consultations from that of managing the system as a whole.

Poultry Industry: Training

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department has allocated for the training passport scheme to train staff in the poultry industry to NVQ level qualification. [258561]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* This is an industry resourced initiative so DEFRA funding has not been required.

Waste Disposal: Environment Protection

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to ensure that environmental standards are upheld in waste treatment facilities. [256966]

Jane Kennedy: Waste treatment facilities operate under a permit issued by the competent authorities (Environment Agency or local authority) that regulates the nature of the operation, the types and quantities of waste and the measures to be taken to prevent harm or pollution.

Facilities are therefore subject to a range of guidance from Government and the competent authorities in respect of their environmental standards of operation and to regular inspection and compliance monitoring by the competent authorities, which take account of the environmental risk and the operator's performance.

Where operators do not comply, the competent authorities have powers to take enforcement action and do so in accordance with their Enforcement and Prosecution policy.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

British-French Nuclear Forum

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) on what date the Franco-British Nuclear Forum last met; [256003]

(2) on what date a Minister last attended a meeting of the Franco-British Nuclear Forum; [256002]

(3) how much has been paid from the public purse to the Franco-British Nuclear Forum in each year since its inception. [255984]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The last meeting of the Franco-British Nuclear Forum to be attended by a Minister was held on 29 March 2007 and attended by the then Energy Minister. This is also the date that the forum last met.

The total cost to the public purse of the Franco-British Nuclear Forum in each year since its inception is £33,400, all of which was incurred in financial year 2006-07.

Carbon Sequestration: Finance

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on the facilitation of carbon capture and storage in *(a)* each year since 1997 and *(b)* 2008-09 to date; and what estimate he has made of equivalent expenditure in the next six years. [257575]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* In the period 1997-2005, the then Department of Trade and Industry supported industrially led research and development through the Clean Coal Programme, spend as follows. It has not been possible to provide separate figures for carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects for this period.

	£ million
1997-98	3.1
1998-99	2.9
1999-2000	2.5
2000-01	4.3
2001-02	4.4
2002-03	3
2003-04	5
2004-05	6.5

Since 2005, funding for industrially led R and D has been the responsibility of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills' Technology Strategy Board.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) provides support for demonstration of components for CCS and pilot scale CCS through the Carbon Abatement Technologies Demonstration Programme now supported via the Environmental Transformation Fund. Since the programme was launched in October 2006 it has spent:

	£ million
2005-06	0
2006-07	0.1
2007-08	0.1
2008-09 to date	0.3

A further joint call, worth some £15million, under this programme was announced on 12 February 2009, with the TSB and Northern Way.

In addition the DECC is supporting a full scale CCS demonstration project to be operational by 2014. Given the unique nature of the UK's CCS project it is difficult to provide a definitive assessment of costs. It is also the case that the final cost may vary significantly according to the design of the winning project. We expect to develop a much clearer picture of both capital and operating costs during the competition process as we undertake detailed negotiations with the three pre-qualified bidders.

As a new Department an estimate of spend for future years cannot be given. The annual budgets for DECC for the financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11 have been agreed with HM Treasury and DECC is currently allocating these budgets to its different responsibilities through a business planning process.

DECC also undertakes a number of other activities that will facilitate the introduction of CCS. An example is the Energy Act 2008 which sets the framework for offshore storage of CO_2.

Climate Change: EU Action

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on taking into account energy and climate change-related threats in the European Security Strategy. [255147]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Energy security and climate change are among key threats and global challenges that were identified in the EU High Representative/Secretary General's report on the implementation of the 2003 European security strategy which was endorsed by the December 2008 European Council. The UK Government outlined their position on the threat of climate change in the March 2008 national security strategy and, reflecting its importance in traditional security policy, have taken a lead in pushing climate change to the top of the international debate about security. The Government also pressed to ensure that Javier Solana's report included energy security as a key theme.

My right. hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has regular discussions with EU counterparts on these issues, mainly in the context of the EU Energy and Environment Councils.

Community Energy Saving Programme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects the first householders to receive assistance from the Community Energy Saving Programme. [255853]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The consultation for the Community Energy Saving Programme was published on 12 February 2009.

We are working to publish a draft order to illustrate how the policy proposals may be reflected in a final order. We hope to publish this in the next few weeks, hopefully by the second or third week of March.

The order will then be finalised once the Government have received and considered responses to the consultation process.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when his Department appointed a senior information risk owner in accordance with the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government and the accompanying document Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action; and what grade the person holds within the Department. [245360]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A member of the DECC Management Board currently on temporary promotion to SCS Pay Band 3 accepted the role of SIRO on an interim basis on 6 January 2009.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many requests under the *(a)* Freedom of Information Act 2000 and *(b)* Environmental Information Regulations 2004 his Department has (i) received and (ii) responded to since its inception. [255877]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Ministry of Justice publishes quarterly reports containing statistical information on freedom of information requests received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments). These reports can be found at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

The latest published data currently relate to information requests received by monitored bodies during the third quarter (July to September) of 2008. Statistics for the fourth quarter (October to December) of 2008 are currently being compiled, and are due to be published in April 2009. This report will include statistics on information requests received and responded to by the Department of Energy and Climate Change between its creation on 3 October and the end of December 2008.

Departmental Gifts

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many members of staff in his Department have received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties since his Department's creation; what these gifts were; and from whom they were received. [242024]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since the Department's creation on 3 October 2008, one member of DECC staff has received a gift valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties, as follows:

Date gift received	*Description*	*Value (£)*	*Gift received from*	*Reason for gift*	*Outcome*
December 2008	12 bottles of red wine	[1]120	Linklaters	Thank you for speaking at seminar at short notice	Staff member retained gift and made donations of equivalent value to charities

[1] Estimated

Departmental Internet

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change by what date he expects his Departmental website to achieve the full *(a)* content and *(b)* functionality planned. [257600]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department's new website will go live by the end of February 2009, including all functionality and content that have so far been planned. More content will be added subsequent to this date. The Department will continue to hold detailed policy information on the energy and climate change sections of the websites of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs respectively, pending a full content audit to be undertaken later this year.

Departmental Marketing

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent to date on its *(a)* websites, *(b)* logos and *(c)* stationery. [257595]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since its formation on 3 October 2008, DECC has spent £19,226 on stationery and £38,931 on logo design and associated costs. The current DECC website was put in place at no additional cost as a temporary measure while a new site for the Department is developed. While no invoices have yet been received for the development of the replacement site, £50,000 has so far been allocated for this for 2008-09.

Departmental Public Consultation

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consultations relating to energy and climate change were initiated by his Department's predecessors between 5 May 2005 and 6 October 2008. [256035]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has records on consultations relating to energy and climate change undertaken from August 2006. A total of 32 consultations were carried out in the period of August 2006 to 6 October 2008. Details are set out as follows and include consultations relating to waste, which has links to energy and climate change.

Consultation on EU Energy Using Products Directive transposing into legislation.

New regulation on ecodesign requirements for energy using products.

Consultation on measures to reduce carbon emissions in large non-energy intensive business and public sector organisations.

Joint Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs/ Department of Trade and Industry consultation on energy metering and billing.

Consultation on the energy, cost and carbon saving calculations for the draft Energy Efficiency Commitment 2008-11 illustrative mix: Energy Efficiency Commitment 2008-11.

Consultation on the Draft Climate Change Bill.

Consultation on the Carbon Reduction Commitment.

Consultation on Energy Services Directive.

Consultation on Home Energy Conservation Act 1995.

Consultation on "Recycle on the Go".

Consultation on packaging targets.

Consultation on Energy Services Directive Article 5.

Consultation on Climate Change Simplification plan.

Consultation on changes to packaging regulations.

Consultation on proposals for regulations to amend the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 to include further licensing exemptions for agricultural waste.

Consultation on 'Local authority environmental regulation of industrial plant: 2007/08 risk based fees and charges'.

Consultation on the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and the Council on waste.

Consultation on the amendment of the Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales) Regulations 2000.

Consultation on EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

Consultation on establishing a voluntary code of best practice for the provision of carbon offsetting to UK customers.

Consultation on the EU Commission's proposals to amend the EU ETS from 2013.

Consultation on Aviation and EU ETS.

Consultation on carbon accounting regulations.

Consultation on review of waste exemptions.

Consultation on the operation of the National Emission Reduction Plan under the Large Combustion Plants Directive.

Waste strategy for England 2007: Incentives for Recycling by Households.

Consultation on Carbon Emissions Reduction Target April to March 2011.

Consultation on proposals for offences and penalties and enforcement in relation to EC Regulation 842/2006 on certain fluorinated greenhouse gases/proposals for amendments to the Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) Regulations SI 2002 No. 528.

Consultation on auction design for Phase Two of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

Consultation on fluorinated gases and ozone.

Consultation on the European Commission's proposed Directive on Industrial Emissions (IPPC) (recast).

Consultation on Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007: Directive 2004/12/EC (amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste).

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions his Department has had with outside organisations to discuss policy on reducing the effect of the recession on matters within his Department's responsibility. [254053]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Ministers and officials have regular engagements with other organisations including relevant Government Departments on a range of issues relating to the economy.

No sector is immune from the current economic climate and credit crunch and along with the regulator Ofgem, we are closely monitoring the effects on the energy sector, including on investment plans.

Electricity

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the number of households in each *(a)* Government Office region, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* parliamentary constituency which are not connected to the electricity grid. [255856]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No recent estimate of the number of households not connected to the electricity grid has been made, but the number is likely to be extremely small.

Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the effect of the economic downturn on the future development of an infrastructure for energy. [255256]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: While large energy companies continue to be able to access the capital markets for investment purposes, some smaller energy firms have found debt financing harder to come by due to current financial conditions, potentially leading to postponement and delay in some investments. The Government are working closely with such companies to ensure that they make the best of the financing opportunities available to them while these firms may also be eligible for the Government's recently announced schemes to restore the flow of credit to businesses (Working Capital Scheme, Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme and the Capital for Enterprise Fund).

Along with the regulator OFGEM, the Government are closely monitoring the effects of the credit crunch on the energy sector, particularly on investment plans.

Energy: Consumers

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the average monthly change in their expenditure which energy consumers who have not previously switched supplier could achieve by switching supplier. [256809]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: For an average consumer using 3,300 kWh of electricity and 18,000 kWh of gas per year and paying their bills on receipt (standard credit), the average annual saving from switching would have been £73 at average 2008 prices. If this average consumer also switched to paying their bill by direct debit, the saving would increase to £131 at 2008 prices. Savings of nearly £11 per month are therefore available from switching.

Data are sourced from section 2 of 'Quarterly Energy Prices', the latest edition of which was published in December 2008 and is available online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file49203.pdf

Energy: Meters

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with *(a)* energy supply companies and *(b)* Ofgem on the practice of using backdated bills for prepayment meter customers. [257591]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) is responsible for regulating gas and electricity supply, including recalibration and replacement of token prepayment meters, and the treatment of any debt that has accrued before recalibration. The Department discusses a range of supply issues with Ofgem on a regular basis and where appropriate, with suppliers.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households had *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity pre-payment meters in each of the last 10 years. [257592]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) monitors, and publishes information about gas and electricity prepayment customers. From 1998 to 2007, the last period for which data have been published, the number of customers using prepayment meters is:

	million	
	Gas	*Electricity*
1998	1.4	3.7
1999	1.6	3.7
2000	1.8	3.5
2001	1.8	3.8
2002	2.0	3.7
2003	2.0	3.7
2004	2.1	3.6
2005	2.2	3.6
2006	2.3	3.6
2007	2.3	3.6

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of customers paying for *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas by pre-payment meters in each (i) Government Office region, (ii) local authority area and (iii) constituency. [257593]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC does not hold information on customer numbers by Government office region, local authority or constituency.

However, DECC does collect information on the number of customers paying for their electricity and gas by pre-payment meters in each PES (Public Electricity Supplier) area and gas LDZ (Local Distribution Zones). The following table shows the number of customers who paid for their energy using pre-payment meters.

	Number
Electricity	
East Anglia	347,000
East Midlands	271,000
London	393,000
Merseyside and North Wales	276,000
Midlands	342,000
North East	218,000
North Scotland	100,000
North West	268,000
Northern Ireland	212,000
South East	227,000
South Scotland	335,000
South Wales	167,000
South West	216,000
Southern	300,000
Yorkshire	269,000
UK	3,967,000
Gas	
East Midlands	235,000
Eastern	154,000
North Eastern	142,000
North Thames	246,000
North Western	345,000
Northern	103,000
Northern Ireland	61,000
Scotland	177,000
South Eastern	258,000
South Western	124,000
Southern	111,000
Wales	149,000
West Midlands	222,000
UK	2,405,000

Energy: Prices

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to improve the system of pricing for pre-payment fuel meter customers. [249829]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Ofgem, the independent regulator, has investigated the charges for different payment methods made by supply companies as part of its recent probe into retail gas and electricity markets. It is now consulting publicly on remedies to prevent energy supply companies from charging unjustified premiums for payment methods such as pre-payment meters. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has already told the House that should a satisfactory and timely resolution of this issue not be reached by Ofgem and the companies, he is prepared to legislate.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1372W, on Energy: Prices, when he expects Ofgem to publish its first quarterly report on wholesale and retail prices. [257673]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We expect Ofgem to report during February.

Energy: Supply

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking with his EU counterparts to encourage the diversification of energy supply routes. [255196]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The UK sees diversity of both sources and routes of gas as vital for the EU's security of supply. Recent events have underlined the importance to the EU of being supplied with gas from a wide range of countries. The development of a southern corridor, with the aim of bringing gas through Turkey to the EU from the Caspian region, and in the longer term from the Middle East, is crucial to that end. The UK therefore strongly supports the efforts of the European Commission and fellow EU member states to develop a southern corridor and is actively engaged in these efforts.

The Commission's second Strategic Energy Review (SEER2) of November 2008 affirmed the importance of a southern corridor as one of the EU's highest

energy priorities and the importance, to that end, of increasing high level political engagement with potential gas supplier countries, such as Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Iraq.

The European Commission and current Czech presidency of the EU have already signalled their intention to make this a priority for 2009 and we shall be working closely with them.

The UK also sees it as important for there to be a diverse selection of routes for gas to enter the EU and for this reason we support the building of new pipelines, under market conditions, to bring gas from established suppliers to the EU such as Norway, Russia and Algeria. In addition to pipelines, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), imported by tanker from countries such as Qatar, Trinidad and Tobago, Egypt and Algeria, can also play an important role in diversifying gas supply to the UK and other EU member states.

The UK's own security of gas supply has been improved in recent years by new import infrastructure projects such as the BBL (Netherlands-UK) and Langeled (from Norway) pipelines, expansion of the (Belgium-UK) IUK pipeline and the new LNG import terminal at the Isle of Grain. Two further major LNG import terminals at Milford Haven are expected to be commissioned soon.

Fuel Poverty: Braintree

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* households including at least one child, *(b)* households including at least one pensioner and *(c)* households were classified as living in fuel poverty in Braintree in each of the last five years. [258167]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2003, and shows that there were around 3,200 fuel poor households in Braintree. The data are not split by household composition.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the latest date is on which applications for grants from *(a)* homeowners and *(b)* charities and public sector bodies under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme will be accepted. [255909]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The latest date for new applications from homeowners is 30 June 2010 or when the money runs out, whichever is sooner.

For charities and public sector organisations the closing date for new applications is 30 June 2009. We would like to see eligible organisations making maximum use of the grants programme up to this date.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme: Northumberland

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many successful grant applications have been received by the Low Carbon Buildings programme for the installation of solar photovoltaic systems from households in *(a)* Wansbeck constituency and *(b)* the county of Northumberland. [252946]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The low carbon buildings programme has received the following applications for grants for solar photovoltaic systems from households in the county of Northumberland:

Local authority	*Technology*	*Number*	*Grant offered (£)*	*Grant paid (£)*
Alnwick	Solar Photovoltaic	1	2,500.00	2,500.00
Castle Morpeth	Solar Photovoltaic	1	2,000.00	not yet completed
Tynedale	Solar Photovoltaic	3	8,100.00	5,600.00
Grand total		5	12,600.00	8,100.00

Natural Gas

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the number of households in each *(a)* Government Office region, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* parliamentary constituency which are not connected to the gas grid. [255955]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As part of its regional and local energy statistics publication programme, DECC has published the number of domestic gas meter points in each local authority in Great Britain. This information has been placed in the Libraries of the House. Corresponding data are not available for Northern Ireland.

The Government do not hold this information at parliamentary constituency level.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what volume of gas was *(a)* exported from and *(b)* imported into the UK through each international gas pipeline in each month of the last five years. [256916]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: UK exports and imports of natural gas by month by pipeline from January 2004 to November 2008 (the latest month for which all data are available) are shown in the following tables.

Exports

Million cubic metres

	To Belgium	*To Ireland*	*To the Netherlands*
2004			
January	0	280	26
February	0	282	26
March	96	331	28
April	423	312	25
May	1,123	308	27
June	1,498	295	22
July	1,507	279	22
August	560	278	26
September	73	289	30
October	0	337	47
November	0	310	22
December	0	293	22
2005			
January	0	277	20
February	0	285	11
March	177	295	50

Exports

Million cubic metres

	To Belgium[1]	To Ireland[2]	To the Netherlands[3]
April	865	356	40
May	686	332	38
June	681	277	39
July	256	248	38
August	61	134	32
September	702	332	37
October	222	301	48
November	58	297	37
December	0	158	37
2008			
January	0	120	29
February	0	211	32
March	0	271	33
April	300	302	29
May	976	302	26
June	577	305	27
July	633	305	27
August	699	170	16
September	1,100	209	9
October	649	300	28
November	130	268	29
December	72	196	29
2009[4]			
January	73	417	30

Exports

Million cubic metres

	To Belgium[1]	To Ireland[2]	To the Netherlands[3]
February	97	405	25
March	391	421	26
April	1,037	348	31
May	918	325	30
June	252	360	35
July	754	378	63
August	274	370	81
September	165	377	23
October	527	399	84
November	143	442	87
December	66	414	87
2008			
January	12	427	99
February	31	438	55
March	23	467	60
April	41	437	86
May	444	417	108
June	527	363	96
July	555	390	79
August	566	382	75
September	374	372	28
October	998	411	60
November	428	438	59

[1] Via the Bacton-Zeebrugge interconnector.
[2] Via the UK-Irish gas interconnector.
[3] Direct exports from UK (or UK share) gas fields using the Dutch offshore pipeline infrastructure.

Imports

Million cubic metres

	From Belgium[1]	From the Netherlands[2]	Frigg[3]	Langeled[4]	Tampen Link[5]	Vesterled[6]
2008						
January	902	–	40	–	64	784
February	827	–	60	–	79	702
March	266	–	67	–	75	781
April	0	–	70	–	81	331
May	0	–	119	–	86	362
June	0	–	131	–	84	93
July	0	–	158	–	93	311
August	0	–	126	–	68	254
September	20	–	111	–	96	227
October	259	–	42	–	93	608
November	520	–	–	–	99	1,000
December	467	–	–	–	86	1,077
2009						
January	405	–	–	–	87	1,062
February	410	–	–	–	50	1,004
March	92	–	–	–	113	1,057
April	0	–	–	–	45	1,006
May	0	–	–	–	88	1,010
June	0	–	–	–	41	21
July	6	–	–	–	62	393
August	1,019	–	–	–	75	1,068
September	0	–	–	–	75	957
October	37	–	–	–	32	889
November	570	–	–	–	44	1,029
December	589	–	–	–	55	1,089
2009						
January	702	–	–	–	30	1,040

Imports

Million cubic metres

	From Belgium[1]	*From the Netherlands*[2]	*Frigg*[3]	*Langeled*[4]	*Tampen Link*[5]	*Vesterled*[6]
February	1,059	—	—	—	53	908
March	910	—	—	—	46	942
April	226	—	—	—	33	857
May	28	—	—	—	71	839
June	2	—	—	—	6	413
July	81	—	—	—	12	918
August	97	—	—	—	4	860
September	25	—	—	84	27	827
October	45	—	—	1,026	14	505
November	182	67	—	1,382	7	740
December	202	773	—	1,481	9	647
2007						
January	184	762	—	1,370	17	742
February	135	669	—	1,430	24	863
March	0	737	—	1,541	1	922
April	0	647	—	1,414	48	576
May	0	372	—	723	40	355
June	44	363	—	692	9	230
July	0	375	—	525	33	359
August	5	371	—	704	16	403
September	1	254	—	881	46	360
October	28	377	—	1,330	197	729
November	31	1,032	—	1,003	255	458
December	167	1,150	—	1,066	208	691
2008						
January	450	1,126	—	1,385	296	523
February	166	986	—	1,499	246	783
March	175	1,038	—	1,630	207	885
April	277	850	—	1,091	168	770
May	27	552	—	696	204	634
June	0	523	—	662	192	297
July	1	533	—	1,630	208	519
August	0	500	—	1,197	69	81
September	0	296	—	814	187	34
October	0	489	—	1,617	250	923
November	1	748	—	1,686	205	860

[1] Via the Bacton-Zeebrugge interconnector.
[2] Via the Balgzand-Bacton (BBL) pipeline.
[3] Norwegian share of the median line Frigg field. Ceased production November 2004.
[4] From Nyhamna in Norway to Easington (East Riding of Yorkshire).
[5] Norwegian share of gas from the median line Statfjord oil field to St. Fergus (Aberdeenshire).
[6] From the Norwegian Heimdal Riser platform to St. Fergus (Aberdeenshire).

Natural Gas: Storage

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to develop gas storage capacity. [255212]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government are working to facilitate new gas storage projects by implementing the reforms to the consents procedures under the Energy and Planning Acts 2008. National Grid's recent "Ten Year Statement" identifies 17 commercial gas storage projects which, if they all go ahead, could increase GB's gas storage capacity to some 20 per cent. of current annual demand levels by around 2020.

Ofgem: Operating Costs

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost to the public purse of the Office for Gas and Electricity Markets was in each of the last 10 years. [257587]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Ofgem is primarily funded through licence fees. The total cost to the public purse since the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) was formed in 1999 is as follows:

Financial year	*Total cost (£000)*
1999-2000	9
2000-01	1
2001-02	352
2002-03	221
2003-04	682
2004-05	702
2005-06	594
2006-07	646
2007-08	695

Radioactive Materials: Transport

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the security of nuclear waste transported by rail in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [258122]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The transportation of nuclear waste by rail is carried out in accordance with the national security regulations—the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 (NISR). The NISR is administered and enforced by the Office for Civil Nuclear Security, which regulates such movements of nuclear waste and is kept fully informed of any relevant intelligence.

The security of the transportation of nuclear material was reviewed following the events of 11 September 2001 and is regularly reviewed in light of changes to the prevailing threat. OCNS is satisfied that the measures in place to prevent theft or sabotage are adequately robust. In the event that a credible threat were detected, appropriate action would be taken.

Regional Electricity Companies

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many electricity supply companies are regulated by Ofgem. [256678]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Ofgem has issued 66 electricity supply licences, of which 34 were for the supply of domestic and non-domestic customers. There are 19 active electricity suppliers, of which 11 are both domestic and non-domestic suppliers and eight are non-domestic suppliers only.

Renewable Energy

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what timescale has been established for the introduction of the feed-in tariff scheme. [254105]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We plan to consult on the details of feed-in tariffs this summer and we hope the scheme can go live in April 2010.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if the Government will provide greater levels of financial support to homeowners seeking to purchase domestic *(a)* wind and *(b)* solar technologies. [244670]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The existing low carbon buildings programme provides a £86 million capital grants programme for the installation of small scale renewable technologies to householders, communities, public and not for profit organisations. To date over £1.49 million has been committed to 678 domestic wind installations and over £7.9 million to 6,446 domestic solar technology installations and funding is still available.

We are also providing support to small scale renewables through the renewables obligation (RO). All microgenerators (50kW and under) will receive the highest level of support under the reformed RO from 1 April this year (2ROCs/MWh) to reflect the higher capital costs of small generation technologies. This will provide greater levels of support than previously to domestic wind and PV solar technologies.

We are considering the transition from grant funding and other incentives to the proposed small scale electricity feed in tariff and the renewable heat incentive support mechanism.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what funding the Government has given to the Bio-energy Capital Grants scheme in each financial year since its inception; [259934]

(2) what the budget for the Bio-energy Capital Grants scheme in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the next five financial years is. [259935]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: To date the Government have allocated or spent some £18 million through the Bio-energy Capital Grants Scheme since the scheme began in 2002. The details are set out in the following table. The funding for many projects spans two or more financial years.

£ million

Financial year	*Actual spend by year*	*Funds committed to projects (not yet spent)*
2002-03	0	0
2003-04	0	0
2004-05	0	0
2005-06	1.733	0
2006-07	0.308	0
2007-08	6.029	0.217
2008-09	0.681	4.295
2009-10	—	4.324
2010-11	—	0.431
Total	8.751	9.267

A further £4 million in 2009-10 and £8 million in 2010-11 is available to allocate to new projects.

There are currently no plans to continue the scheme beyond March 2011. The Government will be reviewing their policy on capital grants to support biomass heat projects in light of its intention to introduce a renewable heat incentive.

Tidal Power: River Severn

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons seabed mounted marine turbines were not included as an option for consideration to meet requirements for renewable energy generation in the Severn estuary. [253194]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A public call for Severn tidal power scheme proposals led to a long-list of 10 schemes including a proposal based on an array of seabed mounted marine turbines. All long-listed schemes have been investigated within the Severn tidal power feasibility study and an analysis, and recommended shortlist for further assessment, were published for public consultation last month. Proposals based on tidal stream turbines have not been recommended for shortlisting. This is because this technology is at such an early stage of

development that detailed assessment is not possible. However, the Government are keen to see these technologies developed further so their potential can be better understood. Alongside existing funding for developing innovative technologies, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced new funding of £500,000 for the development of embryonic proposals. This fund will run in parallel with the feasibility study and the development of these technologies will be reviewed before decisions are taken on whether to take forward a Severn power scheme.

I expect to announce the final shortlist in the summer after consideration of comments and any further evidence submitted in response to the consultation. Copies of the consultation document are available in the Library of the House or at:

http://severntidalpowerconsultation.decc.gov.uk

The consultation closes on 23 April.

United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with private equity firms on the provision of future funding for (i) the UK Atomic Energy Authority and (ii) the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate. [253921]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: From time to time we receive inquiries from private equity funds seeking to invest in government sponsored programmes and businesses, which also include those administered by UKAEA. We investigate them to understand whether they would represent value for money for the tax payer, although at present there are no specific plans to enter into any such arrangements with regard to UKAEA.

There have been no discussions with private equity firms on the provision of future funding for the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

Warm Front Scheme

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make it his policy to extend eligibility for the Warm Front scheme to persons over 70 years old who are not in receipt of benefits; and if he will make a statement. [254723]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 25 February 2009]*: The existing eligibility criteria are under review. Any alterations will be announced in due course.

SCOTLAND

Newport

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland with reference to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 461-62W, on departmental procurement, for what reason representatives from the Scotland Office required overnight accommodation at the resort in South Wales. [258581]

Ann McKechin: A quadrilateral Finance Ministers' meeting involving the UK Government and the devolved Administrations was held at the Celtic Manor resort on 8 July 2007. My hon. Friend the Member for Inverclyde (David Cairns) attended this meeting as Minister of State for Scotland, and was supported by two members of staff.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Service Employment

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many of the Prime Minister's 100,000 planned new jobs he estimates will be in the civil service. [257855]

Mr. Watson: The 100,000 new jobs will come mainly from investment in public works. The principal impact will be on jobs in construction and similar industries, for example on schools repairs, hospital programmes.

Government Communications Network

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants are engaged primarily in work for the Government Communications Network. [257856]

Mr. Watson: The Government Communication Network (GCN) does not directly employ staff. It is a professional network linking all communicators within the UK civil service. The network is supported by a team of eight working in the Cabinet Office, for the Permanent Secretary Government communication.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans the Cabinet Office has to construct an innovation centre in the virtual world Second Life; and what the cost of those plans is. [250328]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Work and Pensions through its Electronic Delivery Team has developed an innovation centre which utilises Second Life virtual world technology. The cost of its development has been around £20,000 and the quarterly running costs about £3,000.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Allowances

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what discussions House of Commons officials have had with officials in the Scottish Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales on systems for *(a)* reporting by Members of their expenses to parliamentary authorities and *(b)* publication of information on Members' expenses; and if he will make a statement. [258846]

Nick Harvey: House of Commons officials maintain close working relationships with their counterparts in each of the UK legislatures and regularly contact one another to exchange views and explore methodologies for *(a)* systems of accounting for and administering the various allowances and expenses available to elected representatives and *(b)* approaches to providing information to the public.

Members: ICT

Rosie Cooper: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will take steps to enable hon. Members to connect their Blackberrys to the Parliamentary Information and Communications Technology system. [258897]

Nick Harvey: Parliamentary ICT (PICT) is currently conducting a 60-day trial of the Blackberry Enterprise Service. Once the trial has been completed a formal evaluation will be undertaken and recommendations made.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Chichester (Mr. Tyrie) of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 546W, on trade unions, what guidance and advice has been produced on the use for political activity of the facilities allocated for the exclusive use of the trade unions. [258660]

Nick Harvey: Guidance and advice on the use of the facilities allocated for the exclusive use of the trade unions is contained within the House of Commons Facilities Time agreement. The agreement is available on the parliamentary intranet, and a copy will be placed in the Library.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Policy Advisers

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Chichester of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 4-5W, on policy advisers, what political declaration was made by each expert adviser who made such a declaration. [258666]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that all the policy advisers referred to in the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 4-5W, have declared that they have not in the past 10 years: (a) held office (for example chair, treasurer or secretary) of a registered party or accounting unit of such a party; (b) been an employee of a registered party or accounting unit of such a party; (c) held relevant elective office; or (d) donated sums of £1,000 or more to a political party or regulated donee.

Redundancy

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many staff have taken *(a)* voluntary and *(b)* compulsory redundancy from the Electoral Commission in the last 24 months; and what the total cost of redundancy payments has been, including matching pension contributions. [258390]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that during the 24 month period to February 2009, two staff were made redundant on compulsory terms, and 11 staff took voluntary redundancy as part of a restructuring of the party and election finance directorate. The total cost of redundancy payments was £443,000.

TREASURY

Banks: Iceland

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what compensation has been provided by the Government to *(a)* individuals, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* charities who had deposits with (i) Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, (ii) Heritable and (iii) IceSave. [255008]

Ian Pearson: Heritable and Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander (KSF) are UK-based banking subsidiaries of the two Icelandic banks Landsbanki and Kaupthing. On 7 and 8 October 2008 respectively, the FSA concluded that Heritable and KSF no longer met their threshold conditions, and were in default for the purposes of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). The Treasury, using powers under the Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008, transferred certain accounts of Heritable primarily used by retail depositors and KSF's Edge retail deposit business to ING Direct. The Government also committed to paying out in full FSCS eligible depositors whose accounts were not transferred. The remainders of Heritable's and KSF's businesses were subsequently placed into administration following due legal process.

On 8 October, the FSA announced that the UK-based branch of Landsbanki was in default for the purposes of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). To maintain financial stability and protect retail depositors, the Chancellor announced that all retail depositors with the Icesave brand of the branch would receive their money in full.

The Government have put in place arrangements to ensure that all FSCS-eligible depositors with the UK branch of Landsbanki, Heritable or Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander will receive their money in full. If a charity is eligible to claim compensation from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, it will be entitled to benefit from these arrangements.

For local authorities, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the statement made by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 35WS.

Council Tax: Parking

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1218W, on council tax: parking, how many domestic dwellings in England have been assigned by the Valuation Office Agency with the value significant codes of *(a)* VC, *(b)* VE, *(c)* VH, *(d)* VI, *(e)* VL, *(f)* VM, *(g)* VO, *(h)* VP, *(i)* VR and *(j)* VS. [258476]

Mr. Timms: Value significant codes indicate the existence of special features that are likely to affect, either negatively or positively, the value of a property. The numbers of dwellings assigned value significant codes by the Valuation Office Agency as at 1 February 2009 is provided in the following table. These data should not be interpreted as definitive, and it should be noted that dwellings can be assigned to several significant codes at any one time.

A comprehensive exercise to capture information about all value significant features of all domestic properties has not been undertaken, nor is one planned.

Number of dwellings assigned value significant codes:

	Number
VC	9,585
VE	26,490
VH	3,465
VI	1,816
VL	1,530
VM	501
VO	21,990
VP	3,487
VR	13,306
VS	3,443

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what IT security strategy his Department has in place; what steps are being taken to ensure the strategy is being followed; what policy is in place on the use of encryption when data are sent externally; and what sanctions are in place for use should the policy not be followed. [259006]

Angela Eagle: Following the publication of a National Information Assurance Strategy in June 2007, the Cabinet Office published a Security Policy Framework (SPF) for HM Government in December 2008, available at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/spf.aspx

The SPF sets out a number of mandatory measures that all Government Departments must have in place, including those for ensuring that its principles are being followed, and for the use of encryption of data sent externally.

HM Treasury adheres to the IT security principles set out in this Framework. Any potential cases of the policy not being followed would be investigated, with sanctions taken in accordance with the Department's disciplinary procedures.

Equitable Life

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will authorise interim payments of compensation for maladministration to older people who have lost money with Equitable Life. [253572]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* The Government have announced their intention to set up a scheme to make ex-gratia payments to Equitable Life policyholders who have been disproportionately affected by events at the society. We believe that it is important to set up a scheme that can pay out as swiftly as possible and will consider all options, but also would not wish to delay the main payments scheme.

Income Tax: Young People

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many 16 and 17 year olds pay income tax. [258406]

Mr. Timms: Information on the number of taxpayers by age can be found in table 3.2 "Distribution of median and mean income tax by age, range and gender" on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm

Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander; Isle of Man

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made in the Government's discussions with the Icelandic government on the status of British depositors with Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander (Isle of Man). [256649]

Ian Pearson: Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Isle of Man is a subsidiary of the Icelandic parent company, Kaupthing. Arrangements for depositors in banks in the Isle of Man are a matter for the Government of the Isle of Man. Deposits with Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander Isle of Man, will be subject to the Isle of Man Deposit Compensation Scheme.

In line with usual constitutional arrangements, the Government will represent the Crown Dependencies in its negotiations with the Icelandic authorities. The focus of the negotiations is to ensure the fair and equitable treatment of creditors.

The IMF Stand-By Arrangement to Iceland, agreed on 19 November, includes Iceland's commitment to

"ensuring the fair and equitable treatment of depositors and creditors of the intervened banks".

Members: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 16 October 2008, on behalf of Mr Gary Baker, which was acknowledged by his Department with the reference PO REF: 1/61869/2008. [259075]

Ian Pearson: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version of the Valuation Office Agency's *(a)* non-domestic rating Referencers Manual and *(b)* rating manual. [258408]

Mr. Timms: An electronic copy of the current version of the Valuation Office Agency's NDR Referencers' Manual was placed in the Library on 2 February 2009 following the reply to the parliamentary question PQ0875W 2008-09. The Rating Manual is available for viewing on the Valuation Office Agency's website:

www.voa.gov.uk

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 46-47W, on political parties: finance, and with reference to the MPs, Ministers and Tax guidance note, whether Labour hon. Members' contributions to fund the services of the Parliamentary Labour Party based in Parliament are classified by HM Revenue and Customs as *(a)* a personal donation to a political party and *(b)* a cost incurred by an office holder that is wholly, exclusively and necessarily in performance of their Parliamentary duties. [258626]

Mr. Timms: As noted in the booklet "MPs, Ministers and Tax", payments by Members to political organisations for party political purposes and any expenses incurred as a member of a political party are not allowable for tax purposes. HMRC would therefore normally classify contributions to fund the services of the parliamentary Labour party as *(a)* a personal donation to a political party, regardless of whether those services are based inside or outside Parliament.

Revenue and Customs: Reorganisation

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of job losses in Somerset likely to result from the re-structuring of HM Revenue and Customs. [258070]

Mr. Timms: As part of the Cabinet Office Efficiency and Relocation programme HMRC has committed to reducing its workforce by 25,000 posts by 2011.

It is estimated that, by 2011, there will be 90 fewer full-time equivalent HMRC posts located in Somerset than there were in 2008.

HMRC has given up over 17,000 posts to date. This has been achieved without the need to make staff compulsorily redundant and it is planned to continue with this policy wherever it is reasonable to do so.

Royal Bank of Scotland: Loans

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of lending in the UK by RBS was in January *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2006. [254585]

Ian Pearson: Details of UK lending by the RBS group can be found in the Annual accounts which are published at:

http://www.investors.rbs.com/investor_relations/financial_info/results.cfm

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse has been of administering stamp duty land tax relief for zero-carbon homes. [258403]

Ian Pearson: The precise costs of administering individual stamp duty land tax reliefs are not collected but HMRC estimates that those associated with the relief for zero carbon homes will have been negligible to date.

UK Financial Investments: Directors

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many directors are employed by UK Financial Investments Limited; and what the salary of each is. [258143]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The UKFI Board will comprise up to nine members, including a private sector Chair, non-executive private sector members, a Chief Executive and senior Government officials. Details are available at:

http://www.ukfi.gov.uk/

The salary for paid non-executive board members is £30,000. The Chief Executive is on secondment from HM Treasury; his salary was disclosed in last year's Treasury annual report.

The company's annual report and audited accounts will be laid before Parliament.

UK Financial Investments: Manpower

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people are employed by UK Financial Investments Limited, broken down by Civil Service pay grade. [258144]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* UK Financial Investments Ltd. is not part of the civil service, but a small number of civil servants (around five) are expected to be seconded into it. Total staffing is currently expected to be around 15.

Valuation Office: Publications

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 14 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1630W, on Valuation Office: Publications, whether the Valuation Office Agency has produced an in-house staff email bulletin or intranet equivalent since June 2007. [258478]

Mr. Timms: No.

Valuation: Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individual locality groups the Valuation Office Agency uses to classify domestic dwellings in England. [258496]

Mr. Timms: As at 1 February 2009, there were 3,886 locality groups covering England.

Valuebill

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which local authorities in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales use the Valuebill interface to communicate with the Valuation Office Agency. [258502]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1647W.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many language translators are employed in her Office; and what the cost of the translating services was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [257147]

Tessa Jowell: In this financial year to date my private office has not directly employed any translators or interpreters. The Government Olympic Executive has paid the following amounts on language translating services:

Olympic and Paralympic Legacy Report and Leaflet—Translation to Welsh £1,815 (plus VAT)

Business Cards—Translation to Mandarin £325 (plus VAT)—for use in Beijing during the Olympic and Paralympic Games

Translation of a letter into Portuguese £132 (plus VAT)

Total: £ 2,272 (plus VAT)

We are awaiting confirmation from the British embassy in Brazil of any interpretation costs arising from my visit to the International Inspiration Programme held there in November.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics for what reason the necessity for alterations to *(a)* the roof and *(b)* the external wrap of the Olympic Stadium was not identified at an earlier stage in the Olympic budget process; and if she will make a statement. [256481]

Tessa Jowell: The decision to include the installation of the temporary structural enhancements required for the opening and closing ceremonies was taken in autumn 2008. This was done to reduce health and safety risks that would have arisen from doing this work after the main construction is complete, as was envisaged under the original plan. The detailed design of the stadium wrap is still being developed.

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics when Lendlease's exclusivity agreement to build the athlete's village expires. [258905]

Tessa Jowell: The exclusivity agreement between the Olympic Delivery Authority and Lend Lease expires on 31 March 2009. There is, however, an option to extend exclusivity by mutual consent.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what costs arising from preparations for and hosting of the London 2012 Olympic Games are estimated to be incurred by *(a)* the Metropolitan Police, *(b)* the London Fire Brigade, *(c)* Transport for London and *(d)* the London Development Agency in each financial year until 2012-13; what proportion of these costs will be met by grants from the Olympics Delivery Authority in each case; and if she will make a statement. [257278]

Tessa Jowell: The cost of the games remains within the £9.325 billion funding package that I announced in March 2007.

(a) and *(b)*: As already announced this includes a £600 million envelope of provision for policing and wider security, and £354 million for onsite security from within the Olympic Delivery Authority's (ODA) budget. An additional £238 million (within the £9.325 billion funding package) will be made available for contingency if required. Work is continuing to finalise the security strategy and plans within these provisions. Decisions on funding will take account of operational needs of the police, fire and rescue and other agencies, affordability and the need to secure value for money. The ODA does not make grant payments to the Metropolitan Police or the London Fire Brigade.

(c) Within the funding package, there is a provision of £864 million for Olympic transport projects, which will be delivered by Transport for London (TfL) and other partners. The ODA and TfL have a funding agreement setting out the TfL-led transport projects, facilities, and services required for the 2012 games (in addition to TfL's ongoing Investment Programme). ODA contributions relating to this activity are covered by the funding agreement. The amount of these contributions is subject to agreement on a project by project basis as each Business case is approved. The estimated total contribution is c. £370 million.

(d) Within the £9.325 billion funding package, the London Development Agency (LDA) is directly contributing £250 million of the total London contribution of £1.175 billion (comprising £925 million from GLA of which £625 million is from council tax precepts and £300 million from the LDA; plus the LDA's direct contribution of £250m). The ODA does not make grant payments to the LDA.

The Government have recently published the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games annual report January 2009, which provides a detailed breakdown of the ODA budget. I have also committed to publishing a financial update on a quarterly basis.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics for how long the £326 million grant from the Olympics Contingency Fund will enable construction of the athlete's village to continue. [258903]

Tessa Jowell: The £326 million extra funding for the Olympic Village includes the £95 million announced last year. The £326 million will allow works to continue well into 2010 parallel to on-going negotiations and evaluation of the best value funding option for development of the Olympic Village.

Olympic Games 2012: Medals

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) where the medals for the London 2012 Olympics will be struck; [258295]

(2) which firms tendered for the contract to create the medals for the London 2012 Olympics; [258296]

(3) where the raw materials for the medals for the London 2012 Olympics will be sourced; and if she will make a statement. [258297]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for the provision of the medals for the London 2012 Games. No decisions have been taken yet in relation to the medals.

LOCOG is a private company which raises its income from a variety of commercial sources in order to host and stage the Games. LOCOG may choose to supply the medals for the 2012 Games through a value-in-kind sponsorship deal or through a procurement process. All medals sourced will conform to LOCOG's sustainable sourcing code, which is available on the 2012 website:

http://www.london2012.com/documents/locog-publications/sustainable-sourcing-code-nov-08.pdf

Olympic Games 2012: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether she has received a response from the Olympic Delivery Authority on the monetary value of contracts it has awarded to business organisations in Wales. [242297]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 10 December 2008]:* As set out in my letter dated 28 January to the hon. Member, I have received a response from the Olympic Delivery Authority and I have placed this in the House Library.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will place in the Library the response from the Olympic Delivery Authority on the monetary value of contracts awarded to business organisations in Wales. [242519]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* As set out in my letter dated 28 January to the hon. Member for Chesham and Amersham, I have received a response from the Olympic Delivery Authority and I have placed this in the House Library.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Leader of the House if she will publish a copy of her Office's website accessibility plan. [257230]

Chris Bryant: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons is currently reviewing the position of its office website, including accessibility of the site.

We shall publish any resulting accessibility plan to the House as soon as possible.

PRIME MINISTER

Israel: Anniversaries

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2136W, on Israel: Anniversaries, whether he made a speech at the Israel Embassy's 60th anniversary reception; and if he will make a statement. [259163]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2136W.

Members: Surveillance

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister whether any electronic surveillance of hon. Members by *(a)* the police and *(b)* the intelligence and security services falling within the terms of the Wilson doctrine has taken place in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259033]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 15W.

Ministers: Pensions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 541W, on Ministers: pensions, whether Lord Falconer of Thoroton is to receive *(a)* a pension equivalent to that received by other Secretaries of State in the House of Lords, *(b)* a pension entitlement derived from the provisions of the Lord Chancellor's Pension Act 1832 as amended or *(c)* a pension settlement on another basis in respect of his service as Lord Chancellor; and if he will make a statement. [258692]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the right hon. Member on 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 541W.

National Security

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister with reference to the written ministerial statement of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 111-12WS, on the national security strategy, what progress has been made on the establishment of a joint committee on the national security strategy; and if he will make a statement. [258838]

The Prime Minister: The Government are committed to bringing proposals before the two Houses for the establishment of the new Joint Committee in time for it to consider the next iteration of the National Security Strategy which will be published before the summer recess. We have already had productive consultations with the opposition parties and relevant Select Committee chairs on those proposals and membership discussions are under way.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister with reference to the written ministerial statement of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 111-12WS, on the national security strategy, whether any changes will be made to the Intelligence Services Act 1994 in relation to *(a)* the Intelligence and Security Committee, *(b)* the Defence Select Committee and *(c)* the Foreign Affairs Select Committee following the establishment of a joint committee on the national security strategy. [258840]

The Prime Minister: No.

Official Residences

John Mason: To ask the Prime Minister (1) which ministerial residences were *(a)* occupied and *(b)* vacant in each month since May 2005; [259202]

(2) how many ministerial residences have been *(a)* sold and *(b)* identified for sale since May 2005; and what steps the Government have taken to identify the notional rental value of each property. [259336]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 618W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his US counterpart about proposals for dialogue between the US and the Taleban in Afghanistan. [254682]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary recently met with the US Secretary of State, and had a wide-ranging discussion, including on the need for a comprehensive approach in Afghanistan, and a focus on the political as well as military agenda.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials regularly discuss with their US counterparts how best to support Afghan-led efforts to bring disaffected Afghans into society's mainstream, providing they meet the Afghan government's conditions and renounce violence, have no links to Al Qaeda and accept Afghanistan's Constitution.

Africa: Human Rights

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the governments of *(a)* the Democratic Republic of Congo and *(b)* Rwanda on the serving of the International Criminal Court warrant on Bosco Ntganda; and whether MONUC has also been tasked to take part in such an operation. [253994]

Gillian Merron: The UK is strongly supportive of the International Criminal Court. We have reminded the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo of its obligations in respect of the warrant for the arrest of Bosco Ntaganda. As far as we are aware, the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) has received no instructions to act on the warrant. We have not held specific discussions on the warrant with the government of Rwanda, which is not a party to the Rome Statute.

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 697W, on apprentices, what progress has been made on increasing the number of apprentices in his Department; and how many apprentices his Department employs. [251957]

Gillian Merron: The government wide pathfinder apprenticeship scheme has been rolled-out from September 2008. In the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) 64 UK based staff are currently finalising their applications for advanced apprenticeships. The FCO will continue to promote apprenticeships to eligible staff as part of our wider commitment to staff development.

FCO Services, a trading fund of the FCO, runs an advanced apprenticeship scheme for electronic and IT engineers. They currently have 35 advanced apprentices. In September 2008, eight advanced apprentices graduated to substantive positions within technical sections. FCO Services currently plans to recruit an additional 20 advanced apprentices during the financial year 2009-10.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to propose a UK candidate for the position of High Representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [253959]

David Miliband: The UK has proposed Sir Emyr Jones Parry GCMG for the appointment. Sir Emyr was the UK Permanent Representative to the UN from 2003-07, having served previously as the UK Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and Foreign and Commonwealth Office Political Director.

A decision on this appointment is expected by the end of this month.

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funds his Department contributed to local authority Preventing Violent Extremism projects in 2008, broken down by local authority; and if he will make a statement. [251765]

Bill Rammell: None.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support he is offering to *(a)* those involved in the recent joint military operation against the Lords Resistance Army and *(b)* the joint actions of Rwandan and Democratic Republic of Congo forces in and around Goma. [254170]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 3 February 2009]*: The UK has not been approached for, nor provided, support to either military operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). These operations are the result of two regional agreements between the states directly involved in the military action. We welcome the increased regional co-operation between the governments but urge all parties involved to fully respect international law, do all they can to minimise the humanitarian impact and fully co-ordinate with the United Nations Mission in the DRC (MONUC).

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the initial estimated *(a)* cost and *(b)* delivery date was of each ICT project initiated by his Department in each year

since 1997; what the (i) outturn cost and (ii) completion date was of each such project subsequently completed; which contractors were hired for each project; and how much has been paid to each contractor in respect of each project to date. [251381]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not have a central record of the information requested. A comprehensive reply cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which ICT projects his Department initiated and abandoned before completion in each year since 1997; what costs were incurred in each project; who the contractors for each were; on what date each was *(a)* commenced and *(b)* abandoned; and if he will make a statement. [251393]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not have a central record of the information requested. A comprehensive reply cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

However, I would refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by my right hon. Friend, the then Minister for Europe, Mr. Hoon, to the hon. Member for Angus (Mr. Weir) on 4 September 2006, *Official Report*, column 2044W. Since then no significant projects have been abandoned.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many complaints about advertisements sponsored or funded by his Department were made to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) in each year from 1997 to 2008; and how many of these were upheld by the ASA in each year. [246650]

Gillian Merron: None.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs at which of his Department's buildings abroad visitors are not permitted to take mobile telephones inside; what the reasons are for that practice; and whether his Department's officials may use mobile telephones in such buildings. [248458]

Gillian Merron: For security reasons, visitors to all our missions overseas are required to leave their mobile telephones at the visitor reception point. Officials working at missions are permitted to use their mobile phones only in designated areas.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has allocated for staff bonuses in 2008-09. [252255]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) uses non-consolidated, non-pensionable bonuses to encourage high performance. We pay annual bonuses to staff in the delegated grades (all except senior managers) based on appraisal evidence of annual performance. The highest rating and bonus award is given only where performance has significantly exceeded challenging objectives and may have radically transformed delivery of policy and/or services. Staff who do not meet performance standards receive no bonus. Total pay-bill for the delegated grades is £181.7 million of which 2.78 per cent. is used for non-consolidated performance payments to staff.

Variable pay (bonus) arrangements for staff in the Senior Management Structure/Senior Civil Service (SMS/SCS) of the FCO follow a framework set centrally for Whitehall Departments by the Cabinet Office. We use variable pay for SMS/SCS staff to reward excellent individual performance and achievement during the year. Variable pay decisions are based on a judgment by pay committees of what an individual has achieved in comparison with peers. Those who have delivered the best results, and shown real leadership in doing so, receive bonuses. Those who have delivered least receive nothing. Departments were authorised to spend a sum equivalent to 8.6 per cent. of their SCS pay budget on bonuses to reward SCS performance in 2008.

For the financial year 2008-09 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has allocated a maximum total sum of £7,888,852 for expenditure on non-consolidated, performance-related staff bonuses.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which external organisations his Department has engaged to provide training for fast stream civil service staff in the last three years; and how many civil servants in his Department have participated in provision of training for external organisations in that period. [252224]

Gillian Merron: The National School of Government, Centre for Political and Diplomatic Studies and Development Solutions provide training to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). New fast stream members of the FCO can also undertake a range of training in their first two years in the office, some of which may be delivered by external organisations.

Some FCO civil servants speak to new entrants at training courses run by external organisations. They do so as part of their role as serving FCO officers. We do not keep a central record of the number of FCO civil servants who have participated in this way and to obtain this information would incur a disproportionate cost.

Diego Garcia: Rendition

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1201W, on Diego Garcia: rendition, for what reasons he has not passed this information to the police; whether he has examined the possibility that criminal offences may have been committed in relation to the two rendition flights through Diego Garcia; and if he will make a statement. [246740]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* We have considered the possibility that criminal offences may have been committed in relation to the two rendition

flights through Diego Garcia. We have very limited specific information about these flights and, despite enquiry, have not been able to establish further details that would be essential for purposes of further investigation.

We welcome President Obama's Executive Orders of 22 January 2009 covering the closure of Guantanamo Bay, detainee treatment and interrogation (including the practice of rendition). These early moves demonstrate real commitment to address the challenges of violent extremism in a manner consistent with upholding human rights, civil liberties and the rule of law.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with outside organisations to discuss policy on reducing the effect of the recession on matters within his Department's responsibility. [254055]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular engagements with outside organisations including relevant Government Departments on a range of issues relating to the economy and how they impact upon the UK's foreign policy goals.

Falkland Islands

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next plans to visit the Falkland Islands. [254695]

Gillian Merron: Neither my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary nor I currently have any plans to visit the Falkland Islands. I met Falkland Islands Councillor Michael Summers OBE in October 2008, shortly after taking up my current ministerial portfolio. In addition, my hon. Friend, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Meg Munn), visited the Falkland Islands in January 2008.

India: Foreign Relations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* engagements he had in India during his recent visit. [253373]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited India from 13-15 January 2009. In New Delhi, he met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Foreign Minister Mukherjee, Home Minister Chidambaram and National Security Adviser Narayanan among others. He visited Uttar Pradesh as the guest of Rahul Gandhi and then Mumbai, where he delivered a speech on terrorism and met some of those affected by the terrorist attacks in November. He also participated in a range of useful meetings and events with various Indian politicians, civil society and the media.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the state of UK-India relations following his recent visit to India. [253374]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited India from 13-15 January 2009. The UK continues to enjoy a close and constructive relationship with India. We have extensive contacts with the Indian government and civil society on a wide range of diplomatic, political, security, economic, trade, development, scientific and cultural issues. We have an extensive network of posts in India staffed from several departments across Whitehall who work to promote UK interests in India.

Government Ministers also have regular discussions with their Indian counterparts about bilateral, regional and global issues. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is committed to improving relations with India even further in 2009 and beyond.

Iran: Politics and Government

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to *(a)* the government of Iran and *(b)* the recent Iranian delegation to London comprising five members of the Iranian-British Parliamentary Group on the disputed sovereignty of the Abu Musa, Tunb and Lesser Tunb islands in the Strait of Hormuz; and if he will make a statement. [254007]

Bill Rammell: The Government have not made any representations to the government of Iran, nor to the recent delegation of five members of the Iranian Parliament to London, on the disputed sovereignty of the Abu Musa, Tunb and Lesser Tunb islands.

The UK regards this dispute as a matter for resolution between the countries concerned.

Kashmir

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Indian counterpart about Jammu Kashmir. [254684]

Bill Rammell: On 14 January 2009, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the situation in Indian-administered Kashmir with Indian External Affairs Minister Mukherjee. The Foreign Secretary also discussed Indian-administered Kashmir with External Affairs Minister Mukherjee on 2 September 2008 and 24 October 2008.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the political situation in Gaza. [248315]

Bill Rammell: Our assessment is that the current situation in Gaza is very concerning. My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary are in close touch with their counterparts working to achieve an immediate and permanent ceasefire.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he made to *(a)* the United Nations and *(b)* the protagonists in Gaza seeking an immediate ceasefire in the conflict in Gaza between 28 December 2008 and 5 January 2009. [249165]

Bill Rammell: The UN Security Council met on 27 December 2008 to discuss the conflict in Gaza. On 28 December 2008, a UK-French proposal for a press statement calling for an immediate halt to violence was agreed. On 1 January 2009, we started looking at suitable language which ultimately became UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1860. Throughout this period, the UK was in continuous communication with key partners at the UN. Following three days of Security Council meetings, which were attended by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, UNSCR 1860 was adopted on 8 January 2009.

We were in continuous dialogue with the Israeli Government and Palestinian Authority.

We do not believe it is productive to talk to Hamas directly until it makes significant movement towards the Quartet principles of rejecting violence, accepting Israel's right to exist and recognising previous agreements. The Arab League has mandated Egypt to communicate with Hamas. We are in regular contact with both the Arab League and Egypt.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to Israel on the use of white phosphorus shells in Gaza in the last 12 months. [249211]

Bill Rammell: We are very concerned about reports of white phosphorus ammunition being used by the Israeli defence force in Gaza. We have made this clear directly to both the Foreign Ministry and Defence Ministry in Tel Aviv.

I have also made clear to the House that Gaza is an exceptionally densely populated area where white phosphorus used as an air burst is liable to cause particularly horrific injuries to non-combatants. We consider such use in these circumstances unacceptable.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to take into account the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on Israel's wall in the West Bank when implementing the human rights provisions of the EU-Israel trade agreement; and if he will make a statement. [250294]

Bill Rammell: The Government agree with the conclusion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that construction of the barrier along the chosen route, and its associated regime, is unlawful under international law. Building the barrier on occupied land is contrary to international law.

The Government have consistently made this position clear and supported the United Nations General Assembly Resolution which acknowledged the ICJ advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the construction of the barrier in the occupied Palestinian territory.

While the implementation of the provisions of EU agreements is the business of the European Commission, we continue to value the platform that the EU/Israel Association Agreement gives EU member states to raise their concerns, such as those concerning the route of the barrier, with the Government of Israel.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Israeli Ambassador on the use of white phosphorus shells in Gaza since 27 December 2008. [250418]

Bill Rammell: We are very concerned about reports of white phosphorus ammunition being used by the Israeli Defence Forces in Gaza. We have made this clear directly to both the Foreign Ministry and Defence Ministry in Tel Aviv.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey of 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 116, on Palestine, what steps he has taken to ensure that allegations that the Israeli defence force used *(a)* white phosphorus and *(b)* dense inert metal explosive bombs during its recent actions in Gaza are investigated by international agencies. [253452]

Bill Rammell: We are gravely concerned at widespread allegations that Israel and Hamas have violated international humanitarian law. These allegations have been made publicly by credible organisations such as the United Nations and International Committee of the Red Cross. During his 19 January 2009 statement, *Official Report*, column 501, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary called for them to be closely and speedily investigated.

We expect Israel to investigate allegations made against its forces, and have made this clear to the Israeli Government.

In addition, the UN Human Rights Council has decided to send an international fact-finding mission to investigate violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law by Israel in Gaza.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government is involved in an international investigation on whether war crimes were committed by Israel in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [253932]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 3 February 2009]*: We are gravely concerned at widespread allegations that Israel and Hamas have violated international humanitarian law. During his statement to Parliament of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 501, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary called for them to be closely and speedily investigated.

The UN Secretary-General has launched a Board of Inquiry into the shelling of UN premises in Gaza. The UK fully supports this inquiry and we urge all parties to co-operate with it.

We also expect Israel to investigate allegations made against its forces, and have made this clear to the Israeli Government.

In addition, the UN Human Rights Council has decided to send an international fact-finding mission to investigate violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law by Israel in Gaza.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 604W, on the Middle East: armed conflict, what the reasons are for the Government's policy on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [254064]

Bill Rammell: We assess all arms export applications on a case by case basis against the criteria covered by the EU Common Position on arms export controls which creates legal obligations on the UK to consider arms export licence applications in this way. We believe this provides a transparent, consistent and effective way to manage responsibly the export of arms from the UK. My right hon. Friend the late Robin Cook when Foreign Secretary explained in this House why we have adopted this policy in his response to my right hon. Friend the Member for East Ham (Mr. Timms) on 28 July 1997, *Official Report*, column 26. My right hon. Friend, the then Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr. Hain), reiterated this explanation in his answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Crawley (Laura Moffatt) on 26 October 2000, *Official Report*, column 199W.

In assessing current licence applications for Israel we take very carefully into account the recent conflict in the region. We will not authorise an export if to do so would be inconsistent with the criteria in the EU Common Position on arms export controls: this includes, for example, where there is a clear risk of exports being used either for internal repression or for external aggression the export licence is not granted.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports the Government has received on war crimes allegedly committed by the government of Israel during Operation Cast Lead; and if he will make a statement. [251106]

Bill Rammell: We are gravely concerned at widespread allegations that Israel and Hamas have violated international humanitarian law. These allegations have been made publicly by credible organisations such as the UN and International Committee of the Red Cross. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary called for them to be closely and speedily investigated in his statement to Parliament of 19 January 2009, Official *Report*, column 501.

The UN Secretary-General has launched a Board of Inquiry into the shelling of UN premises in Gaza. The UK fully supports this inquiry and we urge all parties to co-operate with it.

We also expect Israel to investigate allegations made against its forces, and have made this clear to the Israeli government.

Saudi Arabia: Festivals and Special Occasions

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his most recent correspondence with the British Ambassador in Saudi Arabia on the Hajj pilgrimage and Mr. Gorgi took place; when he last met the Ambassador to discuss the Hajj pilgrimage; how many British citizens *(a)* sustained injuries and *(b)* died of unnatural causes while making the Hajj pilgrimage in the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years; and what estimate he has made of the number of UK residents who travelled to Saudi Arabia to undertake the pilgrimage in each of the last five years. [250814]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is in regular contact with our ambassador in Saudi Arabia who keeps him appraised of issues including the Hajj. And the ambassador and his staff are in regular contact with the Minister of Hajj and Ministry officials. The ambassador's most recent correspondence with Mr. Gorgi was in August 2008 in reply to your letter of 2 July 2008. During the 2008 Hajj there were no reports of British nationals sustaining injuries and no deaths from unnatural causes which is the same for 2007. In December 2006 there were three deaths and 30 sustained injuries in a coach crash, in January 2006 three died in a stampede and two sustained injuries and in 2005 and 2004 there were no deaths from unnatural causes and no injuries.

The numbers of British nationals making pilgrimages over the last five years are 18,604 in 2008, 21,715 in 2007, 24,000 in December 2006, 25,000 in January 2006, 27,910 in 2005 and 22,270 in 2004.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the level of risk to which British civilians in Sri Lanka are exposed. [251099]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 29 January 2009]*: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Travel Advice sets out our view of the risk to Britons in Sri Lanka. It is regularly reviewed and updated. Our Travel Advice currently advises against all travel to the north and east of Sri Lanka and to Yala National Park and all the areas around it. The current Travel Advice also highlights that there is a high threat from terrorism in Sri Lanka and that further attacks may occur at any time.

For further details see:

www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/travel-advice-by-country

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* civilian and *(b)* military casualties in the recent fighting in the Tamil areas of Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [253469]

Bill Rammell: We are seriously concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation and reports of civilian casualties. It is not possible to obtain accurate information on civilian and military casualties, due to the ongoing military hostilities and the lack of independent information emerging from northern Sri Lanka.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of allegations that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam used the 48-hour time frame granted by the Sri Lankan government for safe passage for civilians to regroup and mount attacks on the Sri Lankan security forces. [250825]

Bill Rammell: The UK continues to have serious concerns about the humanitarian and security situation in northern Sri Lanka. The military hostilities and the lack of independent information coming out of the conflict area make it difficult to get accurate information. However, in spite of calls for a 48-hour ceasefire to allow civilians safe passage to government controlled areas, there is little evidence to suggest that there was any significant cessation of hostilities on the ground by

other party. In addition, we are aware that a female suicide bomber blew herself up as she travelled with civilians fleeing the fighting while being checked by Sri Lanka government soldiers, killing at least 29 people and injuring dozens more.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for the Sudanese peace process of the arrest of Hassan al-Turabi; and if he will make a statement. [253823]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 3 February 2009]*: Dr. Hassan al-Turabi is not directly involved in either the Darfur peace process or the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). However, the arrest and detention without trial of a senior opposition political figure does not contribute to a political atmosphere in which free and fair national elections can be held, as required by the CPA.

We continue to call upon the government of Sudan to guarantee its citizens the basic rights and freedoms enshrined in the Bill of Rights of the Interim National Constitution.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the adequacy of levels of co-ordination of international efforts to promote peace and development in Sudan. [248330]

Gillian Merron: International efforts to promote peace and development in Sudan are co-ordinated through a broad range of organisations and forums. In addition to formal co-ordination via the multilateral system, we support the Assessment and Evaluation Commission, which monitors the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and secured the appointment of Sir Derek Plumbly as its chair. We have consulted closely with the African Union/UN Joint Chief Mediator, Djibril Bassolé since his appointment in June 2008 and encouraged those wishing to contribute to peace efforts, such as civil society organisations and other international partners, to work with him. We have led efforts to co-ordinate development policy through the Sudan Consortium, and the UK is one of six donors delivering development through the Joint Donor Office, which has become a focal point for donor co-ordination in southern Sudan.

United Arab Emirates: Politics and Government

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from the United Arab Emirates government on the disputed sovereignty of the Abu Musa, Tunb and Lesser Tunb islands in the Strait of Hormuz; and if he will make a statement. [254006]

Bill Rammell: The Government have received no such representations. We would support any solution acceptable to both parties.

Zimbabwe: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likelihood of success of current attempts to form a coalition government in Zimbabwe. [254117]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary issued a statement on 30 January 2009 following the acceptance by the Movement for Democratic Change of the power sharing accord brokered at the South African Development Community summit on 26 January 2009. The statement, which gives his assessment on the recent political developments in Zimbabwe, can be viewed at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=News&id=13022532

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Career Structure

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees were promoted from Band B (Administrative Officer) to Band C (Executive Officer) in his Department in 2008; how many of these were under 21 years at the time of taking up the Band C post; and how many Band C employees in his Department are under the age of 22 years. [252985]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows the number of staff promoted from Band B to Band C in the Department in 2008. Also included in the table is the number of those staff promoted who were under 21 years and finally, the total number of Band C staff employed at 31 December 2008 who are under 22 years.

	Number
Band B to Band C promotees	2,936
Those promotees under 21 years old	5
Total number of Band C employees under 22 years old	27

Departmental Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2024-5W, on redundancy, what estimate he has made of the annual payroll savings accruing to his Department as a result of staff exit schemes in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09 excluding the cost of severance packages; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [254425]

Jonathan Shaw: The savings for staff exit schemes are shown in the following table. Information on savings is not held on an in year basis but is calculated by taking into account the total salary savings up to ten years after the exit or when the member of staff reaches age 60, whichever is earlier.

Estimated savings

	£ million
2005-06	540
2006-07	240
2007-08	320
2008-09	25

Note:
2008-09 figure is up to end of January 2009

Savings are calculated in line with normal Government accounting principles and are on a net present value basis.

No estimates of savings have been made for 2009-10 and 2010-11 as latest workforce planning forecasts indicate there will be minimal, if any, use of exit schemes over these years.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which external organisations his Department has engaged to provide training for fast stream civil service staff in the last three years; and how many civil servants in his Department have participated in provision of training for external organisations in that period. [252219]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP fast streamers have undertaken training with a number of external organisations. The information available is listed as follows. Records for 2006-07 are not held. In addition, most fast streamers will have undertaken other training as part and parcel of their specific jobs which will have been funded within the respective businesses; these records are not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

2008-09 Suppliers

Trekforce
National School for Government
Speak Languages
Blazie Engineering
Dale Carnegie
Parity
The University of London
Westminster Explained
Birkbeck College
York University
The Open University
Newcastle University
Raleigh International
Skern Lodge

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the internal guidance used by his Department to assign traffic light gradings to Parliamentary Questions. [258383]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1075W.

Employment and Support Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of applicants for employment support allowance have successfully passed the Work Capabilities Assessment since it was introduced; and if he will make a statement. [246640]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP will be publishing National Statistics on employment and support allowance in summer 2009.

Employment Schemes

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with the preferred bidders for implementation of the welfare-to-work programme; and when he expects to announce the outcomes of the bidding process. [257701]

Mr. McNulty: Preferred bidders for Flexible New Deal contracts have not yet been identified.

We will inform bidders who have been shortlisted in April, with contracts being awarded by the end of May 2009.

Employment: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to maintain specialist expertise in the *(a)* procurement and *(b)* delivery of specialist disability employment services during the current consultation exercise. [259120]

Jonathan Shaw: Following the recommendations made in the Government's White Paper, "Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future", DWP has been discussing with specialist providers of employment support and representatives of disabled people how best to implement our decisions. These discussions have included workshops across England, Scotland and Wales covering the design of the new provision and the commercial approach to procuring the programme.

The commissioning and procurement will follow the principles set out in the Commissioning Strategy, Cm 7330, in adopting a prime contracting strategy that will allow niche, specialist providers to play their full part.

Industrial Health and Safety: Nuclear Power

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of the budget of *(a)* the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, *(b)* the Office for Civil Nuclear Security and *(c)* the Health and Safety Executive is allocated for administration costs in 2008-09. [259945]

Jonathan Shaw: The answer is provided in the following table:

Table 1 : 2008-09

	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate	*Office for Civil Nuclear Safety*	*Percentage Health and Safety Executive (including Nil and OCNS)*
Staffing costs as a percentage of total forecast expenditure[1]	73	59	49
Other Administration costs as a percentage of total forecast expenditure[2]	7	11	29
Total Administration costs as a percentage of total forecast expenditure	80	70	78

[1] Staffing costs cover permanent staff payroll costs and the cost of staff substitutes such as agency workers.
[2] Other Administration costs for Nil and OCNS include other general administration expenditure such as the cost of travel, training and consumables but exclude budgets managed centrally such as estate costs, IS/IT and other centrally managed functions. Conversely, the HSE "Other Administration Costs" have no such exclusions.

Pension Schemes

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements are in place to aid those customers unable to use personal identification numbers in relation to their pension payments. [257669]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Customers unable to use personal identification numbers (PINs) can be paid into an account that offers alternative access arrangements (for example a chip and signature card or building society passbook). They could also access their money by cashing a personal cheque or, where appropriate, allowing a third party access to their account. Those who are unable to operate an account of any kind are currently paid by cheque.

Pensions Ombudsman

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* directions he has issued to the Pensions Ombudsman on the exercise of its discretion not to investigate cases. [258742]

Ms Rosie Winterton: None. The Pensions Ombudsman is an independent commissioner. It would be improper for Ministers to seek to influence the exercise of his discretion.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1644W, on Post Office card account, if he will publish the normal principles of commercial confidentiality applied by his Department. [258134]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The normal principles of commercial confidentiality applied by this Department have been published in the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act working assumptions document which is derived from the FOI Act itself. The working assumptions document is available on the Ministry of Justice website under FOI procurement guidance

www.justice.gov.uk/guidance/foi-assumptions-procurement.htm.

Social Fund

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish the results of the consultation on the Social Fund conducted by his Department in November 2008. [255127]

Kitty Usher: The results and response to the informal consultation document The Social Fund: A new approach". Were published on 23 February on the DWP website:

www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2008/sf-new-approach-response.pdf

Social Security Benefits

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has any plans to amend the processing of benefits claims by ending the requirement for documents to be physically moved or sent by fax between benefit offices. [255365]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 9 February 2009]*: Our strategy is to remove paper from the benefit administration process as far as possible.

The Pensions, Disability and Carers Service has just conducted a pilot of an electronic document management system within one of the pension centres whereby all incoming documents are electronically scanned. Subject to evaluation this will be introduced nationally to the other pension centres beginning later this year and consideration is being given to its introduction into disability benefit operations. This system will end the need to physically pass documents between offices as they will be available electronically from a central source.

Jobcentre Plus is about to begin a project looking at the scope for paper reduction across its processes. The ability to transfer and store information electronically will be considered as part of that process.

Social Security Benefits: Telephone Services

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for each type of benefit claimed through call centres, what the *(a)* average processing time and *(b)* number of new benefit claims waiting to be processed was in respect of claims made through each call centre in each of the last 24 months. [251408]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 26 January 2009]*: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions about the average processing times, and number of new benefit claims waiting to be processed in respect of all Jobcentre Plus call centres over the last 24 months. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I have placed the available information in the Library.

I hope this is helpful.

Unemployment Benefits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to review the provision of contribution-based out of work benefits; and if he will make a statement. [259119]

Mr. McNulty: We keep the benefit system under continuous review to ensure that it continues to provide effective and appropriate support to people. This includes ongoing consideration of the contributory principle and contribution conditions for individual benefits. For example, we have reviewed the provision of contributory Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance, as set out in the White Paper "Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future." (CM: 7506)

The Welfare Reform Bill, which was introduced on 14 January 2009, contains clauses to give effect to the planned changes. We want to modernise access to contributory benefits, strengthen the link to recent employment and simply the benefits system.

Vocational Training

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the progression to work pathfinder programmes are to be delivered *(a)* wholly and *(b)* partially by (i) Jobcentre Plus, (ii) a private sector provider and (iii) a voluntary sector provider. [255516]

Mr. McNulty: The Progression to Work pathfinders will, subject to the successful passage of the current Welfare Reform Bill, start in late 2010 and cover around 10-15 per cent. of the new employment and support allowance claimants and parents with younger children.

It is likely that employment and support allowance claimants will be supported through a mix of Jobcentre Plus and private and voluntary sector providers, with some further specialist services provided by the national health service and specialist private and voluntary sector providers. This reflects the current balance of activity within the Pathways to Work programme. For parents with younger children, it is likely that the pathfinders will be delivered through a mix of Jobcentre Plus and private and voluntary sector providers, delivering assistance through the Jobcentre Plus Support Contract.

Winter Fuel Payments

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) which of the weather stations used for determining the payment of cold weather payments have recorded temperatures of zero degrees celsius or less on seven consecutive days since 25 December 2008; and how many days each such weather station recorded below freezing temperatures in each interval of cold weather in that period; [269437]

(2) which weather stations used to determine cold weather payments have recorded temperatures below freezing on *(a)* two, *(b)* three, *(c)* four, *(d)* five, *(e)* six and *(f)* seven or more consecutive days since 25 December 2008. [269445]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested regarding recorded temperatures on consecutive days is not held by this department as this is not how the award of cold weather payments is determined.

A cold weather payment is made to an eligible customer when the average temperature has been recorded as, or is forecast to be, 0°C or below over seven consecutive days at the weather station linked to the customer's postcode. What matters is actually the average temperature over seven consecutive days, rather than the temperatures on seven consecutive days. For example, if the temperatures at a weather station on seven consecutive days were 0, 1, 0, -1, 0, 0, 0, then the average temperature over the seven consecutive days would be 0 and cold weather payments would be made for that week, even though the temperature on one day was actually greater than 0.

The following table provides information on the number of cold weather payment triggers this winter.

Cold weather payment triggers by weather station in Great Britain so far this season—triggers notified to 12 February 2009

Weather station	Admin area	Number of triggers
Aberporth	Ceredigion	1
Albemarle	Northumberland	4
Andrewsfield	Essex	3
Aultbea	Highland	0
Avemore	Highland	5
Bedford	Bedfordshire	3
Bingley	West Yorkshire	3
Bishopton	Renfrewshire	2
Boscombe Down	Wiltshire	3
Boulmer	Northumberland	0
Braemar	Aberdeenshire	6
Brize Norton	Oxfordshire	2
Camborne (Redmore)	Cornwall	1
Carlisle	Cumbria	3
Cawdry	Highland	4
Charlwood	West Sussex	3
Charterhall	Scottish Borders	2
Chivenor	Devon	1
Coleshill	Warwickshire	3
Crosby	Merseyside	1
Culdrose	Cornwall	0
Dumfermuss	Dumfries and Galloway	2
Dunkeswell Aerodrome	Devon	3
Dyce (Aberdeen Airport)	Aberdeen	1
Edinburgh Gogarbank	Edinburgh	1
Eskdalemuir	Dumfries and Galloway	6
Filton	South Gloucestershire	2
Heathrow	Greater London	11
Hereford-Credenhill	Herefordshire	2
Herstmonceux West End	East Sussex	1
High Wycombe	Buckinghamshire	3
Hurn (Bournemouth Airport)	Dorset	2
Isle of Portland	Dorset	0
Kinloss	Moray	3
Kirkwall	Orkney	0
Lake Vyrnwy	Powys	3
Leconfield	East Riding of Yorkshire	0
Lerwick	Shetland	1
Lossiemouth	Fife	2
Linton-on-Ouse	North Yorkshire	2

Cold weather payment triggers by weather station in Great Britain so far this season—triggers notified to 12 February 2009

Weather station	*Admin area*	*Number of triggers*
Liscombe	Somerset	4
Loch Glascarnoch	Highland	6
Loftus	Redcar and Cleveland	1
Lusa	Highland	1
Lyneham	Wiltshire	3
Machrihanish	Argyll and Bute	0
Manston	Kent	1
Marham	Norfolk	1
Norwich Airport	Norfolk	1
Nottingham	Nottinghamshire	2
Pembrey Sands	Carmarthenshire	1
Plymouth	Plymouth	0
Redesdale	Northumberland	4
Rhyl	Denbighshire	2
St. Athan	Vale of Glamorgan	1
St. Catherine's Point	Isle of Wight	0
Salsburgh	North Lanarkshire	3
Scilly St. Mary	Isles of Scilly	0
Sennybridge	Powys	4
Shap	Cumbria	5
Shawbury	Shropshire	2
South Farnborough	Hampshire	3
Stornoway Airport	Western Isles	0
Thorney Island	West Sussex	1
Tiree	Argyll and Bute	0
Trawsgoed	Ceredigion	2
Tulloch Bridge	Highland	5
Valley	Anglesey	0
Waddington	Lincolnshire	2
Walney Island	Cumbria	0
Wattisham	Suffolk	3
West Freugh	Dumfries and Galloway	0
Wick Airport	Highland	1
Wittering	Peterborough	3
Woodford	Greater Manchester	4
Yeovilton	Somerset	3
Great Britain		154

Note:
The admin area gives the location of each weather station, not the area which is linked to the weather station. For example, Heathrow weather station covers almost all of Greater London, but not all of it, and some areas outside Greater London are linked to Heathrow weather station.
Source:
Admin areas for weather stations: the Met Office, October 2008

Winter Fuel Payments: Overseas Residence

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many winter fuel payments were made to persons living outside the UK in the financial year 1996-97; [242848]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of winter fuel payments made to persons living in *(a)* Spain, *(b)* Italy, *(c)* Greece, *(d)* Portugal and *(e)* other countries outside the UK in the last financial year. [242849]

Ms Rosie Winterton: People are not able to get a winter fuel payment in another European economic area country if they left the United Kingdom before 5 January 1998. This is because they will have left before the scheme began.

Following a decision in 2002, people who previously qualified for a winter fuel payment in Great Britain may be able to continue receiving payments if they move to other European economic area countries or, from 2002-03, move to Switzerland.

Figures for 2007-08 are as shown in the following table, we expect the figures to be similar for 2008-09.

Winter fuel payments made to the following countries: 2007-08

Country	*Number*
Spain	27,270
Italy	921
Greece	864
Portugal	1163
Other countries outside UK	25,315

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business Link

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff were employed by Business Link in each region in each year since Business Link was established. [247533]

Ian Pearson: The number of staff employed by Business Link in each region in each year for 2006-07 and 2007-08 is shown in the following table.

	2006-07	*2007-08*
North West	384	246
North East	275	348
Yorkshire	325	337
East Midlands	168	178
West Midlands	126	240
East of England	175	200
London	160	118
South East	340	363
South West	288	307
Total	2,241	2,337

Staff numbers are shown as full-time equivalents employed by the Business Link provider(s) in each region. The number of staff employed includes all frontline staff, adviser support and back-office staff (in some instances this includes those delivering other programmes, for instance European funded programmes which are not BL branded).

Business Link started in 1992 and has undergone two major rationalisations, in 1998 with the creation of the Small Business service and in 2007 when day-to-day management was devolved to the RDAs. Consequently, staffing data prior to 2007 are not available.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost of maintaining the databases owned and managed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies was in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [256138]

Mr. McFadden: For the last 10 years the Department's, and its predecessors, IT services have in the main been provided through a PFI agreement with Fujitsu Services and covers the provision of all desktop services, web infrastructure services, document management and other business database applications. As such the Department does not actually own any databases it uses but rather pays a service charge for maintenance and support of them. In the years in question the Department has paid, or is paying, the following for maintenance of its database services, (based on financial years of 1 April to 31 March):

	£ million
2006	2.4
2007	2.6
2008	3.0

The variance in costs is accounted for by the end of some database services and the introduction of others, plus, where appropriate, agreed inflation increases.

The above figures exclude databases used by the Energy Group, previously part of BERR but now part of DECC. The costs for their databases in the years in question are as follows:

	£ million
2006	1.0
2007	1.0
2008	1.5

The Department does not maintain central records of databases owned and managed by its agencies so I have approached the chief executives of The Insolvency Service and Companies House and they will respond to you directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 26 February 2009:

I refer to your question (2008/1105), to ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, what the cost of maintaining the databases owned and managed by (a) his Department and (b) its agencies was in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008.

I have been asked to reply for The Insolvency Service, which is an executive agency of that department.

The cost of maintaining databases owned and managed by The Insolvency Service are as follows:

	£
2006/07	100,898
2007/08	368,483
2008/09	153,835

Please note that the costs are for Financial years, rather than calendar years and we have estimated the total cost of 2008/09.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 26 February 2009:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 5 February 2009, UIN 256138, to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

The cost of maintaining the databases owned and managed by Companies House was as follows:

Year	Cost (£)
2006	3,863,000
2007	4,389,000
2008	2,544,000

Departmental Impact Assessments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many equalities impact assessments his Department has undertaken in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such assessments. [255060]

Ian Pearson: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform produced six equality impact assessments during the period April 2007 to March 2008. They are listed at pages 106-7 of the Department's Annual Report and Accounts, which is available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/aboutus/corporate/performance/annual-spending/page47093.html

The estimate of the cost to the public purse of producing such assessments could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Furniture: Credit

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will monitor the effects on the furniture industry of the withdrawal of credit insurance. [255834]

Ian Pearson: This Department is currently in discussions with the credit insurance industry regarding the withdrawal of credit insurance.

We welcome continued engagement between representatives of the furniture industry and this Department on this issue and others.

Iraq

Dr. Fox: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many civil servants from his Department have worked in *(a)* Basra, *(b)* Baghdad and *(c)* other locations in Iraq in each month since 2005. [245095]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment's representation in Baghdad included one UK based civil servant between January 2005 and July 2007. One other UK based civil servant was employed in Basra between January 2005 and August 2006.

UKTI is increasing its presence in Iraq and has recently employed two new locally engaged officers in Baghdad to support British companies, in addition to two private sector business specialists.

Newspaper Press

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what programmes his Department has to assist the newspaper printing industry, with particular reference to printers of local newspapers. [253110]

Ian Pearson: The Department provided £2.3 million funding over five years starting in 2002 to set up Vision in Print, a print industry forum, aimed at driving up the efficiency and competitiveness of the UK printing industry. Vision in Print continues to provide support to many

UK printers today. The Department was also involved in a number of initiatives to support the industry including part funding a technology mapping report aimed at providing a better understanding of future technology needs and the direction of the UK print industry.

As with other sectors, the printing industry has access to the Government's Real Help for Business programme which is currently helping all UK businesses deal with the immediate financial and economic challenges. Further to announcements made by the Chancellor in the pre-Budget report, a new package of support to address the cash flow, credit and capital needs of businesses was announced on 14 January.

The regional development agencies are also a source of local support to companies in their region, which includes companies in the printing industry.

Pharmaceuticals

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has had with representatives of the biopharmaceutical industry on the effects of the economic downturn on levels of innovation in their industry. [255646]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 11 February 2009]:* I met various representatives of small and medium sized biotechnology companies on 29 January 2009. A number of issues were raised concerning the current economic environment and its impact on the bioscience sector, although the issue of innovation was not specifically raised.

On 27 January 2009, my noble Friend, the Minister for Economic Competitiveness and Small Business participated in a meeting of biopharmaceutical business leaders, chaired by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister. The overarching aim of the meeting was to identify a long-term framework to help the UK maintain its world class bio-pharmaceutical industry, including measures to encourage research and reward innovation.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what support his Department provides for small and medium-sized companies in the biopharmaceutical industry. [255647]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 11 February 2009]:* The Government recognise that many companies across the economy are facing challenges because of the tougher credit conditions and that is why my noble Friend the Secretary of State announced a package of measures last month to address the cash flow, credit and investment needs of small and medium sized companies. Businesses, including firms in the biopharmaceutical industry, can find out about eligibility for the new schemes from Real Help for Businesses Now web page hosted by Business Link: http://www.businesslink.gov.uk

The biopharmaceutical industry is important to the UK economy and the Government are alert to the challenges and changing needs of the sector. In view of this, the Government invited Sir David Cooksey to chair an independent review of the 2003 Bioscience Innovation and Growth Team Report "Bioscience 2015" to measure progress against its 2015 vision and to identify new ideas and proposals that could positively affect the future competitiveness of the UK biosciences sector. The Review and Refresh of Bioscience 2015 was published on 22 January 2009 and its recommendations are currently being considered by the Government. A formal response will be issued in the spring.

Small Businesses: Closures

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of small businesses which have closed in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* the UK in each of the last 12 weeks. [249838]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* Quarterly data on business closures are not available.

Annual data on the number of enterprise closures for 2007 (latest data available) are published by the Office for National Statistics in the Business Demography publication, which is available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=15186&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422.

Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will increase the funding available under the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme. [254905]

Ian Pearson: The enterprise finance guarantee (EFG) was launched on 14 January 2009, replacing the small firms loan guarantee (SFLG).

For further details on EFG I refer my hon. Friend to the answer my right hon. Friend the Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs gave on 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1457W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Brighton, Kemptown (Dr. Turner).

Sri Lanka: Arms Trade

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what monetary value of defence equipment sales to Sri Lanka was for *(a)* lethal and *(b)* non-lethal equipment in each of the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [257297]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The Government publish detailed information on export licences issued, refused and revoked, by destination, including the overall value and a summary of the items covered by these licences, in its Annual and Quarterly Reports on Strategic Export Controls.

The Government's Annual Reports, published since 1997, and Quarterly Reports, published since 2004, are available from the Libraries of the House and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website at

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/publications/annual-reports/export-controls1.

The reports do not distinguish between lethal and non-lethal equipment, which would in practice require a subjective judgment. The reports do however make a distinction between military and dual-use goods, which are separately identified according to the relevant control lists.

The Government do not approve any defence related exports if it judges that there is a clear risk that they will be used in contravention of the Consolidated Criteria, including for external aggression or internal repression. We routinely refuse export licences where we believe there is a risk of this, and have refused a number of licences to Sri Lanka on this basis.

Working Capital Scheme

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Working Capital Scheme has been approved by the European Commission. [256166]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 11 February 2009]:* The Commission's approval for this scheme is being sought under the terms of the Commission Communication 2009/C 10/03 "The recapitalisation of financial institutions in the current financial crisis" published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 15 January 2009.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

National Fraud Reporting Centre

7. **James Brokenshire:** To ask the Solicitor-General when the National Fraud Reporting Centre will be fully operational; and if she will make a statement. [258809]

The Solicitor-General: The National Fraud Reporting Centre (NFRC) consists of an Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) and Reporting Centre.

An NFIB pilot is under way and has identified new counter-fraud intelligence, which is being investigated. Discussions are under way with potential suppliers for provision of a final solution.

The NFRC will offer the public and small businesses web and telephone-based services to report non-urgent frauds and receive fraud prevention advice. This service is planned for a national roll-out towards the end of 2009, with a regional pilot starting in summer 2009.

Rape: Prosecution Policy

8. **Martin Linton:** To ask the Solicitor-General what recent representations she has received on prosecution policy in rape cases. [258810]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service has recently received representations on its policy on prosecuting rape cases. With my approval, the CPS has refreshed its policy statement to reflect those representations, as well as changes in the law and practice, a number of initiatives to assist victims in giving evidence and to address again the myths and stereotypes that are thought to sometimes wrongly influence juries. The refreshed policy statement will be published shortly.

Attorney-General

Simon Hughes: To ask the Solicitor-General what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on the role of the Attorney-General. [258805]

The Solicitor-General: The Government are still looking in detail at the proposals on the future role of the Attorney-General, in light of the recommendations of the Joint Committee on the draft Constitutional Renewal Bill and the Justice Committee. While that is going on, the Attorney-General and I continue to discharge the role of dispensing independent legal advice to the Government, upholding the rule of law and superintending the prosecution services.

Negligence: Parents

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Solicitor-General how many cases of parental neglect have been brought by the Crown Prosecution Service in *(a)* England and *(b)* Northamptonshire in the last three years for which figures are available. [258913]

The Solicitor-General: Cases of parental neglect are usually brought under s1(1) Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (cruelty to a person under 16). The following table shows the number of these offences in which a prosecution commenced and reached a first hearing in each of the last three years.

Section 1 of the 1933 Act relates to offences committed by persons with responsibility for a child or young person, not just to parents, and it is not possible to identify from the records held by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) how many of the relevant offences were committed by a parent.

Crown Prosecution Service: offences reaching a hearing in magistrates court

s1(1) Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (parental neglect)

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
England	1,395	1,448	1,474
Northamptonshire	18	12	4
England and Wales	1,535	1,567	1,592

Theft: Prosecutions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Solicitor-General how many successful prosecutions have been brought for offences of *(a)* theft and *(b)* burglary from shops in the last three months. [258812]

The Solicitor-General: The records maintained by the Crown Prosecution Service do not separately identify cases of theft or burglary from shops. The information could be retrieved by locating and examining individual case records, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost—Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, part 2, clause 9.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Arrests: Mentally Ill People

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests of a person with a mental health disorder took place in each of the last five years. [258340]

Mr. Coaker: The data requested are not collected centrally The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) recorded by the police forces in England and Wales.

From the data on arrests reported to the Home Office it is not possible to separate data for the number of arrests of a person with a mental health disorder.

Asylum

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons solicitors acting for the applicant in Home Office case ref no. LR2184026425 have not received a substantive response to the application for their client's settlement under policy DP069/99; and if she will make a statement. [259034]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member for Thurrock on 25 February 2009.

Asylum: Ethiopia

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applications made by Ethiopian citizens and their dependants were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused (i) by the UK Border Agency and (ii) on appeal to the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal in (A) each of the last five years and (B) at the latest date in 2009 for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [258995]

Mr. Woolas: The accompanying tables show the available information on initial decisions made on applications for asylum from nationals of Ethiopia, from 2004 to 2008, including grants and refusals of asylum. It also shows the outcome of appeals against refusal of asylum by Ethiopian nationals between 2004 and 2008.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Statistics for Q1 2009 will be available in May 2009 from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Initial decisions[1,2] on asylum applications received in the United Kingdom, including dependants, 2004 to 2008, nationals of Ethiopia

		Decisions			
Ethiopia	*Total decisions*	*Grants of asylum*	*Grants of humanitarian protection*	*Grants of discretionary leave*	*Total refusals*
2004	710	15	—	130	565
2005	435	10	—	40	385
2006	250	20	—	20	210
2007[3]	120	30	—	10	85
2008[3]	90	15	—	5	65

[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5, (— = 0, * = 1 or 2).
[2] Information is of initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
[3] Provisional figures.

Appeals outcomes determined by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal[1], excluding dependants, nationals of Ethiopia, 2004 to 2008

		Principal appellants					
		Appeals determined by Immigration Judges[2]					
		Allowed[3]		Dismissed[3]		Withdrawn[3,4]	
Ethiopia	*Total determined[3]*	*Total*	*As percentage of determined*	*Total*	*As percentage of determined*	*Total*	*As percentage of determined*
2004[5]	830	220	27	580	70	25	3
2005	655	160	25	485	74	10	2
2006	210	60	28	140	67	10	5
2007[6]	155	45	30	105	66	5	4
2008[6]	55	15	29	35	64	5	7

[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5 (except percentages), with '*' = 1 or 2. Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
[2] All figures for appeals determined are cases dealt with by Immigration Judges.
[3] Based on information supplied by the AIT. Determinations do not necessarily relate to appeals received in the same period.
[4] Figures include cases withdrawn by the Home Office, as well as those withdrawn by the appellant.
[5] Data on appeal outcomes are derived from Immigration and Nationality Directorate electronic sources.
[6] Provisional figures.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for asylum were made by Ethiopian citizens and their dependants *(a)* on grounds of political opinion and *(b)* in total in (i) each of the last five years and (ii) at the latest date in 2009 for which figures are available. [258996]

Mr. Woolas: The number of Ethiopian nationals who applied for asylum on political grounds between 2004 and 2008 and from the beginning of 2009 to date would be available by examination of individual case-files only at disproportionate cost.

The accompanying table shows the available information on applications for asylum for nationals of Ethiopia, 2004 to 2008.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Statistics for the first quarter of 2009 will be available in May 2009 from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum applications[1] received in the United Kingdom, including dependants 2004 to 2008, nationals of Ethiopia

Number of persons

Ethiopia	*Applications*		
	Total	*Port*	*In country*
2004	585	140	445
2005	425	50	375
2006	215	30	185
2007[2]	90	15	80
2008[2]	140	10	125

[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5, (— = 0, * = 1 or 2)
[2] Provisional figures

Departmental Mass Media

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* keywords and *(b)* terms her Department has monitored in the media in each of the last three years. [240954]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* For the period in question the following terms for national and regional print media monitoring were used (Annex 1). These terms continue to be used for our national print media monitoring. A separate set of keywords has been used for regional print media since 1 November 2008 (Annex 2). A further set of themes (Annex 3) was used to monitor coverage of the National Offender Management Service for the period in question until this policy transferred to the newly created Ministry of Justice.

Annex 1:

Home Office national and regional cuts themes

Policing, security, crime and community safety

Policing and Security

Major police operations

Police reform

Changes to Police force structures

Police clear-up rates and detection rates

Neighbourhood policing

Changes to police powers and procedures

Home Office's Police Standards Unit

Police Pay and conditions inc pensions, overtime

Police funding and resourcing

Occupational health and police sickness

Manpower and recruitment

Special Constables

Civilian support staff inc. Community Support Officers

Police equipment including scientific research and development, criticisms, TETRA, Airwave, Police Scientific and Development Branch

Less lethal alternatives to firearms—tasers, CS gas, etc.

Police corruption, complaints, discipline

Independent Police Complaints Authority (IPCC)

Very significant stories about individual police authorities, chief constables and forces

Major speeches or articles by individual Chief Constables

Significant coverage of the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Police Federation, and the Association of Police Authorities, particularly if they are either supportive or critical of Home Office policy.

All mentions of SOCA the Serious Organised Crime Agency, and its chair Stephen Lander and director Bill Hughes.

People trafficking—organised crime angle.

Measures to disrupt organised crime

Financial crime e.g. confiscation of assets

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC)—all mentions.

Public order—e.g. riots, marches and demonstrations

Football hooliganism

Stop and search—under PACE and under Terrorism Act

Firearms—including policy and law, replicas, incidents involving police use of firearms

Traffic law and review of road traffic penalties—do not cut drink driving campaigns

Bugging and interception/monitoring of communications

Use of intercept as evidence

The Forensic Science Service, especially privatisation and DNA stories.

Terrorism including, international co-operation

Terrorism arrests and investigations

Anti-terrorism legislation including Terrorism Act 2000, Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001, Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005

Proposals for new terrorism laws and powers

Security service/MI5

Crime and Community Safety

Minor crime stories should not be cut. The reporting of major crimes, particularly those that should be cut, and should include the eventual sentencing.

Major crime stories raising political, contentious, emotive or moral issues e.g. sexual offences cases, child abuse, pornography, violent crime committed by children.

Crime, disorder and violence including violent crime, burglary, robbery, vehicle crime, theft, gun crime and hate crime

Alcohol related violence/binge drinking

Anti-social behaviour, RESPECT agenda

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts

Fixed Penalty notices (NOT ones for motoring offences) and Penalty Notices for Disorder

Crime statistics and British Crime Survey

Crime reduction initiatives, crime prevention, campaigns, Neighbourhood Watch

Drug treatment programmes, drug-testing, Drug Intervention Programme

Drugs Act 2004

FRANK campaign

Legalisation, decriminalisation and reclassification of drugs, including, reclassification of cannabis

Calls for changes to classification of Drugs—including khat, methamphetamine (aka crystal meth, tina) and articles about new drugs of misuse or new drug taking trends

Drugs misuse including heroin, cocaine, crack cocaine, ecstasy, magic mushrooms, amphetamines, Ketamine, Class A drugs, Class B drugs, Class C drugs

Combating drugs misuse

Prescription of heroin to addicts—policy and law

Policing of illegal drugs including cannabis possession, crack houses and crack dens Medicinal use of cannabis

Drugs statistics

Drug seizures

Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

Supply and trafficking of drugs

Sex offences and sex offenders including Sexual Offences Act 2003, sex offenders register, extreme images, child protection, prostitution (criminal policy aspects) and pornography on the internet

Violent crime and offences including rape, familial homicide and domestic violence

Victim of crime issues

Immigration and identity

Immigration

All coverage of UK immigration and asylum policy.

Immigration matters within the EU

Individual cases—e.g. removed asylum seekers, deportations, immigration offenders

Immigration removal and induction centres—including Oakington, Yarls Wood, Harmondsworth, Colnbrook, Dungavel and Dover Induction Centre.

National Asylum Support Service (NASS)

Support for asylum seekers—healthcare, education, housing.

Unaccompanied children seeking asylum

Refugee integration policy

Nationality and citizenship including citizenship classes.

Migrants from the new EU 'accession states'.

Illegal workers

The size of the illegal population.

Illegal immigrants from France/Belgium/Holland.

People trafficking—when strong immigration angle.

Identity

Identity and Passport Service

Passport cards and biometrics

Identity cards

Criminal Records Bureau

International and other responsibilities

International

Major extradition proceedings and changes to extradition law/policy

Mutual legal assistance cases

Coverage of EU Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) councils and informals

EU Commissioner (Franco Frattini) comments on UK Home Office policies

EU Treaty articles mentioning JHA opt-in

EU developments on Home Office policy issues

Schengen (not mere mentions)

Other

Broad brush criminal justice pieces—strategy, Criminal Justice System

Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority accounts

Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR)

Race in the criminal justice system

Animals—NB: most old Home Office policy areas re. Animals have now moved to DEFRA.

Animal testing

Policy on scientific procedures involving living animals

Regulation and licensing of scientific procedures

Animal Rights Extremists, protests against experiments on living animals—e.g. SHAC, Huntingdon Life Sciences

Calls for Royal Commission on animal experimentation

Freedom of Information Act

Official Secrets Act

Home Office general

All other mentions of Home Office and Home Office Ministers and senior civil servants:

Annex 2:

Regional keywords—used since 1 November 2008

Names (all regional and local titles)

Home Office Minister and Senior Officials

Organisations (all regional and local titles)

Home Office

UK Border Agency OR Border and Immigration Agency

Identity and Passport Service

Criminal Records Bureau

General Register Office

Independent Safeguarding Authority

National Policing Improvement Agency

Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

Forensic Science Service

Please also search for acronyms-UKBA, BIA, IPS, CRB, GRO, ISA, NPIA, ACMD, FSS.

Policing and security (regional dailies only)

Police funding

Police AND bureaucracy OR red-tape

Neighbourhood policing

Police pay

Policing pledge

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act OR RIPA

Stop and search (only articles commenting on appropriateness of)

MI5 OR Security Service

Terrorism or terrorist

DNA database

Crime and Community Safety (regional dailies only)

Knife crime

Gun crime

Violent crime

Sex Offenders Register

Alcohol AND disorder OR violence

Drugs AND classification

Antisocial behaviour

Not interested in individual incidents/arrests unless the article comments on a wider problem/issue or the Government's response.

Crime statistics

Immigration (all regional and local cuttings)

Immigration OR migration

Immigrant OR migrant

Ignore articles about other forms of migration, e.g. birds

Asylum seeker

Asylum

Only in an immigration context

Border AND control OR security

Illegal worker OR illegal working

Points Based System
Refugee
Human OR people trafficking
People smuggling

Identity etc. (regional dailies only)

Identity card OR ID card
Identity fraud
National Identity Scheme
Regional passport office
Passport AND interview
Not interested in stories that just contain the word 'passport'
Family records centre

Annex 3:

National Offender Management Service (NOMS)—Prisons and Probation—used until the creation of MoJ in May 2007

Prisons

The National Offender Management Service runs 140 prisons in England and Wales and supervises the contracts held by the companies Serco, Securicor, UKDS, Premier Prisons, Reliant Custodial Services and GSL which run the private prisons and court escort services. All stories relating to or mentioning these prisons in any way are to be cut. These might include stories about suicides (self-inflicted deaths), escapes, absconds, assaults, riots and other such incidents within prisons, visits to prisons by Ministers or VIPs, charity events, educational or recreational activities of prisoners/prison staff and work initiatives undertaken within prisons.

Policy

All stories with any reference to prisons policy.

Related Organisations

Any major story relating to the Scottish Prison Service or the Northern Ireland Prison Service, the chief inspector of prisons (HMCIP) or inspector of probation (HMIP).

Any story mentioning the following organisations:

UNLOCK
Prison Officers' Association (POA)
Prison Governors' Association (PGA)
National Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders (NACRO)
The Howard League for Penal Reform
The Prison Reform Trust
Smart Justice
Parole Board

Stories mentioning the prison related activities of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons (HMCIP), Group4, UK Detention Services (UKDS) or any other company interested in tendering for custodial contracts from the Prison Service.

Probation

The other organisation which comes under NOMS is the National Probation Service. All stories relating to the management of offenders in the community are to be cut.

Ministers/Senior Officials

Keywords

Life sentence prisoners are of particular interest; keywords to look out for include:

Life imprisonment
Life
Life sentence
Automatic life sentence
Murder/Murdered
Killer/Murderer
Manslaughter
Her Majesty's pleasure
Discretionary life/Discretionary Life Panel
Detained for life
Section 2 Crime Sentences Act
Parole Board
Life licence
Life licensee

Deportation

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in agreeing arrangements with other countries to protect the human rights of individuals deported from the UK to those countries in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [255249]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 February 2009]*: A memorandum of understanding concerning the provision of assurances in respect of persons subject to deportation on grounds of national security was signed with Ethiopia on 12 December 2008.

Copies of the memorandum of understanding, and the associated side letters, have been placed in the Library of both Houses and on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website.

Deportation: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many residents of Peterborough constituency are awaiting determination of an application for indefinite leave to remain; and if she will make a statement. [249216]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 January 2009]*: The number of applicants that are awaiting determination in respect of their applications for indefinite leave to remain in the Peterborough constituency is 185.

Detention Centres

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1435W, on mobile detention centres, what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* outcomes of the Northampton pilot have been; and if she will make a statement. [254552]

Mr. Woolas: The aim of the mobile detention pilot was to test a vehicle with both detention and detainee transport capabilities in a range of operational scenarios to assess how it complements the existing fleet of vehicles. The pilot ran in the East Midlands between 29 September and 31 October 2008.

The Mobile Detention Facility provides UKBA officers with a secure 'field' location in which to interview suspected immigration offenders, detain them for a short period of time and then transport them as appropriate

to their next destination, for example, to an Immigration Reception Centre or Immigration Removals Centre, without relying on the availability of police resources or the deployment of UKBA escorting contractors to do this.

During the five week pilot, 22 foreign nationals were encountered of which 14 were interviewed further as suspected immigration offenders of which six were subsequently identified as such and transported to an Immigration Removals Centre. These individuals were processed more quickly using the Mobile Detention Facility capabilities than would otherwise have been the case.

In addition to this direct benefit, the provision of UKBA staff in the liveried vehicle at remote locations allowed for direct interaction with lorry drivers and members of the public to promote the work of UKBA, raise awareness about deterring so called "lorry drops" and provide a conduit for the collation of additional intelligence to help secure the UK border.

The cost of this pilot was from within existing resources and is commercial in confidence in light of the contractual Non-Disclosure Agreement in place with the vehicle's provider.

Detention Centres: Detainees

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* adult females, *(b)* adult males and *(c)* children were detained in an immigration removal centre in each year since 2000. [258266]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information is not available; the Home Office has however published the number of adults and children recorded as leaving detention in the UK solely under Immigration Act powers between January 2005 and September 2006. Information outside this time period is not available.

National Statistics on how many females, males and children are detained on a quarterly snapshot basis is available in table 10 of the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom publication at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq808.pdf

and from the Library of the House.

Geert Wilders

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what powers she prohibited Mr. Geert Wilders from entering the UK. [258672]

Mr. Woolas: The Secretary of State considered that in her opinion Mr. Wilders' presence in the UK would pose a genuine, present and sufficiently serious threat to one of the fundamental interests of society. She asked that her view be taken into account if Mr. Wilders sought admission to the UK. When Mr. Wilders attempted to enter the UK on 12 February 2009, the immigration officers who considered his entry were satisfied that his exclusion was justified on grounds of public policy and/or public security, in accordance with regulation 21 of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006. He was therefore refused admission to the UK under regulation 19 of the same regulations.

Immigration: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in the Peterborough City Council administrative area are appealing against refusal to grant indefinite leave to remain; and if she will make a statement. [257968]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 146W, on deportation: Peterborough.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons the UK Border Agency does not collate information on the number of prisoners returned under the early removal scheme. [254026]

Mr. Woolas: Details relating to the number of foreign national prisoners who have either been deported or removed under the Early Removal Scheme is held, however, due to known data quality issues, it is not possible to centrally collate that information. This means that in order to provide that information, it would be necessary to examine individual case files at disproportionate cost.

In her letter of 23 July 2008 to the Home Affairs Select Committee, the chief executive of the UK Border Agency advised that around a fifth of all foreign national prisoners who are deported or removed, are removed from prison an average of 180 days prior to their release date. A copy of her letter is available in the Library of the House.

Police: Herefordshire

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in Herefordshire constabulary in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007; what estimate she has made of the number of police officers there will be on 31 December 2009; and if she will make a statement. [258300]

Mr. Coaker: Herefordshire falls within West Mercia constabulary, whose full-time equivalent police officer strength was 2,040 as at 31 March 1997 and 2,400 as at 31 March 2007. Figures exclude officers on career breaks and maternity/paternity for like-for-like comparison between the two years requested.

Information on police authority projections of police service strength is not routinely collected. It is for chief constables and police authorities to decide how best to use the resources available to them when setting levels of police officers, staff and PCSOs.

Security Guards: National Insurance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many security industry employees who applied to the Security Industry Authority for registration were found to have used false national insurance numbers in their applications in each of the last three years. [254617]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available. However, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 323W.

Terrorism

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many major terrorist plots were disrupted by bodies for which her Department is responsible in each of the last five years. [254792]

Mr. Coaker: The information is not currently held in the format requested.

As the director general of the Security Service has made clear, the Security Service is currently tracking 30 terrorist plots, comprising of 200 groupings or cells and totalling around 2,000 individuals.

In 2008, 50 people have been convicted in 18 significant terrorism cases. Of these 50, 21 individuals pleaded guilty.

In 2007, 36 individuals were convicted in 14 significant terrorism cases. 21 of these individuals pleaded guilty.

UK Border Agency: Lost Property

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 329W, on the UK Border Agency: lost property, how many files the figure of less than 0.2 per cent. represents; how many principal immigration case files the UK Border Agency holds; and from which date that file holding commences. [258709]

Mr. Woolas: The figure of less than 0.2 per cent. represents around 17,300 files that are temporarily lost on the system out of a total holding of 9.9 million files. The files in storage date back to 1950, with earlier dates having been retained by the National Archives or have subsequently been securely disposed of.

Visas: Overseas Students

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time was to determine applications for foreign medical students to extend their student visas in the last period for which figures are available. [259030]

Mr. Woolas: The information is unavailable in the format requested and could be obtained by examination of individual case records and therefore only at disproportionate cost.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign students were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused student visas for the purpose of completing medical training in the UK in the last period for which figures are available. [259032]

Mr. Woolas: The information is unavailable in the format requested and could be obtained by examination of individual case records and therefore only at disproportionate cost.

JUSTICE

Care Proceedings: Fees and Charges

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average fee charged to local authorities on receipt of an application for care proceedings to the courts was in England and Wales in the latest period for which information is available. [257911]

Bridget Prentice: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer provided on 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1555W.

The fee to issue an application under section 31 of the Children Act 1989 is fixed at £2,225. Two additional fees may be charged at a later stage of the process if the stages are required. A full list of fees for family proceedings is set out in the Family Proceedings Fees Order 2008. This order came into force on 1 May 2008.

Civil Servants: Pay

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many bonus payments were made in 2007-08 to *(a)* senior civil servants and *(b)* other staff of (i) the Judicial Appointments Commission and (ii) the Office of the Public Guardian in 2007-08; and how much was paid in total. [257746]

Mr. Malik: I refer the hon. and learned Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 347W.

Commonhold

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 851W, on commonhold, what issues the consultation document on commonhold tenure was intended to cover; and what the timetable for a decision on whether to publish is. [258020]

Bridget Prentice: No date has yet been set for the publication of the commonhold consultation paper. This paper is intended to identify any changes that need to be made to the commonhold legislation to address any actual or perceived barriers to take-up. Topics covered will include consideration of developer's rights; cost sharing arrangements for complex developments; ways of providing shared ownership; conversion from leasehold and issues relating to termination.

As I said in my reply to the hon. Member for Peterborough, we are reviewing our plans for publication in the light of other priorities and I will make a statement when a decision has been made.

Cremation: Standards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1291-92W, on Department for Constitutional Affairs Cemetery and Burials Advisory Group, and the minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Board on 25 February 2008, if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the sub-group on guidance on memorial safety; [258023]

(2) with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1291-92W on Department for Constitutional Affairs Cemetery and Burials Advisory Group, and the minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Board on 25 October 2007, if he will place in the Library a copy of the completed survey data report undertaken in association with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health on the number and cost of local authority welfare funerals; [258023]

(3) with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1291-92W on Department for Constitutional Affairs Cemetery and Burials Advisory Group; and the minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Board on 23 March 2007, if he will place in the Library a copy of the opinion on memorial safety prepared by the Church of England Legal Advisory Commission and circulated to members of the Advisory Group; [258024]

(4) with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1291-92W, on the Department for Constitutional Affairs Cemetery and Burials Advisory Group, and the minutes of meetings of the Advisory Board of 9 March 2006, if he will place in the Library a copy of the report on memorial safety produced by Mr. Jon Wallsgrove for Coroners Division; [258025]

(5) if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting of his Department's Burials and Cemeteries Advisory Group in the last 24 months. [258063]

Bridget Prentice: All agreed minutes of the Advisory Group meetings are already available from the Library. The draft minutes of the last meeting in October 2008 will be considered next month and, once agreed, a copy will be provided for the Library. I am also arranging for copies of the minutes of the meetings of the memorial safety sub group to be placed in the Library, together with copies of the other material requested.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy for his Department to sign the Information Commissioner's Personal Information Promise. [258076]

Mr. Wills: The Government welcomed the Promise as a commendable initiative to raise awareness of the importance of effective data protection safeguards, particularly for those organisations with no similar commitments already in place.

The Government take data protection very seriously. Following the Cabinet Office Review of Data Handling Procedures in Government, Departments have implemented a raft of measures to improve data security.

We are considering actively with the ICO how the Promise might add additional value to those measures, on have already signed up to. These include the Information Charters, the recommendations of the Data Handling Review and the Thomas/Walport Review and, of course, our legal obligations under the Data Protection Act and other legislation and regulations.

Departmental Internet

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which documents series which his Department and its predecessors formerly published in paper form have been made available solely via his Department's website in the last five years. [257466]

Mr. Wills: Ministry of Justice (MOJ) uses its website to publish its documents as the primary delivery channel for external audiences including the direct.gov and HMSO websites.

There are low levels of hard copies produced for some documents for internal use and some documents are produced in alternative formats when requested.

MOJ can identify a series of IT security guides and research and statistical papers that were formerly published in paper form and are now solely produced online. A list of these is as follows.

The Ministry is using electronic publishing wherever possible to reduce print costs, be more environmentally sustainable and to provide access for as wide an audience as possible.

Statistical publications from May 2007 to February 2009:

Civil Justice

Company winding up and bankruptcy petitions;

Mortgage and landlord possession statistics.

Criminal Justice

Criminal Statistics Annual Report;

Race and the Criminal Justice System;

Motoring Offences and Breath (Tests);

Arrests—recorded annually;

Women and the Criminal Justice System;

Average time from arrest to sentencing for persistent young offenders.

Courts and Sentencing

Sentencing Statistics for England and Wales (quarterly);

HM Courts user surveys;

Time intervals for criminal proceedings in magistrates courts;

Local variation in sentencing;

End of custody licence releases and recalls;

Mentally disordered offenders.

Prison and Probation

Offender Management caseloads;

Population in custody;

Prison population projects 2008 to 2015;

Probation statistics brief.

Re-offending

Re-offending of adults 2006 results;

New measures for re-offending;

Re-offending of juveniles 2006 results;

Local adult re-offending.

Coroners and burials

Coroners—statistics on deaths reported;

Survey of burial grounds—results of a survey in England and Wales.

Freedom of Information

Freedom of Information Act: Implementation in Central Government (quarterly).

Since June 2008 research reports and summaries released by the research and analysis directorate as part of the Department's research series, have been subject to electronic publication on the MOJ website at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/research.htm.

Research publications since June to November 2008:

Explaining attitudes towards the justice system in the UK and Europe;

Restorative justice and re-offending;

Witnesses and victim experience survey: early findings;

Implementing services for women offenders and those 'at risk' of offending;

County court antisocial behaviour co-ordinators—a pilot scheme;

Early evaluation of the victims of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act;

Inform, persuade and remind—An evaluation of a project to improve public confidence in the criminal justice system;

The problems and needs of newly elected prisoners;

Factors linked to re-offending;

Evaluation of the victims' advocate scheme pilots;

Piloting penalty notices for disorder on 10 to 15-year-olds.

IT Security Guides for internal use only

IT Security Awareness Guide;

Remote Working and Mobile Computing Guide;

IT Systems Operations and Management Security Guide;

Project Manager's Guide to IT Security.

IT product catalogue and order forms for internal use only

catalogue for former Aramis users;

catalogue for former Libra users;

catalogue for former LOCCS users;

plus order form.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1597-98W, on departmental written questions, which question for which the cost of answer was estimated to be over the disproportionate cost threshold was answered. [258701]

Mr. Wills: The question that was estimated to be in excess of the disproportionate cost threshold was tabled in March 2008 by Baroness Stern (HL2252). It asked how many new imprisonable offences have been created since May 1997. The information was collated manually across the whole of Government therefore my noble Friend Lord Hunt gave an undertaking to write to Baroness Stern in his answer of 24 April 2008, *Official Report*, column WA314, when the information was available. My noble Friend Lord Bach wrote to Baroness Stern on 24 November with a full response. A copy of the letter was also placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Discrimination: Civil Proceedings

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* companies and *(b)* other organisations have (i) been subject to a legal claim of discrimination and (ii) lost a discrimination claim (1) twice, (2) from three to five times, (3) from six to 10 times, (4) from 11 to 20 times and (5) 21 times or more in the last four years; and if he will make a statement. [258359]

Bridget Prentice: The Employment Tribunal does not keep the information which the hon. Member has requested in readily available format. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Tribunal keeps data on the total number of appeals received, the discrimination jurisdiction and the number of appeals where claimants have been successful.

Table 1: Discrimination claims accepted 2004-05 to 2007-08

Discrimination jurisdictions: sex, race, disability, equal pay, sexual orientation, religion or belief and age

Discrimination jurisdiction	*Financial years*			
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Age	n/a	n/a	972	2,949
Disability	4,942	4,585	5,533	5,835
Equal pay	9,229	17,260	44,013	62,706
Race	3,317	4,103	3,780	4,130
Religion or belief	307	486	648	709
Sex	11,726	14,259	28,153	26,907
Sexual orientation	349	395	470	582

Notes:
1. Age discrimination jurisdiction came into force in October 2006.
2. This data is for ALL organisations subject to a legal claim of discrimination.

Source:
FT Annual Statistics 2004 to 2007 and ET Central Database.

Table 2: Discrimination claims where claimant successful 1 2

Financial year	*Successful at tribunal*	*ACAS conciliated*	*Default judgments*
Age			
2004-05	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005-06	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006-07	0	56	n/a
2007-08	56	800	9
Disability			
2004-05	236	2,280	n/a
2005-06	173	1,949	n/a
2006-07	149	2,014	n/a
2007-08	178	2,258	13
Equal Pay			
2004-05	20	1,559	n/a
2005-06	3,722	1,641	n/a
2006-07	126	699	n/a
2007-08	679	1,512	5
Race			
2004-05	107	1,215	n/a
2005-06	119	1,064	n/a
2006-07	102	1,173	n/a
2007-08	121	1,295	15
Religion or belief			
2004-05	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005-06	9	126	n/a
2006-07	12	176	n/a
2007-08	14	233	0
Sex			
2004-05	299	3,157	n/a
2005-06	4,068	3,031	n/a
2006-07	463	2,302	n/a

Table 2: Discrimination claims where claimant successful[1,2,3]

Financial year	*Successful at tribunal*	*ACAS conciliated*	*Default judgments*
2007-08	469	3,100	39
Sexual Orientation			
2004-05	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005-06	14	129	n/a
2006-07	21	157	n/a
2007-08	29	231	2

[1] The statistics are compiled from the point of view of the claimant, that is, if a jurisdiction is recorded as successful at tribunal it means that the claimant was successful and the respondent was unsuccessful.
[2] Table 2 shows successful hearings of the cases disposed of each year. There can be differences between receipts and disposals as some cases are considered in future years. Cases can be withdrawn, struck out, dismissed at preliminary hearing and this is reflected in the difference between table 1 and table 2.
[3] Included in the table are cases that were successful at tribunal, conciliated at ACAS and for 2007-08 default judgements[4] found in favour of the claimant.
[4] Default judgments can be made when the respondent either fails to send in their response to a claim or fails to supply the required information. In these cases an Employment Judge can decide the case on the papers without the claimant having to attend a tribunal.
Source:
ET Annual Statistics and ET Central Database.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what guidance he has issued to electoral registration officers on following up non-responses to the electoral canvas *(a)* by post and *(b)* via a home visit; and if he will make a statement; [257489]

(2) which local authorities employed doorstep canvassers to compile the 2008 electoral register; and if he will make a statement; [257727]

(3) what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on staffing of their electoral registration departments. [257327]

Mr. Wills: As my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice) explained in answer to this exact question from the hon. Gentleman on 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 999W, it is not known how many local authorities employed doorstep canvassers during the 2007 annual canvass, as this information is not collected centrally.

However, the performance standards framework established by the Electoral Administration Act 2006 will allow the collection of data on the performance and activities of electoral administrators, including EROs.

The Electoral Commission published a final set of performance standards for electoral registration officers in Great Britain in July 2008. These standards require EROs to provide information on their use of house to house inquiries and of canvassers. The Commission intends to publish results of ERO self-assessments against the performance standards in spring 2009.

The Electoral Commission is responsible for issuing guidance to EROs on electoral registration matters, including managing the annual canvass and the appointment of canvassing staff. The appointment of permanent members of staff to electoral services departments is the responsibility of local authorities.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what procedures are in place governing consultation by electoral registration officers of other *(a)* local and *(b)* central Government databases for the purposes of (i) cross-checking and (ii) augmenting their preparation of electoral registers; [257546]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals to amend data protection legislation to allow local and national authorities to share information in order to increase voter registration. [257714]

Mr. Wills: As my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, East (Bridget Prentice) explained in answer to a similar question from my hon. Friend on 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 242W, relating to the use of databases, Electoral Registration Officers (ERO) are required to take all steps that are necessary for the purpose of complying with their duty to maintain the electoral registers, and these steps include inspecting any record which the ERO is permitted to inspect by law.

Assisting EROs in meeting their obligations falls within the Electoral Commission's remit, as does issuing guidance to EROs more generally.

The Electoral Commission has issued guidance to EROs encouraging them to use the power to inspect records and advises of the sources that may be inspected, which will help to provide and cross-check additional information to assist them in their registration duties.

The Government remain concerned about the need to address levels of under-registration in Great Britain and is currently considering what further steps can be taken to increase access to national databases by EROs, involving local and public authorities could be established for this purpose.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will issue guidance to local authorities on increasing the rate of voter registration; and if he will produce a league table to indicate each local authority's performance in increasing the rate of voter registration in their area; [257712]

(2) if he will publish the guidelines his Department issues to electoral registration officers on home visits to electors who have not registered to vote; and what assessment he has made of the level of local authority compliance with such guidelines; [257711]

(3) what steps his Department has taken to encourage illiterate and semi-literate electors to register to vote; [257322]

(4) what progress has been made on increasing electoral registration rates; [257329]

(5) what performance indicators were set for each stage of electoral registration in each local authority area in each of the last 12 years; and what the performance of each authority against these indicators was. [257411]

Mr. Wills: As my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Justice explained in answer to similar questions from the hon. Member on 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1001W), responsibility for issuing guidance to electoral registration officers (EROs) on electoral registration lies with the Electoral Commission. Guidance issued offers suggestions on increasing registration rates amongst under-represented groups, such as electors with learning difficulties or low levels of literacy. In addition, the guidance advises on the activities that EROs must undertake

to meet section 9 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006, which placed a new duty on them to take all necessary steps to maintain the electoral register, including sending the annual canvass form more than once and making house visits.

The number of people registered to vote in Great Britain as reported by the Office for National Statistics is increasing. Following the 2007 annual canvass the number of parliamentary electors grew by 307,669 to 45,082,854; and the number of local government electors grew by 463,340 to 45,920,503. The Office for National Statistics is expected to publish figures for the 2008 annual canvass by the end of February 2009.

The Government have no current plans to produce a league table of electoral registration officers' performance. However, the performance standards framework established by the Electoral Administration Act 2006 will allow the collection of data on the performance and activities of electoral administrators, including EROs.

The Electoral Commission published a final set of performance standards for Electoral Registration Officers in Great Britain in July 2008, details of which have been laid before the House. One of the standards will provide information on the use of house to house inquiries and canvassers by administrators. The Commission will publish the results of EROs' self-assessments against all of the standards in spring 2009.

The Government are not aware of national indicators being previously set in the last 12 years.

Electoral Register: Advertising

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much *(a)* the Government and *(b)* local authorities have spent on advertising for voter registration in the last 12 months; [257720]

(2) how much funding for electoral registration has been *(a)* allocated to and *(b)* spent by each local authority in the last 12 months; [257721]

(3) how much each local authority spent on electoral registration in *(a)* total and *(b)* per elector in each of the last 11 years; [257723]

(4) how much each local authority spent per elector on voter registration listed in descending order of amount of expenditure in the most recent year for which figures are available; [257725]

(5) how much was spent on advertising to increase levels of electoral registration in *(a)* the Government and *(b)* each local authority in each of the last 10 years. [257828]

Mr. Wills: As my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice) explained in answer to similar questions from my hon. Friend on 18 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 999W, funding for electoral registration activities such as advertising is included in the local authority formula grant issued by central Government. Once these funds are allocated, decisions on how it is utilised are a matter for the local authorities concerned. As a result, it is not known how much was spent in total or per elector for electoral registration in the last 11 years, as this information was not collected, and thus no rankings are available.

However, as part of its work in developing performance standards for electoral services, the Commission launched a financial information survey across Great Britain on 10 September 2007. Electoral registration officers and returning officers were asked to complete the survey and return it by 31 July 2008. The Commission is currently analysing this information in conjunction with CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants) and will publish results in due course. It will be for the Commission to decide whether it wishes to collect and publish financial information in relation 2008-09.

Garth Prison: Visits

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether he has received reports of the recent incident that took place at HM Prison Garth where a female visitor was locked in a visiting room for four hours; [258907]

(2) if he will investigate the recent incident that took place at HM Prison Garth where a female visitor was locked in a visiting room for four hours. [258908]

Mr. Hanson: HMP Garth informed both the director general and chief operating officer of the National Offender Management Service on the morning of 19 February. I was made aware of the incident on 20 February. An investigation into the circumstances is ongoing, and the prison has apologised to the visitor.

Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the monthly costs incurred by his Department in *(a)* legal and *(b)* accountancy fees relating to its handling on behalf of the Isle of Man Government of the issue of Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander (Isle of Man). [258318]

Mr. Wills: No assessment has been made of the monthly costs incurred by the Ministry of Justice in legal and accountancy fees relating to its handling of the issue of Kaupthing Singer Friedlander (Isle of Man). The Ministry of Justice is the UK Department with responsibility for managing the UK's relationship with the Isle of Man (and the other Crown Dependencies of Jersey and Guernsey), and the issue of Kaupthing Singer Friedlander (Isle of Man) is one of many in which the Department is involved. In this instance it is the Treasury that is operationally responsible for representing the Isle of Man in negotiations with the Icelandic Government.

Land Registry: VAT

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Land Registry has reduced its retail prices for items which attract value added tax since December 2008. [258386]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry's statutory services are not subject to value added tax. However, all "value add" products and services, which are subject to value added tax, were reduced in line with implementation guidance in December 2008.

National Offender Management Service: Administration

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much it cost to administer the National Offender Management Head Office in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08; and what he estimates those costs to be in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [257508]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) was formed in 2004. The expenditure on "administration costs" (as defined for estimates and accounts purposes) was as follows:

	Expenditure (£ million)
2004-05	66
2005-06	87
2006-07	85
2007-08	76
2008-09	[1]51

[1] Planned.

This does not include administration costs included in HM Prison Service. Organisational and accounting changes over the period may mean these figures are not directly comparable. The new NOMS Agency was created from 1 April 2008 and certain functions were transferred to the centre of the Ministry of Justice.

Due to the restructuring of NOMS following creation of the new agency, the categorisation of "head office" costs is changing and planned budget for 2009-10 is not yet available. The overall administration costs budget for NOMS is reducing by approximately 2.5 per cent.

Orders and Regulations

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many statutory instruments were made and not laid before Parliament in each year since 1997. [259025]

Mr. Wills: No information is held centrally regarding the number of Statutory Instruments which are not laid before Parliament. Of the total number of instruments made each year those Orders commencing provisions within primary legislation and those instruments which are purely of a local nature (e.g. relating to roads and bridges, parish boundaries etc) are not required to be laid before Parliament. There will also have been other instruments which will not have been required to be laid and therefore information cannot be readily identified. The information (covering the period from 1999 from when electronic records have been maintained) was as follows:

	Total number of SIs	*Local SIs*	*Commencement Orders*	*Approx number of SIs not laid*
1999	3,439	1,675	97	1,772
2000	3,195	1,602	116	1,718
2001	3,815	1,935	135	1,433
2002	2,957	1,367	110	1,477
2003	3,033	1,521	135	1,656
2004	3,152	1,658	160	1,818
2005	3,326	1,746	147	1,893
2006	3,196	1,766	133	1,899
2007	3,364	1,838	158	1,996
2008	3,075	1,677	151	1,828

Parc Young Offender Institution

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what new facilities and developments are planned for HM Prison Young Offender Institution Parc; and what the cost of that work will be in the next 12 months, broken down by category of expenditure. [258550]

Mr. Hanson: The primary additional facility is the provision of an additional 320 custodial spaces, with the capacity to increase to 470 custodial spaces. In order to support the additional population, a number of internal physical changes to the building will be required, and a new houseblock will be built.

New, upgraded or replacement facilities required to support the increased custodial population include a first night induction unit, an improved multi-faith facility, a new medical centre, enhanced visiting facilities for social and professional visitors, new kitchens, enhanced staff training facilities and additional car parking for visitors and staff.

Payments for the expansion at HMP and YOI Parc during the period March 2009 to February 2010, inclusive, will total £24.024 million. This figure is made up of:

	£
Construction fees	21,969,000
Staff costs	898,000
Other costs[1]	1,157,000

[1] Including fixtures, fittings, design fees and management fees.

Police Custody

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cells are identified for use under Operation Safeguard; on how many nights Operation Safeguard cells have been used since the operation's inception; and what the largest number of prisoners held under Operation Safeguard on any one night has been to date. [257572]

Mr. Straw: Operation Safeguard is a formal agreement between the National Offender Management Service and Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to hold prisoners in police cells at times of very high population pressure. ACPO has currently agreed the release of up to 400 spaces, although this total is flexible and subject to change due to operational constraints.

Operation Safeguard was activated between 12 October and 22 December 2006 and again from 16 January 2007 to 31 October 2008. Police cells have not been used since 22 September 2008 and no police cells have been on stand by since the end of October 2008. The aggregate total of the number of prisoner nights in which a police cell was used during this period is 88,921. It is not possible to ascertain how many individual prisoners these totals cover. The largest number of prisoners held in police cells was 467 on 11 June 2007.

Prison Service: Reorganisation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many days *(a)* he and his Ministers and *(b)* officials of (i) his Department, (ii) the National Offender Management Service and (iii) the Prison Service have spent on negotiations with the Prison Officers' Association on his proposals for workforce modernisation in prisons; and how much his Department has spent on advancing the case for those proposals. [258769]

Mr. Straw: Officials in my Department have held extensive and regular meetings with representatives of the POA since March 2008 to progress negotiations on pay and related reforms within the public sector Prison Service. Ministers have held meetings with the POA on six occasions since May 2008.

During 2008-09, £350,000 (including salary costs) has been spent on communications activity within the overall NOMS Workforce Modernisation programme. It is not possible to identify the proportion of this overall spend associated with the POA negotiations.

Prison Service: Vacancies

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how long on average it took to fill a staff vacancy at *(a)* prisons in England and Wales and *(b)* HM Prison Winchester in the most recent period for which figures are available. [258845]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the time taken to fill a vacancy in the Prison Service is not routinely collected for all grades. Data are however available from the latest prison officer recruitment campaign held in the autumn of 2008. The average time taken from application to offer for this campaign was 88 days. No comparative information for HM Prison Winchester is available because they did not have vacancies for prison officers at that time.

Prisoners: Suicide

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the total cost was of inquiries into the attempted suicide of the female young offender known as SP by *(a)* the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman and *(b)* Mr Bryan Payling. [257806]

Mr. Hanson: The total costs of the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman investigation are not known. This information is not held centrally and would require a manual check of a variety of sources and this would be at a disproportionate cost.

The total costs of the Bryan Payling investigation are not yet known. Costs of the investigator and administrative support for the investigation were £3,169.34.

Prisons: Manpower

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers at each grade there were in each prison in England and Wales in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the likely numbers at each grade in the next 12 months. [258678]

Mr. Malik: Information on the number of officers in each establishment, by grade, in each year since 2005 and projections of the number of officers in March 2010 has been placed in the Library of the House.

Probation Officers: Manpower

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* largest, *(b)* smallest and *(c)* average number of offenders under the supervision of one probation officer was in each of the last 10 years. [258679]

Mr. Hanson: The caseloads of individual officers will vary according to factors such as the experience of the officer and the complexity (and risk assessment) of the cases. Information about the caseloads of individual probation officers is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Information about the trends in probation service caseloads is contained in the annual Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007.

Probation: Standards

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the performance against objectives of the management of each probation area in England and Wales. [258301]

Mr. Hanson: The Ministry of Justice publishes quarterly data-driven performance assessments for each probation area. The most recent performance ratings for probation boards/trusts can be viewed on its website at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/noms-performance-ratings.htm

Reoffenders: Rehabilitation

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what studies his Department has undertaken into the effect of attendance on residential outdoor activity courses on re-offending rates. [254725]

Mr. Hanson: A range of outdoor activities are within measures available within local Youth Inclusion Programmes aimed at 8-17 year olds, identified as being at high risk of involvement in offending or anti-social behaviour. However, the Youth Justice Board does not continually monitor the effectiveness of outdoor activities.

A Home Office Research Study[1] also evaluated two regimes—'High Intensity Training' at the Young Offenders Institution at Thorn Cross and a scheme based on the ethos of a 'Military Corrective Training Centre' (MCTC) at the YOI in Colchester. Both schemes were for 18-21 year old males suitable for open conditions. The study of the Colchester scheme concluded that this regime

was not successful in reducing reconvictions, but the young people on the Colchester regime had significantly more positive attitudes towards staff and other inmates at the end of sentence and were significantly more hopeful about the future than the control group. The two year reconviction rates for Thorn Cross showed that, while there was no significant difference in the proportion of offenders reconvicted between the experimental and control group, the experimental group took longer to offend and committed significantly fewer crimes.

[1] Farrington, D.P., Ditchfield, J., Howard, P. and Jolliffe, D. (2002) "Two intensive regimes for young offenders: a follow up evaluation: Home Office Research Finding 163". London: Home Office

Reparation by Offenders

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times allegations of abuse towards offenders on community payback in *(a)* London, *(b)* Kent, *(c)* Essex, *(d)* the West Midlands and *(e)* Nottinghamshire and *(f)* Devon and Cornwall have been investigated since 1 December 2008. [257507]

Mr. Hanson: The number of incidents of abuse towards offenders on Community Payback which have been reported since 1 December up until 13 February 2009 in the probation areas of London, Kent, Essex, West Midlands, Nottinghamshire and Devon and Cornwall is shown in the table.

A review of these incidents shows that all, except one which concerned stone throwing by a child, involved verbal abuse or abusive gestures by members of the public towards offenders and staff working on Community Payback work groups on. In none of the cases was further investigation considered necessary.

Probation area	*Number of reported incidents*	*Number of offender hours worked 1 December-31 January*
London	7	23,808
Kent	2	15,305
Essex	1	9,234
West Midlands	0	33,261
Nottinghamshire	3	10,512
Devon and Cornwall	0	8,724

Repossession Orders: Cleethorpes

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court orders have been issued for repossession of homes in Cleethorpes constituency in each of the last 20 years. [257440]

Bridget Prentice: Figures for Cleethorpes parliamentary constituency are not available. However, the following table shows the numbers of mortgage and landlord possession orders made in Grimsby county court.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, Grimsby county court may cover areas other than the Cleethorpes constituency. Therefore not all possession orders made at this court necessarily relate to Cleethorpes constituency.

Court level statistics on mortgage and landlord repossession actions from 1987 to 2008 are available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/mortgagelandlordpossession.htm

These figures do not indicate how many homes have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made, while not all court orders result in repossession.

Number of mortgage[1] and landlord[2] possession orders[3] made in Grimsby county court, 1987 to 2008[4]

	Mortgage possession orders made	*Landlord possession orders made*
1989	379	..
1990	546	..
1991	824	..
1992	579	..
1993	522	..
1994	457	..
1995	362	..
1996	516	..
1997	319	..
1998	582	..
1999	281	171
2000	385	167
2001	390	218
2002	271	277
2003	223	312
2004	236	364
2005	431	309
2006	515	322
2007	524	536
2008	610	332

[1] Includes all types of mortgage lenders.
[2] Includes all types of landlord whether social or private.
[3] Landlord orders include those made under both standard and accelerated procedures. Landlord orders via the accelerated procedure enables the orders to be made solely on the basis of written evidence for shorthold tenancies, when the fixed period of tenancy has come to an end.
[4] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.
[5] Includes outright and suspended orders, the latter being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually require the defendant to pay the current mortgage or rent instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.
[6] Complete breakdown of landlord possession orders is only available from 1999 onwards.
[7] Figures for the latest year are provisional.
Source:
Ministry of Justice

Winchester Prison

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2094W, on prison accommodation, what the average period of time for which prisoners were detained in Winchester Prison was in each of the last three years; and how many prisoners detained in the prison had a registered home within 50 miles of the prison in each such year. [258912]

Mr. Malik: Prisoners move between prisons during the course of their sentence. Time spent in each prison is not recorded centrally. The following table shows the average period in months of those prisoners discharged from HMP Winchester from determinate sentences, including time spent on remand, spent in prison (this may include time spent in establishments other than HMP Winchester).

	Average time served (months)		
	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Up to and including six months	2	2	2
Over six months and less than 12 months	4	4	5
12 months to less than four years	11	12	13
Four years to less than life	48	52	38
All determinate sentence lengths	5	6	6

Note:
Data for 2008 for this part of the answer are not available.

The number of prisoners held at HMP Winchester in each of the last three years with a home address within 50 miles of the prison (data from September in each year) is set out on the following table:

	Prisoners held within 50 miles of home address
2006	599
2007	448
2008	474

Note:
Where no home address is listed for a male or female prisoner or young offender the committal court is used as a proxy address

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing, and have been tabulated according to availability of data.

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many days on average elapsed between arrest and sentence in cases involving persistent young offenders in each police force area in the most recent period for which figures are available; [256682]

(2) how many persistent and prolific offenders were identified in each police force area in 2007-08; [256688]

(3) how many persistent young offenders were registered in each police force area in 2008; how many offences were recorded where the offender was a persistent young offender in each area in that year; and what percentage of offences in each police force area this represents. [256755]

Mr. Hanson: A persistent young offender (PYO) is a young person aged 10-17 who has been sentenced guilty by any criminal court in the UK on three or more separate occasions for one or more recordable offence, and within three years of the last sentencing occasion is subsequently arrested or has an information laid against them for a further recordable offence.

This definition is designed to measure the speed and efficiency of the youth justice system; through monitoring the pledge to halve the average time from arrest to sentence for dealing with PYOs in England and Wales from 142 days in 1996 to 71 days. However, the definition is not designed to provide a reliable measure of the level of youth offending over time, and it will give a misleading picture of the true trend if used for this purpose.

The aforementioned pledge was first met over a full calendar year in 2002 and has been met in all but one calendar year since then. Youth sentencing is therefore now more timely, and for repeat offenders more frequent, than it used to be prior to 1997. As the PYO definition relies on repeat sentencing occasions, a side-effect of the Government's success in bringing much swifter justice to young repeat offenders is that more of them end up being defined as PYOs.

Table 1 shows the number of PYOs, and the number of offences committed by them, for each police force area in 2008. These 2008 figures are provisional at present as the data for 2008 has not yet been finalised. Final figures for 2008 will be published in March 2009 by the Ministry of Justice.

Table 2 shows the total number of notifiable offences brought to justice, and the proportion of them that are attributable to PYOs, for each police force for 2007 (the most recent year for which these data are available). It is not possible to present a meaningful statistical comparison between police recorded crime and numbers of offences committed by PYOs, because the two measures have different counting bases.

On 10 December 2008, the Secretary of State for Justice announced in a written ministerial statement that the PYO pledge would be dropped with effect from the end of 2008. This is therefore the last year for which PYO statistics will be published and compiled.

Data from the performance management arrangements for the Prolific and other Priority Offender programme provide the number of such offenders identified through partnership arrangements in each police force area. The data are provided in table 3. The data cover the financial year 2007-08 from April 2007 up to March 2008, and are the most recent data available. These figures rely on the accuracy and completeness of the data provided locally by Prolific and Priority Offender schemes.

Table 1: Number of persistent young offenders (PYOs) and number of offences committed by PYOs, by police force area, 2008[1]

Police force area	*Number of persistent young offenders*	*Number of persistent young offender offences*
Avon and Somerset	394	762
Bedfordshire	110	196
Cambridgeshire	191	322
Cheshire	241	434
Cleveland	304	672
Cumbria	240	455
Derbyshire	296	499
Devon and Cornwall	335	590
Dorset	143	243
Durham	259	450
Dyfed-Powys	135	237
Essex	396	762
Gloucestershire	164	295
Greater Manchester	1,159	2,202
Gwent	173	325

Table 1: Number of persistent young offenders (PYOs) and number of offences committed by PYOs, by police force area, 2008[1]

Police force area	Number of persistent young offenders	Number of persistent young offender offences
Hampshire	674	1,238
Hertfordshire	188	357
Humberside	365	669
Kent	351	618
Lancashire	614	1,247
Leicestershire	232	444
Lincolnshire	106	175
Merseyside	471	868
Metropolitan	1,842	3,128
Norfolk	156	290
North Wales	202	376
North Yorkshire	250	492
Northamptonshire	160	291
Northumbria	824	1,669
Nottinghamshire	330	557
South Wales	354	625
South Yorkshire	384	674
Staffordshire	267	478
Suffolk	207	407
Surrey	120	225
Sussex	359	660
Thames Valley	428	729
Warwickshire	117	211
West Mercia	311	568
West Midlands	714	1,137
West Yorkshire	872	1,573
Wiltshire	111	189
England and Wales	15,784	28,728

[1] Figures for 2008 are provisional

Table 2: Number of notifiable offences brought to justice, and percentage that were attributable to persistent young offenders, by police force area, 2007

Police force area	Number of notifiable offences brought to justice (Thousand)	Percentage of notifiable offences brought to justice attributable to persistent young offenders
Avon and Somerset	40.7	1.70
Bedfordshire	12.8	1.66
Cambridgeshire	18.9	1.99
Cheshire	23.8	2.04
Cleveland	21.5	2.49
Cumbria	14.2	2.87
Derbyshire	23.6	2.02
Devon and Cornwall	34.0	1.87
Dorset	15.8	1.72
Durham	16.5	3.24
Dyfed Powys	12.5	1.91
Essex	41.0	2.08
Gloucestershire	14.0	2.24
Greater Manchester	82.0	2.85
Gwent	18.0	2.32
Hampshire	43.8	3.02
Hertfordshire	25.7	1.51
Humberside	31.5	2.25
Kent	39.3	1.74
Lancashire	48.4	2.64
Leicestershire	27.0	2.02
Lincolnshire	14.8	1.55
Merseyside	45.2	2.11
Metropolitan	224.3	1.39
Norfolk	18.5	1.59
North Wales	17.7	1.95
North Yorkshire	17.7	2.61
Northamptonshire	14.6	2.32
Northumbria	49.0	3.79
Nottinghamshire	28.9	2.35
South Wales	33.1	1.94
South Yorkshire	43.5	1.49
Staffordshire	28.4	1.83
Suffolk	17.7	2.46
Surrey	19.9	1.27
Sussex	38.4	2.23
Thames Valley	51.7	1.50
Warwickshire	11.7	2.09
West Mercia	27.0	2.17
West Midlands	74.1	1.86
West Yorkshire	62.8	2.70
Wiltshire	12.1	1.92
England and Wales	1,455.9	2.11

Table 3: Number of prolific and other priority offenders by police force area, 2007-08

Police force area	1 April 2007-31 March 2008
Avon and Somerset	303
Bedfordshire	168
Cambridgeshire	209
Cheshire	248
City of London	20
Cleveland	204
Cumbria	102
Derbyshire	447
Devon and Cornwall	474
Dorset	107
Durham	116
Dyfed Powys	100
Essex	292
Gloucestershire	137
Greater Manchester	1,491
Gwent	110
Hampshire	425
Hertfordshire	239
Humberside	295
Kent	561
Lancashire	498
Leicestershire	562
Lincolnshire	175
Merseyside	583
Metropolitan Police	1,525
Norfolk	157
North Wales	148
North Yorkshire	143
Northamptonshire	337
Northumbria	342
Nottinghamshire	874
South Wales	298
South Yorkshire	335
Staffordshire	364
Suffolk	190
Surrey	247
Sussex	528

Table 3: Number of prolific and other priority offenders by police force area, 2007-08

Police force area	1 April 2007-31 March 2008
Thames Valley	467
Warwickshire	132
West Mercia	159
West Midlands	1,043
West Yorkshire	652
Wiltshire	97

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much and what percentage of the money provided by his Department for the reconstruction of Afghanistan in 2008-09 was given to *(a)* non-Afghan organisations and *(b)* non-Afghan companies. [255332]

Mr. Michael Foster: By the end of 2008-09, the Department for International Development (DFID) expects to contribute £143 million of programme support to the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan. DFID has a commitment to spending at least 50 per cent. of its aid through Afghan government systems, for example using the World Bank-managed Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund. This helps build the Afghan government's capacity to provide services for its citizens. 10 per cent. of our assistance (£14.7 million) is provided to non-Afghan organisations and companies to provide technical assistance and capacity building to the Afghan government.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the adequacy of aid to Afghanistan for *(a)* refugees returning to the country, *(b)* schoolchildren and *(c)* antenatal care. [255334]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) monitors the refugee situation regularly and publishes information about its operations on its website:

http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/country?iso=afg

The Center for Policy and Human Development's 2007 'Afghanistan Human Development Report' assesses Afghanistan's progress towards the health and education millennium development goals. The report can be found at:

http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/nationalreports/asiathepacific/afghanistan/name.3408.en.html

Steady progress is being made in health and education; however, agriculture, private sector development, infrastructure and governance have made slower progress and are also critical to the development, stabilisation and strengthening of Afghanistan, to improve life for all Afghans.

Africa: Agriculture

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has provided to Farm Inputs Promotions Africa in each year since 2000. [256847]

Mr. Michael Foster: Farm Input Promotions Africa (FIPS) was commissioned under the Department for International Development's (DFID) Crop Protection Programme between 2003-06 to lead a research project in collaboration with the Kenyan Agricultural Research Institute. This project was extended to January 2006.

DFID has contributed a total of £298,000 to FIPS since 2000.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure the availability of funds for African smallholders. [259188]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to providing funds for African smallholders and does so in a number of different ways. These include contributions to programmes that improve food security. Examples include:

£133 million over four years (2005-09) to the Productive Safety Nets Programme that makes cash and food payments to seven million of Ethiopia's poorest farmers during the hungry season.

£20 million for the Government of Malawi's programme to increase maize production through seed and fertiliser subsidies for 1.5 million smallholders, which last year increased the harvest by over 800,000 tonnes.

DFID has also helped establish, and contributed £10 million, to the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF) that approved its first projects in 2008. AECF was recommended by the Commission for Africa to encourage the private sector to improve provision of financial services to African farmers and rural communities. One example of a project that AECF has co-financed is a $1 million investment in cold storage for 1,400 smallholder poultry farmers in Kenya.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Elections

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what practical assistance his Department is providing to the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to facilitate the holding of the local and provincial elections originally scheduled for 2006. [258848]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK Government remain committed to helping the DRC Government to hold local elections as soon as feasible and preferably in advance of the national elections in 2011. As the largest bilateral donor supporting the election processes, we are now working to ensure effective future elections by strengthening the Independent Elections Commission, through a grant of £14.5 million to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This will help fund administrative structures; including the establishment of local liaison offices throughout the country and revision of the electoral roll—developing it in a way that can be regularly updated for any future elections.

The local elections have been delayed due to lack of funding from the DRC Government. The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently working with other donors to ensure the shortfall is met partly by the international community without taking ownership away from the DRC Government.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [256051]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has only one property in England and Wales. A copy of the display energy certificate and the associated advisory report in respect of this property will be placed in the Library. There are no agencies for which we are responsible.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost of maintaining the databases owned and managed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies was in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [256139]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) owns and manages a number of internal databases that support financial, human resources, document management and other information systems.

System controls, validations and administration processes ensure that the data is as accurate and up-to-date as possible. These activities are considered part of the normal system running and are not separately logged or costed.

DFID also owns the following websites that are operated by external organisations on behalf of DFID.

1. The Research 4 Development (R4D) portal.

2. The NARSIS website of DFID-funded projects with natural resources components.

3. The Infrastructure Connect website of DFID-funded research engineering and infrastructure projects.

We are unable to separate data maintenance costs for these systems without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which ICT projects initiated by his Department were abandoned before completion in each year since 1997; what costs were incurred on each project; who the contractors were; what the date of *(a)* commencement and *(b)* abandonment was in each case; and if he will make a statement. [256656]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development cancelled an internal information technology project run by our Pakistan office. The project had spent £7,000 at the point of cancellation; the contractor was Elixir; the project commenced in November 2007 and was cancelled in September 2008.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many full-time equivalent staff, including staff appointed in country, have been employed by his Department in Uganda in each financial year since 1997-98. [256777]

Mr. Michael Foster: Following the National Audit Office's October 2008 report on the Department for International Development's (DFID) work in insecure environments and improvements to the way DFID ensures the safety and security of its staff, the Department does not publicise staff numbers, or changes in staff numbers, for each country office.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what expert advisers have been commissioned by his Department since 1997; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the adviser so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246959]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not hold a central list of all expert advisory appointments made since 1997. The Department makes a number of appointments and compiling such a list would incur disproportionate cost.

Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and overall cost of special advisers and the number in each pay band.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what publications his Department has produced for hon. Members to send to their constituents in the last two years; at what cost; and for what purpose. [256551]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) publications are aimed at a very wide audience, and not specifically at hon. Members. In the last two years we have published two leaflets expressly for use by hon. Members to send to their constituents, however, there are plans to use these publications to communicate DFID's work to other audiences.

Title	*Reason*	*Cost (£)*
Newsletter on UK aid to the Occupied Palestinian Territories	To inform hon. Members and their constituents about UK Aid to the Occupied Palestinian Territories	[1]1,125
Newsletter on UK aid to Pakistan	To inform hon. Members and their constituents about UK aid to Pakistan	1,324

[1] Estimated cost invoices yet to be received

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent in producing its developments magazine in the last 12 months. [256597]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has spent £210,547.20 (including VAT) in the last 12 months producing developments magazine.

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department or its predecessors were on sick leave for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days in each of the last five years. [256329]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to the health, safety and well-being of its employees. Over the past few years, we have continued to tackle absence due to sickness through improved monitoring and support to managers and staff. This includes:

a newly introduced case management team (April 2008) providing support and advice to managers to help them to tackle absence issues earlier;

an employee health and well-being team providing a confidential and independent support and advisory service; and

an occupational health service providing support to facilitate an early return to work for staff on longer term sick leave.

The number of staff who were on sick leave for over *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days in each of the last five years, is shown in the following table.

Number

	Staff with over 30 days sick leave	*Staff with over 50 days sick leave*	*Staff with over 100 days sick leave*
2004	25	15	9
2005	19	31	4
2006	28	20	10
2007	36	17	11
2008	27	31	13

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the average number of days sick leave per staff member in his Department was in each of the last five years. [256305]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to the health, safety and well-being of its employees. Over the past few years, we have continued to tackle absence due to sickness through improved monitoring and support to managers and staff. This includes:

a newly introduced case management team (April 2008) providing support and advice to managers to help them to tackle absence issues earlier;

an employee health and well-being team providing a confidential and independent support and advisory service; and

an occupational health service providing support to facilitate an early return to work for staff on longer term sick leave.

For the years 2004 to 2008 the average working days per employee lost to sick leave for DFID are as follows:

	Average working days per employee lost to sick leave
2004	4.0
2005	5.7
2006	5.0
2007	4.4
2008	5.7

Please note that the 2008 average is taken from our most recent sick absence report to Cabinet Office, covering the 12-month period 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008. In line with other Government Departments, our sick absence return for the full 2008 calendar year is not due until mid-March 2009.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department were recorded as having been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December in each of the last five years. [256627]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to the health, safety and well-being of its employees. Over the past few years, we have continued to tackle absence due to sickness through improved monitoring and support to managers and staff. This includes:

a newly introduced case management team (April 2008) providing support and advice to managers to help them to tackle absence issues earlier;

an employee health and well-being team providing a confidential and independent support and advisory service; and

an occupational health service providing support to facilitate an early return to work for staff on longer term sick leave.

The number of staff recorded with sick absence of over 12 months on 31 December in each of the last five years are shown in the following table.

	Number of staff with recorded sick absence of over 12 months
2004	5
2005	5
2006	5
2007	5
2008	5

International Assistance

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development to which *(a)* World Bank and *(b)* United Nations Development Programme trust funds his Department has contributed in each of the last three years; and how much it has provided in each case in each such year. [256603]

Mr. Michael Foster: Tables containing details of the Department for International Development's (DFID) contributions to *(a)* the World Bank and *(b)* the United Nations Development Programme trust funds in each of the last three years will be placed in the Library of the House.

Liberia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid the UK has provided for Liberia *(a)* bilaterally and *(b)* through the United Nations in each of the last five years; and how much is planned to be provided for Liberia in the next spending period for which figures are available. [256643]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details on the UK's bilateral expenditure and imputed share of multilateral official development assistance (ODA) are contained in the

DFID publication "Statistics on International Development". This publication is available from the Library and online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Relevant figures are produced in the following table.

UK expenditure in Liberia, 2003-04 to 2007-08

£000

	Total UK bilateral expenditure	UK imputed share of UN expenditure
2003-04	7,230	235
2004-05	8,455	761
2005-06	6,081	652
2006-07	8,364	2,106
2007-08	7,608	3,143

Details on DFID's annual allocation of resources are available in annex 2 of the DFID publication "Development: Making it Happen", DFID's 2008 annual report. This publication is available online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

or from the Library. Relevant figures for the next three years are reproduced in the following table.

DFID Liberia Programme allocations

£000

2008-09	10,000
2009-10	10,000
2010-11	10,000

Loans

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2118W, on loans (1) what assessment he has made of trends in interest rates on microfinance loans in Africa over the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259190]

(2) what annual percentage interest rates commercial banks are charging smallholders in Malawi; and what security they require. [259191]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports the overall monitoring of microfinance through the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), a multi-donor partnership working to expand access to finance, including microfinance.

The most recent detailed research carried out by CGAP on 2003-06 data showed that

> "the rates offered by most microfinance institutions (MFIs) compare favourably to informal finance, supplier credit, and the few other alternatives that would be available to MFI clients. In sub-Saharan Africa, interest rates also dropped at a rate of 1.4 percentage points from 2003 to 2006."

This is confirmed by DFID research in Malawi where the commercial banking sector reaches less than 5 per cent. of the population and charges interest of about 16-20 per cent.; down from about 30 per cent. five years ago. Most smallholder farmers do not have anything a commercial bank would consider as security: land is not titled and smallholders in Malawi have an exceptionally low asset base. Microfinance is reaching another 5 per cent. of the households and real interest rates from rural microfinance institutions are estimated at around 45 per cent. However 90 per cent. of Malawians have no access to financial services.

Beyond Malawi, several other household surveys carried out recently in Africa with DFID funding show that the absolute level of interest rate is not one of the detrimental factors that constrain poor people's access to financial services, including microfinance. The promotion of transparency, competition and financial literacy, is very important and in the long run can have a bearing on the level of interest. This is why DFID has recently launched the £4 million Financial Education Fund (FEF), to back the best ideas to help raise financial literacy among poor consumers and small businesses in Africa. The FEF will operate across Africa. In its first round of calls for projects, FEF has received 110 concept notes that are under review.

Further information can be found on the following websites:

CGAP Reference:

http://www.cgap.org/portal/site/template.rs/1.20.4412

Financial Education Fund:

http://www.financialeducationfund.org/

DFID announcement of the FEF:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/alexander-lessons-in-banking.asp

Household surveys:

http://www.finscope.co.za/documents/2008/FSAfricaBrochure08.pdf

Rwanda: Land

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on projects associated with land tenure reform in Rwanda. [259000]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Between October 2002 and December 2008, DFID spent a total of £3.045 million in support of land tenure reform in Rwanda. From October 2002 to July 2004, £276,000 was spent on providing a Land Policy Specialist and conducting studies to help the Government of Rwanda develop a new Land Law and Policy. The Land Law was enacted in 2005, and by the end of the programme, £2.976 million will have been spent developing and piloting a system for providing secure land title to landholders. DFID's Country Plan for Rwanda (2008 to 2012), proposes supporting the roll-out of a similar land tenure programme nationwide.

Zimbabwe: HIV Infection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his latest estimate is of the number and proportion of the population of Zimbabwe infected with HIV/AIDS. [259041]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Zimbabwe has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world. Currently, 15.6 per cent. of the population aged 15 to 54 years are infected with HIV. This amounts to about 1.3 million people. Of these, about 340,000 are in need of antiretroviral medicines. About 120,000 children under 15 are infected with HIV.

DFID will provide around £20 million in this financial year to support health systems in Zimbabwe and to help those living with HIV and AIDS.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of families in Zimbabwe have at least one member with HIV/Aids. [270015]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Zimbabwe has one of the highest rates of HIV prevalence in the world. Although the rate has fallen to 15.6 per cent. of adults aged 15 to 54 years, it remains the main cause of illness and early death. Of those infected, 56 per cent. are women. Because most people in Zimbabwe, as in other highly affected countries, do not know their HIV status, it is difficult to calculate the number of households with at least one HIV positive member. However, households that are affected often experience multiple infections (in one or both parents and possibly in their young children) making HIV catastrophic for the welfare of all members. Although there are no reliable statistics, as many as one in eight households may be affected in some way by HIV/AIDS.

DFID will provide around £20 million this financial year to support health systems in Zimbabwe and to help those living with HIV and AIDS.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many aid workers from each aid agency have been killed other than by accident in Zimbabwe in each of the last 10 years. [270016]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not possess the requested information.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which aid agencies left Zimbabwe in each of the last 10 years and subsequently undertook no further work there. [270017]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A large number of aid agencies have worked, and are working, in Zimbabwe over the last 10 years. The UK Government do not keep records about their activities, nor would we be notified regarding their entry or withdrawal from the country.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the Government has provided to aid agencies to spend in Zimbabwe in each of the last 10 years. [270018]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department of International Development's programme in Zimbabwe has expanded steadily in the last 10 years as the humanitarian need in the country has grown as indicated in the following table:

DFID aid to Zimbabwe over 10 years

	£ million
1998-99	16.6
1999-2000	14.1
2000-01	13.1
2001-02	17.0
2002-03	32.7
2003-04	30.0
2004-05	27.6
2005-06	35.6
2006-07	36.1
2007-08	45.3

Since 2002, all DFID programme money has been delivered through the UN and other aid agencies—none of it has passed through the Government of Zimbabwe. This year the Department will spend £49 million on ongoing programmes to meet the essential needs of ordinary Zimbabweans and to address the dire humanitarian situation.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost of maintaining the databases owned and managed by (*a*) his Department and its predecessor and (*b*) their agencies was in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [270163]

Mr. Simon: Database maintenance costs in the Department are contained in the outsourced ICT contract service charges and the cost of staff involved in the management and analysis of information. The Department does not separately identify database management expenditure and to separate out the cost of maintaining databases would entail disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his Department's capital spending (*a*) was in each year from 2001-02 to 2007-08 and (*b*) is planned to be in each year from 2008-09 to 2014-15 in 2005-06 prices; and if he will make a statement. [271663]

Mr. Simon: Departments do not publish detailed spending plans for periods outside of the comprehensive spending review period until they are finalised.

Information for 2001-02 is not available. Departmental capital spending from 2002-03 to 2007-08 is shown in table 1 following. Capital spending figures prior to the formation of the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills (DIUS) in June 2007 are derived from expenditure figures of predecessor Departments.

Table 1: DIUS capital spending 2002-03 to 2007-08

£ million

	Student loans	Other	Total
2002-03	1,063	1,107	2,170
2003-04	1,906	1,303	3,209
2004-05	1,880	1,432	3,312
2005-06	2,065	2,006	4,071
2006-07	2,619	1,885	4,504
2007-08	3,692	2,033	5,725

Notes:
DIUS: 2007-08 figures were provisional at time of publication.

Source:
DIUS Departmental Report 2008

Expenditure plans for 2008-09 to 2010-11, in 2005-06 prices, are shown in table 2 following. These figures are based on the figures published in the departmental annual report 2008 and reflect capital brought forward as announced in the pre Budget report 2008. The figures are adjusted using the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Deflators published by Treasury on 23 December 2008.

Table 2: DIUS planned capital spending 2008-09 to 2010-11

	£ million 2005-06 prices		
	Student loans	*Other*	*Total*
2008-09	4,393	1,978	6,371
2009-10	4,837	2,240	7,077
2010-11	5,009	1,599	6,608

Departmental Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost of his Department's contracts with public relations consultancies has been since it was established. [257145]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created by machinery of government changes at the end of June 2007. Information on the cost of the Department's contracts with public relations consultancies before that date is available from the predecessor departments of DIUS—the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

The departmental expenditure on public relations consultancies is as follows:

	£
2007-08	261,702
2008-09	193,300

[1] Budget to 31 March 2009

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff in his Department or its predecessors were on sick leave for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days in each of the last five years. [256329]

Mr. Simon: The Department was created as part of the machinery of government changes on 28 June 2007, the information requested is set out as follows and applies from 1 July to 31 March 2008.

Occurrences where staff have had a spell of absence	*Number*
Over 30 days	27
Over 50 days	17
Over 100 days	9

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff in his Department were recorded as having been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December in each year since his Department was established. [256666]

Mr. Simon: The Department was created on 28 June 2007. There have been no employees recorded as having been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December in each year since the Department was established.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many language translators are employed in each of his Department's executive agencies; and what the cost of translating services provided by such people was in the latest period for which information is available. [257146]

Mr. Simon: There are no language translators employed by the Department's executive agencies. The Department does not collect this information from its non-departmental public bodies and this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Education: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what criteria will apply for the allocation of Learning and Skills Council funding for capital projects; and whether he plans to make dates of approvals in principle the primary basis of prioritisation. [258884]

Mr. Simon: In 1997-98, the total capital expenditure in Further Education colleges in England in the financial year 1997-98 was nil.

In total since that time, this Government have invested £2.4 billion and will be investing a record further £2.3 billion across the next three years.

In total, since the programme began under this Government, nearly 700 projects, at 330 colleges have been agreed. Only 42 colleges have not yet benefited from investment.

But the pace of demand for capital funding has increased. Projects and the scale of Government funding they require are becoming increasingly ambitious. In addition there are signs that the ability of colleges to raise their own funds for proposed projects is being affected by the downturn.

It is for this reason that over the past few weeks the Learning and Skills Council has been working closely with colleges that have submitted or are working on bids, to look at the individual current positions before making further funding decisions. As a result of this the consideration of a small number of applications that were due for decision—both in principle and in detail—has been deferred from December to March.

At the March meeting of the LSC National Council it will decide when it can make decisions on the small number of applications that were deferred from December to March. It will also advise on when and on what basis it will consider other capital applications. This will include as necessary, any decisions on how future proposals may be prioritised.

Engineers: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that skills shortages for the training of flood engineers are being addressed. [253817]

Mr. Simon: The Government support the work of Energy and Utility Skills (EUSkills) Sector Skills Council, which covers the water industries. The remit of Sector Skills Councils includes raising employer engagement, demand and investment in skills.

EUSkills, working with the water companies, have developed an on-line work force development tool which allows the water companies to undertake a number of different forecast work force scenarios. This scenario work is continuing, and water companies may include this data within their final business plans as part of their price review to Ofwat (the Water Services Regulation Authority) during 2009.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) commissioned a comprehensive report on Engineering Skills for Flood Risk Management from the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), which was produced in October 2004. The Environment Agency has had a capacity plan since May 2004 and a three year strategy to address the civil engineering skills shortage since August 2005. The Environment Agency also operate a foundation degree in Science for River and Coastal Engineering and have a new graduate training programme. These are both supported by national recruitment campaigns.

DEFRA are continuing to work with the Environment Agency and other relevant organisations to assist them in developing appropriate skills and capacity to meet future requirements.

English Language

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department and its predecessor spent on courses in English for speakers of other languages in each of the last five years, broken down by course level. [258544]

Mr. Simon: The information is not available in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department has signed and is committed to the Government Skills Pledge to encourage and support all staff to achieve at least a full level 2 qualification. Some element of this support may in a few cases include supporting the attainment of basic literacy but this is provided via local colleges and incurs no direct cost to the Department.

Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

Mr. Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1098W, on higher education: anti-Semitism, when he expects to set up the dedicated sub-group to the Cross Government Working Group against anti-Semitism; who the members of the sub-group will be; and if he will make a statement. [259146]

Mr. Lammy: The Department is currently in the process of establishing this group and inviting attendees to the first meeting. At this first meeting the group will agree its continuing membership and terms of reference. We see this group as playing an important role in helping to tackle anti-Semitism in higher education.

Learning and Skills Council

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what records are held by his Department on meetings of the Learning and Skills Council's National Council. [258464]

Mr. Simon: The minutes from the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) National Council meetings are sent to and held by the Department. The LSC also makes a summary of these minutes available on its website.

Learning and Skills Council: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by the Learning and Skills Council is in 2008-09. [258526]

Mr. Simon: E-PIMS does not hold the information requested about the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) vacant properties. However, the LSC does collect this information separately and I have asked Mark Haysom, LSC chief executive, to write to the hon. Member. A copy will be placed on the House Library.

Local Government: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 760W, on new local government network: finance, how much funding his Department has provided to the new local government network since February 2008; and what the purpose of the allocation of £56,417 by the Learning and Skills Council was. [258058]

Mr. Simon: We are not aware of any funding being made available to the New Local Government Network (NLGN) by this Department. However, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), which is a non-departmental public body sponsored by this Department, provided £21,150 for corporate membership of the Network for the period January 2008 to December 2008.

The £56,417 which the LSC contracted to the New Local Government Network in the period from January 2007 paid for LSC corporate membership for the 2007 calendar year, and sponsored two research projects focused on service delivery and the role of local authorities in managing migration. Local authorities are a key partner of the LSC and these projects aimed to support delivery of a number of LSC education and training programmes.

Marine Studies: Plymouth

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the *(a)* teaching, *(b)* research and *(c)* achievement against objectives of the Marine Institute at Plymouth University; and if he will make a statement. [258852]

Mr. Lammy: The Government do not formally assess the performance of individual universities, or individual departments within universities.

Social Work: Higher Education

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many universities are planning to close their social work departments. [258413]

Mr. Lammy: Information on the closure, merger or opening of particular university departments is not routinely collected by the Department although we are aware that Reading university has recently proposed to close its social work department in order to strengthen other areas. Nationally, 100 higher education institutions teach social work as a major subject for nearly 60,000 students. While institutions will continue to be responsible for deciding for themselves which subjects to teach, we are committed across Government to strengthening the capacity of the social care work force to respond effectively to the challenges they face.

Train to Gain Programme: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding his Department has made available to support the Train to Gain programme in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency. [255033]

Mr. Simon: LSC data is not available at constituency level. Data can be obtained at local authority level, but this can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Data for the North West Region as a whole indicates that spend to support the Train to Gain programme for the 2006-07 financial year was £28,680,424 and for the 2007-08 financial year was £43,004,270 giving a total spend of £71,684,694.

Train to Gain is the key service for supporting employers to invest in the future productivity and profitability of their businesses by investing in the skills of their employees. Train to Gain offers quality-assured, impartial advice from skills brokers, to help identify the business' skills needs at all levels and make the right, informed choices. Since Train to Gain was rolled out nationally in August 2006, it has engaged over 101,000 employers and supported over 570,000 learners to begin learning, of which over 290,000 have achieved a qualification.

Vocational Training

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many Learning and Skills Council-funded adult learners in 2006-07 who were eligible for inclusion in statistics used to measure progress in the Skills for Life Public Service Agreement target were aged *(a)* 19 to 24 years and *(b)* 25 years and over, broken down by whether they were funded through (i) further education colleges and (ii) the University for Industry; [254967]

(2) how many Learning and Skills Council-funded adult learners over the age of 16 years were eligible for inclusion in statistics used to measure progress against the Skills for Life Public Service Agreement target in *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06 and *(e)* 2006-07. [254968]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* The following table shows Skills for Life achievement figures by age and funding stream in 2006/07. The table shows only those achievements which count towards the 2010 PSA target which is to improve the basic skill levels of 2.25 million adults between the launch of Skills for Life in 2001 and 2010. This target was achieved in 2008.

Skills for Life 2010 target-bearing achievements (LSC-funded), for FE colleges and University for Industry, in 2006/07 (annual discounted achievements)

	FE colleges	*University for Industry*
19-24 years old	41,800	11,000
25 years or over	106,500	39,700

Source:
FE and UfI Individualised Learner Record

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Services: Manpower

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the EU Working Time Directive on staffing and medical cover in *(a)* accident and emergency departments and *(b)* urgent care centres. [257453]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. It is the responsibility of local employers to implement working time directive as part of their health and safety obligations.

Alcoholic Drinks: Elderly People

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals aged over 65 years resident in each *(a)* London borough and *(b)* Government office region were treated for alcohol-related health problems in each of the last five years. [256641]

Dawn Primarolo: The only centrally available data on treatment for alcohol-related health problems are the number of admissions to hospital for alcohol and alcohol-related health problems. An individual may account for more than one admission.

While it is possible to analyse the admissions data to determine the number of individuals aged over 65 years admitted to hospital for alcohol and alcohol-related health problems, this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

The following tables gave the number of alcohol-related finished admissions for patients aged over 65 years by London borough and Government office region for each year from 2002-03 to 2006-07. 2006-07 is the latest year for which data are available. The figures relate to the number of admissions rather than the number of individuals.

Number of alcohol-related admissions of patients aged 65 or over, by London borough of residence

London Borough	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
City of London	16	25	19	20	30
Barking and Dagenham	736	787	884	1,035	1,095
Barnet	767	775	1,050	1,502	1,600
Bexley	612	574	712	755	900
Brent	630	613	810	1,114	1,529

Number of alcohol-related admissions of patients aged 65 or over by London borough of residence

London Borough	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Bromley	1,006	1,297	1,695	1,851	2,009
Camden	598	599	725	807	871
Croydon	1,074	1,356	1,631	1,710	1,756
Ealing	1,035	1,361	1,470	1,717	1,869
Enfield	895	982	989	1,056	1,520
Greenwich	550	735	982	905	989
Hackney	763	663	766	893	999
Hammersmith and Fulham	693	550	632	779	862
Haringey	650	704	761	837	839
Harrow	683	768	959	989	1,180
Havering	1,172	1,103	1,315	1,702	1,841
Hillingdon	836	993	1,156	1,499	1,681
Hounslow	655	731	976	1,236	818
Islington	529	698	620	689	791
Kensington and Chelsea	619	620	695	595	661
Kingston upon Thames	598	643	956	703	898
Lambeth	647	682	859	998	1,074
Lewisham	679	701	994	909	1,130
Merton	655	673	786	683	776
Newham	758	795	764	1,099	1,190
Redbridge	949	979	1,126	1,408	1,518
Richmond upon Thames	586	661	747	911	793
Southwark	651	675	665	986	970
Sutton	598	667	671	766	706
Tower Hamlets	657	575	795	805	812
Waltham Forest	766	851	895	1,073	1,087
Wandsworth	763	737	895	1,112	1,194
Westminster	630	660	705	870	972
London	20,755	23,467	28,133	33,439	36,805

Number of alcohol-related admissions of patients aged 65 or over by Government Office region of residence

Government Office Region	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
North East	11,475	13,560	16,650	16,920	21,089
North West	39,685	36,420	41,350	46,562	51,637
Yorkshire and Humber	26,700	23,133	25,625	28,300	30,615
East Midlands	19,705	21,925	23,852	26,200	28,220
West Midlands	15,662	18,516	23,516	29,671	35,128
East of England	22,670	25,656	28,200	33,982	36,646
London	20,755	23,467	28,133	33,439	36,805
South East	27,752	30,772	36,736	41,198	44,331
South West	25,036	28,270	31,329	36,506	38,036
No fixed abode	198	161	221	288	164
Unknown	755	480	609	732	923
England	197,566	222,613	259,701	293,762	323,595

Notes:
Includes activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.
Alcohol-related admissions
The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO). Following international best practice, the NWPHO methodology includes a wide range of diseases and injuries in which alcohol plays a part and estimates the proportion of cases that are attributable to the consumption of alcohol. Details of the conditions and associated proportions can be found in the report Jones et al. (2008) Alcohol-attributable fractions for England: Alcohol-attributable mortality and hospital admissions.
Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis
These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once in each month, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.
Finished admission episode
A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Primary diagnosis
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
Secondary diagnoses
As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.
Data Quality
HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data on HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Ambulance Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department has issued to ambulance services on the uptake of the NHS Pathways system; [259175]

(2) what provision his Department has made for the varying of funding allocations granted to NHS ambulance services when approving their use of the NHS Pathways system for dealing with 999 calls; [259176]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost of training ambulance service staff to operate the new NHS Pathways system for dealing with 999 calls to date. [259177]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not issued guidance to ambulance services. Having considered evidence of the safety and efficacy of NHS Pathways, on 20 February 2009 the Department announced it had approved the product for use by the national health service. It is now for NHS services to decide whether to use NHS Pathways. Ambulance services that consider changing to NHS Pathways will be expected to look at the costs and benefits for their local area, including in relation to affordability and retraining staff.

Aortic Aneurysms: Screening

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2051-52W, on aortic aneurysms: medical treatments, which NHS trusts that applied to participate in the early implementation phase of the abdominal aortic aneurysms screening programme, met the relevant criteria as developed by strategic health authority screening leads. [256896]

Ann Keen: The following six early implementer sites were identified after successfully meeting the criteria:

Screening programme	*Trust name*
Gloucester	Gloucester NHS Foundation Trust
South Devon and Exeter	South Devon NHS Foundation Trust
	Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust
South Manchester	University Hospital of South Manchester
	Manchester Children's University Hospital
Leicester	University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust
West Sussex	Surrey and Sussex NHS Trust
South West London	St. George's Hospital Healthcare NHS Trust

Dementia

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the percentage of *(a)* the total population and *(b)* those over 60 years of age with (i) dementia and (ii) Alzheimer's syndrome. [258419]

Phil Hope: The Department does not have information on the percentage of the total population with dementia or Alzheimer's syndrome over 60 years of age. However, the Dementia UK report, published in 2007 by the Alzheimer's Society show that there are approximately 570,000 who have the condition in England, and that roughly two thirds of these are undiagnosed.

Dental Services

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists were operating under *(a)* general dental services contracts and *(b)* personal dental services agreements in (i) North Wiltshire constituency, (ii) Wiltshire, (iii) Swindon, (iv) London and (v) England in each year since 1997. [258293]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

The number of national health service (NHS) dentists, by contract type, in England as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006, is available in Table 4 of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006".

The number of NHS dentists, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex E of the aforementioned report. Information is available by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT). Annex G contains information by parliamentary constituency.

This measure counted the number of NHS dentists recorded on PCT lists as at 31 March each year. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

Information by contract type at a regional level is not available under the old contractual arrangements.

The numbers of dentists with NHS activity, by contract type, during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 are available in Table G2 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007/08" report. Information is provided by SHA and by PCT but is not available by constituency. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

This measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much NHS funding has been allocated to dentistry provision in North Wiltshire constituency in each year since 2004. [258294]

Ann Keen: Prior to April 2006, most primary dental services were provided under former general dental service (GDS) arrangements. These were demand-led services where the pattern of dental expenditure was largely determined by where dentists chose to practice, and how much national health service (NHS) work they chose to undertake.

The former GDS arrangements were replaced with effect from 1 April 2006, when primary care trusts (PCTs) were given responsibility for planning and

commissioning primary dental services and provided with local, devolved, dental budgets. The primary dental service funding allocations made to Wiltshire PCT for each of the three years since PCTs assumed full responsibility for primary dental care services are in the following table. These are net of income from dental charges paid by patients, which are retained locally to supplement the resources available for dentistry. Actual expenditure levels are determined by the pattern and type of services commissioned by each PCT. PCTs may also dedicate some of their other NHS resources to dentistry if they consider this an appropriate local priority. Allocations are not apportioned by individual constituency areas; PCTs determine the distribution of resources within their area on the basis of local needs and priorities.

Primary Dental Service net funding allocations for Wiltshire PCT

	Allocation (£000)
2006-07	10,727
2007-08	11,366
2008-09	12,787

Notes:
1. The allocation figure for 2006-07 is the aggregate of the allocations made initially to the Kennet and North Wiltshire, South Wiltshire, and West Wiltshire PCTs before they merged to form the Wiltshire PCT with effect from 1 October 2006.
2. PCTs are awarded separate funding allocations to meet the cost of any dental vocational trainees who may be placed with dental practices in their area.

Dental Services: Young People

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under 16 years in England were treated within community dental services in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [258325]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally.

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what IT security strategy his Department has in place; what steps are being taken to ensure the policy is being followed; what policy is in place on the use of encryption when data are sent externally; and what sanctions are in place for use should the policy not be followed. [259002]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are strict rules on data security which the Department is required to adhere to, and has a number of information security policies in place to safeguard its information technology (IT) devices and information assets.

Specifically it has an information security policy and computer security policy, broadly these cover:

Computer devices such as laptops;

Clear desk policy;

Sensitive and personal information handling;

Document security (including paper);

Protected personal information protocols;

Spam and hoax e-mail; and

Password security.

To ensure compliance, the Department IT security team undertake a rolling programme of compliance checking to ensure the policies are being followed. These checks will include physical checks, e.g. clear desk and checks to ensure portable devices and media are secured through to investigation of e-mail and network storage.

All Department laptops have full disk encryption as standard. Any data transported from a desktop PC or an encrypted laptop device to a USB memory stick is also encrypted.

Any data transmitted externally is governed by the document security policy and differing levels of security apply as appropriate to the protective marking of the document or data being transmitted. Clear policy and guidance is laid down for staff, under the document security policy.

Any identified breach of IT security policy is investigated and formally reported to the senior civil servant responsible for the appropriate area of business. Depending upon the nature of the breach, various sanctions are available under normal disciplinary procedures.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on international travel in each of the last 11 years; and how much of that was spent on travel by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants. [256553]

Mr. Bradshaw: Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code" respectively.

The Cabinet Office publishes an annual list of overseas visits made by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500 dating from 1997 onwards including the Secretary of State for Health. Details on all Health Ministers overseas travel for 2007-08 can also be found on the Cabinet Office website. A copy of this document has been placed in the Library.

Details of ministerial overseas visits undertaken in 2008-09 will be published on the Cabinet Office website in July 2009.

The amount spent on international travel for officials is not easily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost

Dietary Supplements: EC Law

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions officials from his Department have had with the Enterprise Directorate General of the European Commission on the potential effects on small and medium-sized businesses of the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements under the provisions of Article 5 of the EU Food Supplements Directive; [258326]

(2) when he expects the European Commission will propose maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements under the provisions of Article 5 of the EU Food Supplements Directive; what procedures will apply to the adoption of those proposals; and if he will make a statement; [258327]

(3) what steps he plans to take to ensure the availability of higher potency vitamin and mineral supplements on the UK market; [258328]

(4) what recent representations he has received from *(a)* independent health food retailers and *(b)* consumers about the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements under the provisions of Article 5 of the EU Food Supplements Directive; [258329]

(5) when he next expects a Minister from his Department to meet the European Commissioners responsible for DG SANCO to discuss the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements under the provisions of Article 5 of the EU Food Supplements Directive; [258330]

(6) on what occasions he has discussed with *(a)* the European Commissioners responsible for DG SANCO and *(b)* each of his counterparts from other EU member states the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements under the provisions of Article 5 of the EU Food Supplements Directive in the last 12 months. [258331]

Dawn Primarolo: No discussions have taken place between departmental officials and the Directorate General Enterprise of the European Commission on the potential impact upon small and medium-sized businesses of the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements under the provisions of article 5 of the food supplements directive.

We have been advised by the Food Standards Agency that draft proposals outlining maximum levels would be discussed at the next working group meeting of member states, which is now likely to be held in April. Proposals are, therefore, unlikely to be published until after this meeting has taken place. The European Commission has also indicated that the draft proposals will be subject to an exchange of views in the Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health prior to their formal publication.

I am exploring with officials how high potency vitamin and mineral supplements could be permitted under the scope of the food supplements directive.

I have received representations from independent health food retailers and consumers about the setting of maximum levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements, in the form of correspondence.

I recently met with my Spanish counterpart to discuss a range of issues including the setting of maximum levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements. This subject has not been discussed in meetings between Health Ministers and the European Commissioner for Health and there are no current plans for Health Ministers to meet with the Commissioner to discuss this subject.

Disabled Facilities Grants

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many disabled facilities grants have been made in each year since their inception; how much has been spent through the grant in each such year; what the budget for the grant was in each such year; what the banding for the means test is; and what the *(a)* maximum, *(b)* minimum and *(c)* mean contribution made by people in reception of the grant has been in each year. [256710]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

The Government regard the disabled facilities grant programme as an important means to help disabled and older people continue to live as independently as possible by having their homes adapted. That is why we have more than doubled the Government funds available for the programme from £57 million in 1997 to £146 million in 2008 with an increase of £10 million in each of the subsequent years making the budget £166 million by 2010. Details of the grant contributions by Communities and Local Government can be found on the Department's website.

Local authorities in England report information on the number of grants and amount spent through the grant as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) returns. The following table shows the total expenditure on disabled facilities grant. Communities and Local Government contributed 60 per cent. of funding with local authorities match funding the remaining 40 per cent. Data prior to 1996-97 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Number and amount of disabled facilities grants paid, England, 1996-97 to 2007-08

Financial year	*Number*	*£000*
1996-97	20,060	92,230
1997-98	21,990	100,410
1998-99	22,180	107,100
1999-2000	22,720	116,530
2000-01	24,730	130,720
2001-02	25,510	145,120
2002-03	30,100	173,780
2003-04	37,170	201,980
2004-05	38,550	210,310
2005-06	34,940	221,340
2006-07	37,270	232,830
2007-08	38,130	250,100

Notes:
1. Number of grants are measured in the financial year they are completed.
2. Expenditure is reported in the financial year it is spent.

Source:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) return.

The means test used for disabled facilities grants works on the same principle as the tests used for many other means-tested benefits including housing benefit. The test includes as expenditure a range of standard allowances and premiums based on housing benefit and income support regulations. This model not only ensures that the grant goes to those least able to contribute to the cost of the works but also to help ensure that applicants are treated consistently. The Department does not hold records of individuals' contributions. The following link provides greater detail on the means test.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/supportandadaptations/housingadaptations/testresourcesfordfg/

Epilepsy

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of dedicated epilepsy nurses in neurology departments. [258682]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of the provision of dedicated epilepsy nurses. Local trusts are responsible for the skill mix of their work force, including the provision of specialist nurses for patients with epilepsy. They are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community and must have the freedom to deploy staff in ways appropriate for local conditions.

Eyesight: Pensioners

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pensioners in York received free NHS eye tests in each of the last 10 years. [257840]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows the numbers of national health service (NHS) sight test claims processed for persons aged 60 and over in North Yorkshire health authority (HA), York and Selby primary care trust (PCT) and North Yorkshire and York PCT in the relevant financial years.

	North Yorkshire HA	*York and Selby PCT*	*North Yorkshire and York PCT*
1999-2000	52,072	n/a	n/a
2000-01	61,787	n/a	n/a
2001-02	68,855	n/a	n/a
2002-03	70,278	n/a	n/a
2003-04	n/a	26,254	n/a
2004-05	n/a	26,619	n/a
2005-06	n/a	25,057	n/a
2006-07	n/a	n/a	[1]—
2007-08	n/a	n/a	88,428

n/a = Not applicable.
[1] Validated information at a PCT level is not available for 2006-07.

Notes:
1. The three columns in the table represent each organisation in place that included York over the time period. The geographical areas covered by each organisation listed below vary in size which makes it not possible to have a comparable time series over the full period.
2. Patients aged 60 and over only became eligible for NHS sight tests from April 1999.

Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Health and Social Care Information Centre: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by *(a)* the Health and Social Care Information Centre, *(b)* NHS Connecting for Health, *(c)* NHS Estates and *(d)* the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency is in 2008-09. [258518]

Mr. Bradshaw: The empty property annual business rates as recorded on e-PIMS for Financial Year 2008-09 are:

	£
Health and Social Care Information Centre	8,085
NHS Connecting for Health	15,000
NHS Estates	90,000
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency	0
Total	113,085

Health Centres: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP-led health centres have been procured in Enfield to date. [256778]

Mr. Bradshaw: Enfield primary care trust is currently procuring a general practitioner (GP)-led health centre in Edmonton. The primary care trust aims to sign the contract by the end of March 2009.

Health Services: Domestic Violence

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that primary care trusts fund specialised voluntary sector support for women who experience violence. [256371]

Ann Keen: It is for local commissioners to commission services according to local needs. The Department has taken integrated measures to prevent and eliminate domestic violence, including making significant progress in the early identification of, and intervention with, domestic violence victims.

We are currently developing a violence and abuse prevention framework, that includes evidence-based interventions and prevention measures from early childhood. It will focus on early interventions to reduce the risk of all forms of interpersonal violence and abuse, and will provide supportive toolkits, protocols, care pathways and commissioning guidance.

Health Services: Nutrition

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce incidences of vitamin D deficiency. [257556]

Dawn Primarolo: It is the responsibility of the national health service to deal with incidences of vitamin D deficiency in their local area as this is a direct health care matter. The Department recommends a daily supplement of vitamin D to all pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, infants, young children, older people and those who do not expose their skin to sunlight who are particularly at risk of deficiency. The Department is developing an information leaflet to reiterate the importance of vitamin D to all health professionals and supports the provision of vitamin supplements under the Healthy Start scheme.

Health Services: Per Capita Costs

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the average annual cost of *(a)* training and *(b)* employing a (i) nurse, (ii) midwife, (iii) school nurse and (iv) health visitor. [256506]

Ann Keen: The national benchmark price for pre-registration training for both degree and diploma nursing students in the financial year 2007-08 was £6,816 outside London, and the average benchmark price for London was £7,260.

The national benchmark price for pre-registration training for both degree and diploma midwifery students in the financial year 2007-08 was £7,838 outside London, and the average benchmark price for London was £8,348.

In addition to tuition costs, nursing and midwifery trainees are entitled to either a bursary or salary support funding. The average bursary paid for degree students in 2007-08 was £2,672 outside London and £3,225 in London. The average bursary paid for diploma students in 2007-08 was £6,372 outside London and £7,443 in London.

Students may be entitled to other payments such as allowances for dependant children and the cost of national health service employees seconded on to nursing and midwifery training programmes will include a proportion of their salary costs.

Information on the average annual costs of training a school nurse and a health visitor is not held centrally.

The average (mean) annual costs of employing a nurse, midwife, school nurse and health visitor, are presented the following table. These figures are for 2008-09.

Average annual costs of employing nursing staff, 2008-09

Staff group[1]	*Average annual employment cost*[2,3,4] *(£)*
All qualified nurses	38,900
Midwife	43,200
School nurse	37,200
Health visitor	41,000

[1] NB: These staff groups are all types of qualified nurses.
[2] Average, mean, earnings for these staff groups in April to June 2008 soufced from NHS Information Centre's (IC) Quarterly Earnings Survey.
[3] Average, mean, earnings then adjusted for 2008-09 pay settlement of 2.75 per cent. plus an estimate of employers' 'on-costs' for pensions and national insurance contributions to produce average annual employment cost.
[4] Figures presented are rounded to the nearest £100 as per NHS IC convention.

Health Services: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* GPs, *(b)* hospital doctors, *(c)* community nurses and *(d)* hospital nurses are employed in NHS establishments and GP surgeries in City of York constituency. [257977]

Ann Keen: The following table shows selected staff in specified organisations in York area, as at 30 September 2007.

Total specified organisations	*Total headcount*
General practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)	663
Practice nurses	392
Hospital doctors[1]	525
All qualified nursing staff	2,921
Of which:	
Qualified community nurses[2]	943
Other qualified nursing staff[3]	1,978
Of which:	
North Yorkshire and York PCT	
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)	663
Practice nurses	392
Hospital doctors[1]	132
All qualified nursing staff	1,577
Of which:	
Qualified community nurses[2]	908
Other qualified nursing staff[3]	669
York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	
General practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)	[4]
Practice nurses	[4]
Hospital doctors[1]	393
All qualified nursing staff	1,344
Of which:	
Qualified community nurses[2]	35
Other qualified nursing staff[3]	1,309

[1] Hospital doctors excludes medical hospital practitioners and clinical assistants.
[2] Qualified community nurses are community matrons, district nurses, health visitors, school nurses, general practitioner practice nurses and other qualified nurses in the community services, community psychiatric, community learning disabilities, and school nursing areas of work.
[3] Other qualified nursing are qualified nurses working in the acute, elderly and general, paediatric, maternity services, other psychiatric, other learning disabilities, and education areas of work.
[4] Not available.

Notes:
1. Data not available by constituency area, the City of York constituency is contained within and served by the organisations provided here.
2. Data quality: Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 national health service (NHS) trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics. The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census. The Information Centre for health and social care Non-medical Workforce Census.

Malnutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients whose records are contained in the General Practice Research Database have at least one record of malnutrition *(a)* in total and *(b)* in the last year for which figures are available. [258900]

Dawn Primarolo: The General Practice Research Database (GPRD) contains records of patients recorded as suffering from malnutrition under a range of different terms, known as "Read Terms".

The total number of patients suffering from malnutrition, as identified by these terms within the GPRD, is 1,143. The number of patients suffering from malnutrition in the last full calendar year for which data is available, 2007, is 183.

The GPRD is a sample of approximately 5 per cent. of the United Kingdom population. However, actual malnutrition rates based on the entire UK population cannot be accurately calculated without full denominator information.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the full statement his Department's spokesperson issued to the BBC in response to the story on the BBC website of 10 February 2009, entitled Malnutrition affecting three million in the UK; what further consideration his Department has given to the *(a)* findings and *(b)* recommendations contained in the report by the British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition, entitled Combating malnutrition: recommendations for action; and if he will make a statement. [258901]

Dawn Primarolo: The full statement issued was:

"The Department recognises that good diet and nutrition are important for everyone. Sustained investment in tackling health inequalities has paid off. Life expectancy in England is the highest it has ever been, including in disadvantaged areas.

"We are committed to reducing health inequalities further, and have put in place the most comprehensive programme ever in this country to address them. Sir Michael Marmot is currently exploring future policy and action on reducing health inequalities in England."

The Department has a number of programmes which contribute to the nutritional wellbeing of the population including particularly vulnerable older people and young children. Nutritional care is integral to our action to tackle health inequalities and in programmes such as Dignity in Care and Healthy Start and is also addressed in Healthy lives, brighter futures—The strategy for children and young people's health, and Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: a cross-Government strategy for England. The Department recognises that ensuring good nutrition is essential in frontline health care.

British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition's recent report will feed into this work.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were recorded as having *(a)* an admission episode and *(b)* a discharge episode with a diagnosis of (i) malnutrition, (ii) nutritional anaemias and (iii) other nutritional deficiencies in NHS trusts in each year between 1997-98 and 2007-08 (A) in total and (B) broken down by NHS trust. [258902]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is available, but requires intensive and time-consuming use of statistical information systems. We will place the information in the Library once it is available.

Maternity Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the 4,000 additional midwives he undertook to provide are being provided at a local level in the NHS; how many have already been provided; and how many he plans to provide in each year to 2012. [257564]

Ann Keen: Nationally, the national health service (NHS) is planning for an additional 1,000 midwives by September 2009, rising to around 4,000 extra midwives by 2012, contingent on the rising birth rate.

As the NHS Operating Framework 2009-10 explains, in January 2008, we announced an increase in primary care trusts (PCTs) baselines of £330 million for three years from 2008-09 to support improvements in maternity services. We are also looking to PCTs to develop more responsive services, that meet local needs and react to user feedback, including ensuring that the workforce has sufficient numbers of maternity staff.

The Department has invested in training for midwives and developed a joint action plan, with strategic health authorities and the Royal College of Nurses, to support local expansion of the maternity work force.

£1.5 million has been made available to support:

return to practice programmes for midwives who are on career breaks but are now ready to return back to work;

Leadership programmes for heads of midwifery and consultant midwives;

Developing midwives role within commissioning/provider agendas;

Mentoring training;

Clinical learning facilitators to support development of new qualified midwives;

Flexible retirement scheme to retain retired midwives in the local work force; and

Maternity support workers programme.

The NHS Workforce Census for 2008, to be published in March 2009, will provide the most recent number of midwives.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 410-11W, on NICE: Weber-Shandwick, whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is a public authority for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [258583]

Dawn Primarolo: We can confirm that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NHS: Finance

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which current and on-going public finance initiative liabilities fall under the remit of his Department in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* the East of England strategic health authority. [259109]

Mr. Bradshaw: Private finance initiative (PFI) schemes open, under construction and PFI proposals in development within the boundaries of the East of England strategic health authority (which covers the county of Hertfordshire) are shown in the following table:

	Capital value (£ million)	*PFI schemes operational*
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Trust	158	New District General Hospital
Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	15	St. Mary's Wing Development in Luton
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	15	Community hospital redevelopment
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	76	Elective Care Centre, Genetics and Diabetes at Addenbrookes
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	36	Garrett Anderson Treatment Centre
South West Essex PCT	30	Reprovision of Brentwood Community Hospital

	Capital value (£ million)	Expected opening date	PFI schemes under construction
South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	32	Quarter 2 2009	Medium and low security mental health unit on Runwell hospital site
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	336	Quarter 1 2012	Reconfiguration of acute hospital services
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	148	Quarter 3 2010	Relocation of maternity unit and modernisation of acute services including diagnostic and treatment centre in Chelmsford

	Capital value (£ million)	PFI proposals in development
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	280	Major acute service reconfiguration in Watford
Papworth Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	125	New cardiothoracic centre
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	110	Major overhaul of Trust estate at Stevenage

Under current UKGAAP accounting standards, the schemes open and under construction in the table are "off-balance" sheet and not therefore recorded as capital expenditure or for that matter liabilities.

NHS: Manpower

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of *(a)* training and *(b)* employing a health visitor in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [256493]

Ann Keen: The annual cost to the national health service of training a health visitor is not held centrally.

The estimated annual average cost of employing a health visitor is £41,000. This figure is for 2008-09.

It is based on average (mean) earnings in the NHS Information Centre's (IC) Quarterly Earnings Survey (April to June 2008), adjusted for 2008-09 pay settlement of 2.75 per cent. plus an estimate of employers' 'on-costs' for Pensions and National Insurance (NI) contributions.

NHS: Negligence

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average premium paid by NHS trusts to the NHS Litigation Authority *(a)* was in each of the last five years and *(b)* is estimated to be in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [255753]

Ann Keen: The data requested are in the following table and was provided by the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA). The tables cover the three schemes administered by the NHSLA on behalf of the Secretary of State and for which they collect contributions from members. The data covers information for all national health service (NHS) trusts and NHS foundation trusts that are members, as some NHS trusts will have been authorised to become NHS foundation trusts within a given membership year.

Clinical negligence scheme for trusts (CNST)

	Number of NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts	Total Contribution (£)	Average contribution (£)
2003-04	273	243,985,098	893,718
2004-05	273	401,416,990	1,470,392
2005-06	267	458,553,161	1,717,428
2006-07	242	449,541,317	1,857,609
2007-08	242	439,353,658	1,815,511
2008-09	243	387,401,215	1,594,244
2009-10[1]	241	703,632,267	2,919,636

Liabilities to third parties scheme

	Number of NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts	Total contribution (£)	Average contribution (£)
2003-04	273	8,492,139	31,107
2004-05	272	16,829,985	61,875
2005-06	267	22,469,049	84,154
2006-07	242	36,452,378	150,630
2007-08	242	35,360,100	146,116
2008-09	243	29,268,456	120,448
2009-10[1]	239	28,861,146	120,758

Property expenses scheme

	Number of NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts	Total contribution (£)	Average contribution (£)
2003-04	266	1,841,169	6,922
2004-05	266	1,733,708	6,518
2005-06	267	2,098,278	7,859
2006-07	242	2,230,444	9,217
2007-08	242	2,150,034	8,884
2008-09	243	2,175,168	8,951
2009-10[1]	236	2,823,013	11,962

[1] Estimated contribution level

Contributions of individual members are determined by looking across a range of factors. For example, CNST contribution levels are influenced by the type of trust, the specialties it provides and the number of 'whole time equivalent clinical staff' it employs. Discounts are also available for good risk management practices and claims history.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many medical negligence claims were brought against each primary care trust (PCT) in each of the last five years; and what the cost of such claims was for each PCT. [258160]

Ann Keen: The data requested were provided by the National Health Service Litigation Authority, and are in the document 'Clinical negligence claims against PCTs 2003-2008'. A copy has been placed in the Library.

The data were correct as at 31 January 2009.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS of *(a)* medical negligence cases and *(b)* other legal claims was in each year since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the potential costs arising from outstanding cases. [258161]

Ann Keen: The data requested were provided by the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) in the following tables. The following points should be noted:

the NHSLA only collects data relating to their schemes. The NHSLA operates excess levels on some schemes whereby trusts handle claims below the excess levels themselves. These are not recorded by the NHSLA;

excesses for the Existing Liabilities Scheme were removed in 2000-01 and for the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts in 2001-02. Existing claims that fell below excess were then funded by those schemes, which accounts for the increase in clinical payments in those years; and

the data is not comprehensive because individual trusts will hold data relating to claims outside of the NHSLA's schemes or under the excess levels.

Costs of claims funded by the NHSLA's schemes

£000

	Total clinical	*Total non-clinical*	*Total*
2007-08	633,325	27,715	661,041
2006-07	579,390	33,883	613,273
2005-06	560,308	31,609	591,587
2004-05	502,893	25,120	528,013
2003-04	422,514	10,130	855,158
2002-03	446,184	21,345	467,529
2001-02	548,944	—	553,888
2000-01	871,986	979	872,965
1999-2000	277,356	390	277,746
1998-99	345,000	—	345,000
1997-98	41,000	—	41,000
1996-97	76,000	—	76,000

Provisions made for outstanding claims under the NHSLA's schemes

£ million

Ex-Regional Health Authorities Scheme	42.20
Existing Liabilities Scheme	1,925.24
Clinical Negligence scheme for trusts	9,943.37
Property expenses scheme	8.25
Liabilities to third parties scheme	141.05
Total	12,060.12

Nutrition

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will undertake an audit of data collected in relation to malnutrition; if he will assess what additional data needed to be collected; if he will establish a new data collection model and data standards for the collection of information on malnutrition; if he will put in place an annual audit of the quality of nutritional care delivered by all care providers; and if he will make a statement. [257184]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no plans to undertake an audit of data collected in relation to malnutrition. Data on malnutrition is collected through Hospital Episodes Statistics at the Information Centre and goes through a rigorous and comprehensive validation. Primary care information for this is not collected centrally.

Obesity

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to reduce levels of obesity amongst *(a)* women of child-bearing age and *(b)* pregnant women. [258286]

Dawn Primarolo: In January 2008, the Government published "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A Cross-Government Strategy for England", this sets out our plans to tackle the rise in obesity levels. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Our strategy sets out how we aim to provide everyone, this will include women of child bearing age, with the information and opportunities to achieve, and maintain, a healthy weight. In relation to pregnant women the Healthy Child programme (previously called The Child Health Promotion programme) which is the early intervention and prevention public health programme from pregnancy through the first five years of life prioritises obesity prevention. This programme supports those parents with particular risk factors that may cause overweight and obesity.

Organs: Donors

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many donations of human organs were made in each region in each year since 2000. [258988]

Ann Keen: The following tables show the number of deceased donors in each former national health service region in England in each calendar year, 2000-08, and the percentage change in donor numbers between each year:

Former NHS region[1]	*2000*	*2001*	*Percentage change*	*2002*	*Percentage change*	*2003*	*Percentage change*	*2004*	*Percentage change*
Northern and Yorkshire	113	108	-4.4	110	1.9	96	-12.7	115	19.8
Trent	60	44	-35.3	68	45.5	44	-31.2	54	22.7
Eastern	32	48	50.0	45	-6.2	47	4.4	65	38.3
London	113	124	9.7	132	6.5	102	-22.7	125	22.5
South East	118	109	-7.6	91	-16.5	95	4.4	101	6.3
South and West	45	60	33.3	54	-10.0	59	9.3	67	13.6
West Midlands	59	62	5.1	65	4.8	63	-3.1	51	-19.0
North West	104	85	-18.3	86	1.2	91	5.8	102	12.1

Former NHS region[1]	2000	2001	Percentage change	2002	Percentage change	2003	Percentage change	2004	Percentage change
Total	652	640	-1.8	647	1.1	597	-7.7	680	13.9

Former NHS region[1]	2005	Percentage change	2006	Percentage change	2007	Percentage change	2008	Percentage change
Northern and Yorkshire	115	0.0	107	-7.0	101	-5.6	95	-5.9
Trent	38	-29.6	49	28.9	39	-20.4	52	33.3
Eastern	50	-23.1	78	56.0	69	-11.5	88	27.5
London	98	-21.6	117	19.4	115	-1.7	150	30.4
South East	96	-5.0	78	-18.7	106	35.9	123	16.0
South and West	74	10.4	77	4.1	80	3.9	81	1.2
West Midlands	67	31.4	52	-22.4	66	26.9	75	13.6
North West	92	-0.8	86	-6.5	90	4.7	83	-7.8
Total	630	-7.4	644	2.2	666	3.4	747	12.2

[1] Former national health service regions are now strategic health authorities, but it is useful to continue using the previous regions for the purposes of comparing data due to changes in geographical boundaries. Region of donation is defined by the location on the donation hospital, rather than the donor's place of residence.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mandatory training is required of (*a*) intensive care and (*b*) accident and emergency medical staff on (i) obtaining consent for organ donation and (ii) organ donation procedures; and if he will make a statement. [258992]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect this information centrally. We have commissioned the Central Office of Information to map the existing training provision, validate the training requirement gap and identify solutions for priority audiences.

This work was commissioned in response to the recommendation in 'Organs for Transplants', by the Organ Donation Taskforce, that all clinical staff likely to be involved in the treatment of potential organ donors should receive mandatory training in the principles of organ donation.

Once this piece of work is completed, the Department will be working with the national health service, NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) and other key stakeholder organisations to ensure that NHS performance in these areas improves.

Subutex

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions for subutex were dispensed by community pharmacies in the latest period for which figures are available. [256849]

Phil Hope: From December 2007 to November 2008 Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) data collected by NHS Prescription Services, indicate that 630,800 prescription items for Buprenorphine products, of which Subutex is a brand, were dispensed by community pharmacists in England. PCA data records what has been reimbursed to dispensing contractors but does not record which particular Buprenorphine products have been dispensed to fill generically written prescriptions. Therefore the data also includes generically written prescriptions for Buprenorphine which may have been dispensed with Subutex.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to update guidelines on the treatment with subutex of prisoners who are addicted to drugs. [256866]

Phil Hope: The current guidelines were updated in 2007 and are set out in "Drug Misuse and Dependence: UK Guidelines on clinical management". Additional guidance is contained in "Clinical management of drug dependence in the adult prison setting, including psychosocial treatment as a core part" published in 2006. Copies of both documents have already been placed in the Library.

Thalidomide

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS trusts are equipped to measure the blood pressure of a patient who is upper limb deficient as a result of thalidomide. [258836]

Dawn Primarolo: This is information is not collected.

Thrombosis

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to include risk assessment for venous thromboembolism in hospitalised patients as an indicator in the Commissioning for Quality and Innovation payment framework. [254813]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is not mandating any indicators for inclusion in the Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) payment framework. The Department has set a framework for schemes to be developed locally, with all indicators and goals to be agreed between health care commissioners and providers. The only requirement is that each local scheme should include at least one goal in each of four areas: safety, effectiveness, patient experience and innovation.

The Department regards the prevention of venous thromboembolism (VTE) in hospitals as an extremely important issue, which is why we published the National VTE Risk Assessment in September 2008, a copy of which has been placed in the Library. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is also developing a clinical guideline to cover the prevention of VTE in all hospitalised patients, and I understand that they plan to publish the guideline in November of this year.

Transplant Surgery

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received a *(a)* heart, *(b)* lung, *(c)* kidney, *(d)* cornea, *(e)* tissue, *(f)* pancreas and *(g)* liver transplant in England in each year since 2000. [258989]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the number of people receiving heart; lung; kidney; cornea; sclera; pancreas and liver transplants in England in each calendar year, 2000 to 2008. Information on other tissues are not held centrally.

Organ	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Kidney	1,410	1,459	1,475	1,474	1,636	1,610	1,813	1,892	2,131
Heart	235	199	161	153	172	149	153	127	121
Lung(s)	131	126	128	150	134	137	124	129	139
Liver	618	630	655	590	681	558	591	592	650
Pancreas	27	40	45	45	53	98	141	204	198
Cornea	2,025	1,842	2,003	2,106	2,222	2,189	2,228	2,167	2,388
Sclera	144	89	147	131	202	161	178	247	252

Notes:
1. Figures include all combinations of organs, so for example kidney figures include kidney/pancreas; pancreas figures include pancreas/kidney; kidney figures include kidney/liver etc.
2. Figures include transplants from living donors.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average post-operation life expectancy of a patient receiving a *(a)* heart, *(b)* lung, *(c)* kidney, *(d)* liver *(e)* cornea, *(f)* pancreas and *(g)* tissue transplant is. [258990]

Ann Keen: The success of organ transplantation is measured in terms of patient or graft survival rates, rather than life expectancy. With the exception of information on corneas which shows graft survival, the following table illustrates the most recent figures available for adult patient survival one year post transplant in England.

Transplant type	*Survival (percentage)*	*Year of transplant*
Deceased[1] donor kidney	96	2003 to 2006
Living donor kidney	99	2003 to 2006
Heart	81	2003 to 2006
Lung(s)	75	2003 to 2006
Liver	89	2003 to 2006
Pancreas	98	2004 to 2006
Corneas[2]	93	2001 to 2007

[1] Heartbeating.
[2] Graft survival only for corneas.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many transplant co-ordinators were employed by each health authority in England in each year since 2000. [258991]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of donor transplant coordinators employed by national health service trusts is not collected centrally. However as part of the implementation of the Organ Donation Taskforce recommendations, all donor transplant coordinators will eventually be employed by NHS Blood and Transplant. 30 donor transplant coordinators previously employed by NHS trusts, Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment (TUPE) transferred to NHSBT employment in October and November 2008. A further 10 TUPE transfers are planned by the end of the current financial year. The TUPE transfer process of the staff within the remaining 12 donor transplant coordinator teams currently employed locally by NHS trusts will take place during the course of 2009-10.

Following two recruitment campaigns, 39 new donor transplant coordinators have been recruited and a third recruitment campaign has been launched with the intention of recruiting a further 20 new staff. Further recruitment campaigns will take place over the next 18 months. It is anticipated that a total of 265 staff, including both donor transplant coordinators and office support staff, will be in post by the end of 2010-11.

Transplant Surgery: Foreigners

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 827-32W, on transplant surgery: foreigners, what the *(a)* NHS tariff and *(b)* private tariff is in each hospital for each type of transplant. [258898]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally. There is no national mandatory tariff for transplant surgery, which means that price for this activity will be subject to negotiation between providers and commissioners.

Trauma

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has issued guidance to local healthcare trusts on minimum arrangements for pre-hospital airway management care of trauma patients. [258844]

Mr. Bradshaw: Ambulance staff are trained and provide airway management care of trauma patients in line with specific clinical guidelines. These are produced by the Joint Royal Colleges Ambulance Liaison Committee.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Impact Assessments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many equalities impact assessments the Government Equalities Office has undertaken in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of such assessments. [255062]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office has not undertaken any impact assessments in the last 12 months. An equality impact assessment for the consultation on the Equality Bill was made in the summer of 2007 and the Government Equalities Office will undertake an assessment on the Bill itself.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what expert advisers have been commissioned by the Government Equalities Office since its establishment; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the adviser so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246969]

Maria Eagle: Since its establishment on 12 October 2007 the Government Equalities Office has not commissioned any individual expert advisers.

Departmental Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working in the Government Equalities Office in each year since its inception; and what was spent on such bonuses. [249851]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office currently employs seven senior civil servants. Three of these staff were awarded non-consolidated performance pay totalling £24,000 in 2007-08, the first full year of GEO operations. Given these small numbers information about the individuals involved and the amounts awarded to each cannot be disclosed on grounds of confidentiality.

Travelling People: Equality

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what *(a)* research and *(b)* other work the Equality and Human Rights Commission has undertaken in relation to Travellers in the last 12 months. [257552]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission has undertaken the following:

(a) Research

(i) A review of the inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities.

(ii) An assessment of local housing authorities' progress in meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities in England.

Both pieces of research will be published in March 2009.

(b) Stakeholder Engagement

(i) The Commission's Policy Position Statement will be issued in March 2009 alongside the research and best practice case studies.

(ii) The Commission intervened as a third party in the case between Basildon council and the Dale Farm Gypsy and Traveller community. In the Commission's view the local authority failed to undertake an equality impact assessment to establish any disproportionate impact, for example, on the mental health of children that might arise from forced eviction. In light of the decision by the court of appeal which ruled in favour of Basildon council, the Commission has met with senior officers from the council to ensure that they are aware of their legal obligations and to explore ways forward that would meet the interests of all concerned.

Women: Economic Situation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what representations she has received from women on the effects of the economic downturn. [255864]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) and the Ministers for Women and Equality have received a number of letters and e-mails from women setting out the effects that the economic downturn is having on them personally. The GEO has also received a letter from Working Families detailing the experiences of women who have called their free helpline since October 2009. These calls are mainly relating to redundancy, dismissal and insolvency.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 245-6W, on Preventing Violent Extremism Community Leadership Fund, how much each organisation received from the fund in 2007-08; and how much each organisation currently receiving funding will receive between 2008-09 and 2010-11. [259139]

Mr. Khan: The 2007-08 funding allocations for each organisation are set out in the following table.

Subsequent funding allocations through the Community Leadership Fund for 2008-09 to 2010-11 have been published on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/communities/987558

2007-08 allocations:

Leadership Capacity—building the capacity of today and tomorrow's leaders in the Muslim community, to enable them to help the community to resist the influence of violent extremists and promote a positive and engaged citizenship.

Project partner	Funding level (£)
Business in the Community	30,000
Business in the Community	21,700
Muslim Youth Helpline	35,000
Common Purpose	65,000
Muslim Youth Development Partnership	40,000
Sizanani Africa	20,000
Khayaal Theatre Company	38,450
Changemakers Foundation	29,750
Innovate Arts CIC	10,000
UK Race & Europe Network	29,770
Sufi Muslim Council	28,000
Sufi Muslim Council	30,500
FATIMA Women's Network	10,077
Luqman Institute	30,000

Organisational Capacity—building the capacity of organisations in the Muslim community to actively resist the influence of violent extremists.

Project partner	Funding level (£)
The British Muslim Forum	150,000
The British Muslim Forum	44,200
Business in the Community	45,000
Britslam	51,000
British Muslims for Secular Democracy (BMSD)	32,503
Sufi Muslim Council	24,000
MINAB	75,600

Capacity of Muslim Women—unlocking the potential of Muslim women in tackling violent extremism, enabling their voices to be heard and empowering them to engage with young Muslims at risk of being targeted by violent extremists.

Project partner	Funding level (£)
Unity FM	20,000
Heartstone	5,000
Muslim Women's Network	15,000

Community Relations: Islam

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 246W, on Radical Middleway, how much the Radical Middleway Programme will cost in 2008-09; and how much her Department will contribute towards this. [259189]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government are funding the Radical Middle Way at £350,000.00 for their domestic programme of work. This represents the total cost of their programme this year.

Community Relations: Religion

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department plans to release as part of round one of the Faiths in Action programme in 2009-10; how much it has allocated to the programme for that financial year; and if she will make a statement. [259330]

Mr. Khan: The Department intends to make £600,000 available during 2009-10 for grants in round one of the Faiths in Action scheme. A shortlist of applications is presently being considered and I plan to make an announcement soon.

Council Housing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate she has made of the average percentage of annual rent from a new build social home built under the proposals outlined in Changes to the revenue and capital rules for new council housing, that will be spent on *(a)* repaying the debt from building the property, *(b)* maintenance, *(c)* management and *(d)* repairs in the first year of operation of the revised rules; [258961]

(2) what estimate she has made of the average annual cost to a local authority of servicing the debt required to build one new build social home under the proposals outlined in the Changes to the revenue and capital rules for new council housing consultation in the first year of operation of the revised rules. [258962]

Mr. Iain Wright: Our proposals will enable councils to exclude new properties from the subsidy system. This will allow them to retain surplus rents on those properties to help fund development costs. The amount of borrowing needed to build a new home and the cost to an authority of servicing debt associated with a scheme will depend on the level of rent, and the amount of grant support and other capital subsidy.

The consultation paper on the revenue and capital changes says that nationally in aggregate, management, maintenance and repairs for council houses represent 72 per cent. of assumed rental income, leaving 28 per cent. available to service any prudential borrowing.

Council Housing: Rents

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of proposed local authority rent increases on their tenants in *(a)* Luton and *(b)* England. [257325]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities remain responsible for setting their actual rents, in consultation with their tenants, and will want to consider what is affordable and acceptable locally when doing this. Central government does not intervene in this decision.

However, we do want to encourage all social landlords to set rents that are affordable and fair for their tenants.

Disadvantaged: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the score of each of the lower layer super output areas in each principal seaside town in England was in each domain of the index of multiple deprivation for *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2007, ranked from highest to lowest in each year. [257542]

John Healey: I have placed in the Library of the House a table which lists the score and rank of each of the Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)—for each

domain of the Indices of Deprivation—in the local authority districts which contain the principal seaside towns. This table provides the data for 2004 and 2007, and also identifies the ward in which each LSOA is located.

Eco-Towns: Publicity

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1142W, on eco-towns: finance, how much expenditure has been incurred on each *(a)* exhibition and *(b)* road show on eco-towns. [252797]

Mr. Iain Wright: The total cost of exhibition and roadshow activity incurred to date by the Department is £369,568.90. It is not possible to provide individual costs for each event as a substantial proportion of the costs relate to the management and production of the event programme as a whole.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people visited each eco-town roadshow; and how much each roadshow cost to provide, broken down by cost category. [254128]

Margaret Beckett: Due to the 'turn up and view' nature of the eco-town roadshows, there was no registration process. Therefore we do not have records of the actual numbers of visitors to each roadshow. However, 9,000 of the 'Have Your Say' leaflets were given out over the 15 days that the events ran.

In terms of the roadshow costs I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) today (PQ 252797).

Fire Services: Working Hours

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect on flex-duty fire brigade officers of the proposed ending of the opt-out from the EU Working Time Directive. [258640]

Mr. Khan: Although arrangements vary across the Fire and Rescue Service, typically officers on the flexible duty system are required to work a weekly average of no more than 42 positive managerial hours; and to provide standby cover on an on-call basis which should average not more than 36 hours per week.

The amendments voted by the European Parliament in December to end opt-outs from the working time directive's 48-hour weekly maximum; and to the treatment of inactive on-call time as working time could, taken together, have a substantial impact on FRS officers working the flexible duty system. The UK therefore places great importance on retaining the opt-out and other flexibilities agreed by the Council of Ministers in June and will continue to defend them.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government took to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2009; and if she will make a statement. [256731]

Mr. Khan: The theme of Holocaust Memorial Day 2009, organised by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, was 'Stand Up to Hatred'. It examined what hatred means; how it can be enshrined in actions, language and legislation; and how each individual can help to make our communities strong and safe.

A number of hon. Members attended the national commemoration on 25 January 2009 at the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry. These included my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government; and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department. I also attended, and was able to meet with a number of survivors at a reception, where I read a goodwill message from my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister.

In addition to this, on 26 January 2009 I attended the Beth Shalom Centre where I was able to take part in a service marking Holocaust Memorial Day. The Beth Shalom Centre is a place of remembrance for the victims of the Holocaust and a place of education, challenge and reflection for people everywhere.

On 29 January 2009, I opened and closed a Topical Debate on the floor of the House of Commons which was dedicated to Holocaust Memorial Day.

Bodies that commemorate the Holocaust and subsequent genocides play a vital role in ensuring that we never allow ourselves forget past atrocities, and help our and future generations to learn from them. The Government are continuing strongly to support such bodies, as well as bodies whose work is associated with the theme of this year's event. This includes core grant funding of £750,000 to the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, an increase of 50 per cent. on previous years.

Local Government Finance: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received in respect of the local government grant support settlement for the London borough of Bexley. [257844]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 22 January 2009, *Official Record*, column 1660W. Parliament approved the Local Government Finance Settlement 2009/10 on Wednesday 4 February. The Department has received no further representations on the level of Government grant support to the London borough of Bexley.

Local Government: Billing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to encourage local authorities to pay invoices within 10 days of receipt. [257548]

John Healey: Local authorities are responsible for their own payment arrangements and in the present economic downturn many are taking steps to ensure invoices are settled promptly.

Members: Correspondence

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to reply to the letter of 12 January 2009 from the hon. Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey. [258841]

Mr. Khan: The Minister for Local Government replied to the hon. Member on 19 February 2009.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to reply to the letter of 19 January 2009 from the hon. Member for Billericay on business rates. [258993]

Mr. Khan: The Minister for Local Government replied to the hon. Member on 20 February 2009.

Non-Domestic Rates: Business

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has made an assessment of the likely effects on businesses of the increase in business rates in 2009-10. [257579]

John Healey: Established Government policy on Impact Assessments:

www.berr.gov.uk/files/file44544.pdf

is that they are not required where a predetermined formula, such as the rate of inflation, changes the rate of a tax.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the effect of the new empty property business rates on local economies and local firms. [257949]

John Healey: An Impact Assessment detailing the impact of the empty property reforms was published by Communities and Local Government in May 2007 accompanying the introduction of the Rating (Empty Properties) Bill and a further assessment was laid before this House on 26 February accompanying the Non-Domestic Rating (Unoccupied Property) (England) Regulations 2008—Number: 386.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate her Department has made of *(a)* the number of businesses eligible to claim small business rate relief and *(b)* the value of small business rate relief eligible to be claimed in each year since 2005; [258077]

(2) how many businesses paid small business rate relief supplements in each year since 2005; and what the value was of small business rate relief supplements collected in each year since 2005. [258079]

John Healey: Local authorities reported there were 392,000 businesses in England in receipt of small business rate relief as at 31 December 2006, the only year for which this information is currently available. Information on the number of businesses who paid the small business rate relief supplement is not available.

Details of the total relief granted and the value of the supplement collected since 2005-06 are given, in £ millions, in the following table.

	Relief granted	*£ million Amount raised*
2005-06	202	306
2006-07	237	311
2007-08	260	133

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the average administrative cost to businesses of applying for small business rate relief. [258081]

John Healey: No such estimate has been made. However, a regulatory impact assessment detailing the impact of the small business rate relief (SBRR) scheme was published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in January 2005 accompanying the introduction of the Non-Domestic Rating (Small Business Rate Relief) (England) Order 2004—Number: 3315—and a further assessment was laid before the House by Communities and Local Government on the 23 August accompanying the Non-Domestic Rating (Small Business Rate Relief) (Amendment) (England) Order 2006—Number: 2313.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to ensure that businesses are aware of their entitlement to small business rate relief. [258083]

John Healey: Local authorities include with rate bills information about the small business rate relief scheme and the website

www.businesslink.gov.uk

also contains information about various aspects of the non-domestic rating system, including the small business rate relief scheme. Business rates information letters were also sent by the Department in September 08 to all local authorities in England to clarify the deadlines for applying for small business rate relief and to remind them that they should encourage businesses to apply for the relief.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the level of small business rate relief supplements is calculated. [258159]

John Healey: The small business rate relief scheme is a self-financing scheme, funded by a supplement paid by businesses that do not meet the eligibility criteria. The level of the supplement in 2009-10 was calculated using information supplied by local authorities from their national non-domestic rates returns submitted to the Department about the cost of the small business rate relief scheme in previous years. A further estimate was made about the cost of the amendment to the scheme which comes into effect on 1 April 2009, allowing occupants of new properties that join the rating list during the financial year to claim relief. The value of the supplement is based on these estimates and a forecast of the number and aggregate value of properties that are able to fund the scheme.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to her Department's statistical release of 17 May 2007 on

national non-domestic rates to be collected by local authorities in England 2007-08, how the excess in small business rate supplements collected in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07 was spent. [258164]

John Healey: The small business rate relief scheme is a self-financing scheme, funded by a supplement paid by larger businesses that do not meet the eligibility criteria.

The supplement is adjusted each year to take account of the amount of revenue required to fund the scheme and can also be adjusted to ensure that over the lifetime of the scheme the relief is self financing. In years 2007-08 and 2008-09 the supplement was set at a lower rate than the costs in those years to meet the aim that large businesses do not over fund the scheme.

All non-domestic rate revenues collected are redistributed back to local authorities as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the amount paid in non-domestic rates by port businesses in each year from 2003 via the cumulo system. [258234]

John Healey: This information is not collected by Communities and Local Government.

Any contractual agreement for payment of non-domestic rates on behalf of port businesses is a matter between them and their port operator.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre: VAT

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre has reduced its retail prices for items which attract value added tax, including in its canteens, since December 2008. [258394]

Mr. Khan: The QE2 Conference Centre has applied the reduced rate of value added tax in accordance with HMRC guidelines to all its services since December 2008 and has passed this reduction in price on to its customers. Catering facilities at the centre are provided through a catering concession contract, by Leith's, part of the Compass Group. Customers contract directly with Leith's for their catering services and Leith's have also passed on the value added tax price reduction to the customer.

Regional Ministers: Publicity

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of *(a)* production and *(b)* circulation of newsletters on the activities of each Regional Minister was in the last 12 months [258688]

Mr. Khan: The information is as follows:

GO	*Date*	*Cost of production*	*Cost of circulation*
GO East	January/ February 2009	£989 including VAT. This is for the set up of an electronic template for the newsletter to be delivered as PDF format.	No cost. Newsletter sent electronically via e-mail.
GONW	7 April 2008	£1,850.63 (including VAT) for design of template	No cost
	31 July	No cost	No cost
	6 November	No cost	No cost
	18 February	No cost	No cost

The other seven Government offices did not produce separate newsletters on the activities of their Regional Ministers.

Rented Housing: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new *(a)* council and *(b)* housing association homes for rent have been built in City of York constituency in each year since the creation of the unitary local authority. [257829]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on social rented homes by constituency is not available. The following table shows the number of new social rented homes built by registered social landlords in the City of York unitary authority for each year from 1996-97. There have not been any new social rented homes built by local authorities in the City of York unitary authority since 1996-97. The figures exclude acquisitions of social rented homes.

	Registered social landlords new build social rented homes
1996-97	80
1997-98	100
1998-99	0
1999-2000	160
2000-01	130
2001-02	110
2002-03	80
2003-04	120
2004-05	170
2005-06	170
2006-07	40
2007-08	30

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), and Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) returns submitted to CLG by local authorities

Not all social rented housing is provided by new build completions, as some supply can come from acquisitions. In 2005-06, an additional four social rented homes were acquired by RSLs in the City of York unitary authority; these are not included in the main PQ answer. There have been no acquisitions in later years.

Social Rented Housing

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to social landlords on *(a)* the implementation of rent rises under the target rent regime and *(b)* the effects of the regime on tenants for whom such rises may cause financial hardship. [258842]

Mr. Iain Wright: The setting of actual rents is a matter for local housing authorities.

The former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister issued "A Guide to Social Rent Reforms in the Local Authority Sector" in February 2003, which outlined the principles of the rent restructuring programme including the formulae to be used for calculating formula and guideline rents, and the 'caps and limits' on rent charges designed to protect tenants from unduly high rent increases in any one year.

The guide makes clear the basis of the Government's policy which is that social rents should remain affordable, and well below those in the private sector. The rent formula includes an element to reflect local earnings to take account of affordability.

Tenants' Rights

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether she plans to implement the proposals of the Law Commission to facilitate the succession of secure tenancies of social housing to the children of couples upon their demise; [258274]

(2) if she will bring forward legislative proposals to amend the Housing Act 1985 to facilitate the succession of a secure tenancy to the child of a couple following their demise. [258275]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have no current plans to amend the rights of succession. While the law currently allows each tenancy to be succeeded only once, local housing authorities do have the freedom to grant new tenancies to those unable to succeed, having considered the merits of individual cases in line with their duty to address housing need.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many rounds of ammunition have been discharged in Helmand province by British forces in each roulement since June 2006, broken down by ammunition type. [257687]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1993W.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the average tour interval for each regiment of the *(a)* Royal Logistics Corps, *(b)* Royal Artillery, *(c)* Royal Signals and *(d)* Royal Engineers is; [257692]

(2) what the average tour interval for each battalion of the infantry is. [257688]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Historical data to support the calculation of the average tour interval for each battalion or regiment of the Infantry or the Royal Artillery (RA) are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following tables show the last operational tour interval for each infantry and RA unit as at 18 February 2009, based on the unit's last two operational tours to Iraq, Afghanistan, the Balkans, Northern Ireland or Cyprus. The deployments listed are the unit deployments, defined as a regiment deploying with a regimental headquarters and more than two manoeuvre sub-units for four months or more.

Unit deployed	*Unit last deployed to*	*Last tour start date*	*Previous operational deployment*	*Previous tour end date*	*Last unit tour interval (months)*
Infantry					
1 Grenadier Guards	Afghanistan	May 2007	Iraq	September 2006	8
1 Coldstream Guards	Afghanistan	October 2007	Iraq	October 2005	23
1 Scots Guards	Iraq	December 2007	Iraq	April 2005	31
1 Irish Guards	Iraq	June 2007	N. Ireland	March 2004	38
1 Welsh Guards	Balkans	October 2006	Iraq	April 2005	17
1 Scots[1]	Iraq	December 2007	Iraq	May 2006	17
2 Scots	Afghanistan	April 2008	Iraq	December 2005	28
3 Scots	Iraq	July 2004	Iraq	June 2003	12
4 Scots	Iraq	June 2008	Iraq	May 2006	25
5 Scots	Afghanistan	April 2008	Balkans	October 2005	29
1 PWRR	Iraq	December 2008	Iraq	December 2006	24
2 PWRR	Iraq	January 2005	N. Ireland	December 2003	12
1 RRF	Iraq	June 2008	Iraq	May 2006	25
2 RRF	N. Ireland	April 2003	N. Ireland	June 2002	9
1 R Anglian	Afghanistan	May 2007	Iraq	October 2005	18
2 R Anglian	Iraq	June 2008	Iraq	October 2006	20
1 Yorks	Iraq	December 2008	Iraq	May 2007	18
2 Yorks	Afghanistan	October 2007	Balkans	September 2006	13
3 Yorks	Iraq	November 2004	Balkans	June 2001	40

Unit deployed	Unit last deployed to	Last tour start date	Previous operational deployment	Previous tour end date	Last unit tour interval (months)
1 R Welsh	Cyprus	May 2007	N. Ireland	January 2006	15
2 R Welsh	Iraq	June 2007	Iraq	October 2005	19
1 Mercian	Iraq	December 2007	Iraq	October 2004	37
2 Mercian	Afghanistan	May 2007	Afghanistan	April 2005	24
3 Mercian	Iraq	November 2006	Iraq	October 2005	12
1 Rifles[1]	Afghanistan	October 2008	Iraq	November 2006	23
2 Rifles	Iraq	November 2006	N. Ireland	September 2004	25
3 Rifles	Iraq	September 2006	N. Ireland	March 2005	17
4 Rifles	Iraq	June 2007	Balkans	October 2001	67
5 Rifles	Iraq	December 2008	Iraq	December 2006	24
1 Royal Irish	Afghanistan	April 2008	Iraq	December 2005	28
2 Para	Afghanistan	April 2008	Iraq	April 2006	24
3 Para	Afghanistan	April 2008	Afghanistan	October 2006	18
1 RGR	Afghanistan	October 2007	Balkans	March 2006	18
2 RGR	Afghanistan	October 2008	Afghanistan	October 2005	37

[1] 1 KORBR, 1 Kings and QLR amalgamated in July 2006 to form 1 Lancs and 2 Lancs. Because of the nature of this amalgamation it is not representative to carry forward the unit deployments of 1 KORBR, 1 Kings and QLR to 1 Lancs and 2 Lancs.
[2] 1 RS and 1 KOSB amalgamated in August 2006 to form 1 Scots, which deployed for the first time as a formed unit to Iraq in December 2007.
[3] 1 RGBW and 1 DDLI amalgamated in March 2007 to form 1 Rifles, which deployed for the first time as a formed unit to Afghanistan in October 2008.

Unit deployed	Unit last deployed to	Last tour start date	Previous operational deployment	Previous tour end date	Last unit tour interval (months)
1 RHA	Iraq	June 2007	Cyprus	September 2005	20
3 RHA	Iraq	November 2005	Cyprus	April 2004	18
4 Regt RA	Afghanistan	October 2007	Cyprus	September 2006	12
7 Para RHA	Afghanistan	April 2008	Afghanistan	October 2006	18
19 Regt RA	Afghanistan	May 2007	Iraq	October 2005	18
26 Regt RA	Iraq	December 2008	Cyprus	May 2005	43
29 Cdo Regt RA	Afghanistan	October 2008	Afghanistan	April 2007	18
40 Regt RA	Iraq	November 2006	Cyprus	September 2004	25

Notes:
1. Subunits from 3 RHA have subsequently deployed in support of operations but are not of sufficient size or duration to be included as a tour interval measure.
2. Subunits from 5, 12, 16, 26, 32, 39, 47 Regt RA have also deployed in support of operations but are not of sufficient size or duration to be included as a tour interval measure.

Unit tour interval data for the Royal Logistics Corps, Royal Corps of Signals and the Corps of Royal Engineers are not held in the format requested. The unit tour interval is a less relevant measure when applied to these corps due to the frequency with which personnel move between formed units.

Armed Forces: Electoral Register

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the number and proportion of members of the armed forces who are eligible to vote but who are not registered to vote. [258393]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1225W, to the hon. Member for North Wiltshire (Mr. Gray).

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the Service Voting Survey 2008 in the Library. [258872]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Yes, once it has been finalised.

Armed Forces: Pay

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the X-factor adjustment to military pay in supporting the salaries of service personnel. [258429]

Mr. Kevan Jones: X-Factor is comprehensively reviewed, usually every five years, by the independent Armed Forces' Pay Review Body (AFPRB) which assesses both MOD and independent civilian evidence. The last review of X-Factor was carried out in 2007 to inform the 2008 AFPRB report. In the report, the AFPRB noted that all the evidence was unanimous and emphatic that X-Factor is an important part of the overall remuneration package for the armed forces. As a result of the evidence gathered, the AFPRB judged that an increase in the level of X-Factor from 13 per cent. to 14 per cent. of base pay was warranted, together with a change to the tapering arrangements for Lieutenant Colonels and equivalent and above. The Government accepted this recommendation which was implemented in full from 1 April 2008. The AFPRB is scheduled to review X-Factor again in 2012 for its 2013 report.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost is of his Department's contract with the Chinese company producing British army uniforms. [258000]

Mr. Quentin Davies: All MOD contracts for British army uniforms are currently held with UK suppliers who source raw materials globally and use a number of overseas subcontractors for production. The cost of such subcontracts is a matter for the supplier.

Defence: Procurement

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the written statement of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 28-30WS, on protected mobility, what proportion of the funds allocated from the Reserve to the protected mobility package will be repaid from the Defence Budget. [257702]

Mr. Quentin Davies: None. HM Treasury is contributing £500 million from the Reserve towards the protected mobility package, and the remainder will be funded by the MOD. While this package will deliver crucial and urgent capability for current operations in Afghanistan, it is also relevant to the MOD's longer-term equipment plans, so it is appropriate that the MOD should contribute towards the package.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Ministers in his Department have received representations relating to defence procurement contracts from *(a)* Lord Truscott and *(b)* Lord Moonie in the last three years. [257763]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Ministers have received no such representations from Lord Truscott. Ministers have received no representations from Lord Moonie in relation to specific defence procurement contracts although in 2007 he sought two meetings with departmental Ministers, on behalf of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre, and Maersk UK's Shipping Division. Discussion was of a general nature rather than in relation to specific contracts.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the forecast cost of the Next Generation Light Anti-Armour Weapon programme was from the *(a)* direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* indirect resource DEL and *(c)* capital DEL at 31 March (i) 2003, (ii) 2004, (iii) 2005, (iv) 2006, (v) 2007 and (vi) 2008. [257764]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is shown in the following table. The figures include the cost of the assessment, demonstration and manufacture phases.

£ million

As at 31 March:	*Direct resource DEL*	*Indirect resource DEL*	*Capital DEL*	*Total*
2003	17	8	372	397
2004	17	8	347	372
2005	17	9	347	373
2006	17	9	305	331
2007	17	15	303	335
2008	15	18	294	327

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the forecast cost of the A400M programme was from the *(a)* direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* indirect resource DEL and *(c)* capital DEL at 31 March (i) 2001, (ii) 2002, (iii) 2003, (iv) 2004, (v) 2005, (vi) 2006, (vii) 2007 and (viii) 2008. [257765]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information the hon. Member requested is shown in the following table, which includes the cost of the assessment, demonstration and manufacture costs.

£ million

As at 31 March:	*Direct resource RDEL*	*Indirect resource DEL*	*Capital DEL*	*Total*
2001	1	158	2,474	2,633
2002	34	145	2,177	2,356
2003	28	296	2,160	2,484
2004	16	187	2,416	2,619
2005	16	180	2,448	2,644
2006	23	181	2,412	2,616
2007	24	171	2,434	2,629
2008	34	171	2,427	2,632

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the forecast cost of the Advanced Jet Trainer programme was from the *(a)* direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* indirect resource DEL and *(c)* capital DEL at 31 March (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [257766]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is shown in the following table. The figures include the cost of the assessment, demonstration and manufacture phases.

£ million

	As at 31 March:	
	2007	*2008*
Direct resource DEL	10	10
Indirect resource DEL	27	26
Capital DEL	503	508
Total	540	544

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the forecast cost of the Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile Integrated Project Team programme was from the *(a)* direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* indirect resource DEL and *(c)* capital DEL at 31 March (i) 2001, (ii) 2002, (iii) 2003, (iv) 2004, (v) 2005, (vi) 2006, (vii) 2007 and (viii) 2008. [257767]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is shown in the following table. The figures include the cost of the assessment phase and demonstration and manufacture phases.

£ million

	Direct Resource RDEL	*Indirect Resource DEL*	*Capital DEL*	*Total*
31 March 2001	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1,382
31 March 2002	20	206	1,191	1,417
31 March 2003	20	219	1,198	1,437
31 March 2004	20	116	1,239	1,375
31 March 2005	20	107	1,097	1,224
31 March 2006	20	104	1,100	1,224
31 March 2007	20	124	1,044	1,188
31 March 2008	20	176	1,103	1,299

[1] Breakdown not available

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the forecast cost of the Future Lynx programme was from the *(a)* direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* indirect resource DEL and *(c)* capital DEL at 31 March (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [257768]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is shown in the following table. The figures include the cost of the assessment, demonstration and manufacture phases.

£ million

	As at 31 March:	
	2007	2008
Direct resource RDEL	99	59
Indirect resource DEL	50	110
Capital DEL	1765	1799
Total	1914	1968

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost of the Soothsayer programme was on 31 *March (a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007 and *(e)* 2008, broken down by (i) direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), (ii) indirect resource DEL and (iii) capital DEL. [257769]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is shown in the following table, which includes the cost of the assessment, demonstration and manufacture phases. Information for 31 March 2004 is not available in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

£ million

	31 March 2004	31 March 2005	31 March 2006	31 March 2007	31 March 2008
Direct Resource RDEL	n/a	7	7	9	15
Indirect Resource DEL	n/a	24	24	24	24
Capital DEL	n/a	115	149	186	187
Total	n/a	146	180	219	226

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost of the Terrier programme was on 31 March *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2005, *(d)* 2006, *(e)* 2007 and *(f)* 2008, broken down by (i) direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), (ii) indirect resource DEL and (iii) capital DEL. [257770]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is shown in the following table. The figures include the cost of the assessment, demonstration and manufacture phases.

£ million

	31 March 2003	31 March 2004	31 March 2005	31 March 2006	31 March 2007	31 March 2008
Direct Resource DEL	17	[1]	19	17	17	17
Indirect Resource DEL	10	[1]	11	8	11	18
Capital DEL	290	[1]	286	288	288	295
Total	317	312	316	313	316	330

[1] Breakdown not available

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost of the Typhoon programme was from the *(a)* direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* indirect resource DEL and *(c)* capital DEL at 31 March (i) 2001, (ii) 2002, (iii) 2003, (iv) 2004, (v) 2005, (vi) 2006, (vii) 2007 and (viii) 2008. [257771]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information you requested is shown in the following table, which includes the cost of the assessment, demonstration and manufacture phases.

£ million

As at 31 March:	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Direct Resource DEL	78	78	78	78	78	78	78	78
Indirect Resource DEL	2,469	2,338	2,987	2,328	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Capital DEL	16,400	16,295	16,683	16,686	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Total	18,947	18,711	19,748	19,092	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]

[1] The costs of Typhoon for these years are not included as the information is commercially sensitive.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost of the Watchkeeper programme was on 31 March *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008, broken down by (i) direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), (ii) indirect resource DEL and (iii) capital DEL. [257774]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is shown in the following table. The figures include the cost of the assessment, demonstration and manufacture phases.

£ million

	31 March 2006	*31 March 2007*	*31 March 2008*
Direct Resource DEL	65	65	65
Indirect Resource DEL	60	54	50
Capital DEL	847	847	848
Total	972	966	963

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost of the Sting Ray life extension and capability upgrade programme was on 31 March *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2003, *(d)* 2004, *(e)* 2005, *(f)* 2006, *(g)* 2007 and *(h)* 2008, broken down by (i) direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), (ii) indirect resource DEL and (iii) capital DEL. [257777]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information the hon. Member requested is shown in the following table and reflects demonstration and manufacture costs. There were no assessment phase costs, as the equivalent of the assessment phase occurred within a number of studies undertaken between 1993 and 1995, at a cost of £2.6 million, under the wider Sting Ray Post-Design Services contract.

£ million

	As at 31 March each year							
	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Direct Resource DEL	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indirect Resource DEL	[1]—	[1]—	82	54	47	56	51	51
Capital DEL	[1]—	[1]—	743	740	552	538	526	525
Total	189	190	825	794	599	594	577	576

[1] Breakdown not available

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost of the Type 45 Destroyer programme was on 31 March *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2003, *(d)* 2004, *(e)* 2005, *(f)* 2006, *(g)* 2007 and *(h)* 2008, broken down by (i) direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), (ii) indirect resource DEL and (iii) capital DEL. [257778]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is shown in the following table. The figures include the cost of the assessment, demonstration and manufacture phases.

£ million

	As at 31 March each year							
	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Direct Resource DEL	242	454	245	274	272	274	261	261
Indirect Resource DEL	—	—	875	646	820	833	797	797
Capital DEL	5837	5045	4649	5136	5033	5234	5638	5638
Total	6079	5499	5769	6056	[1]6126	[1]6342	6696	6696

[1] Due to rounding, the total figure does not equal the sum of the parts.

Note

Due to rounding, the figure for 2005 and 2006 do not exactly equal the overall total programme cost published in the Major Project Report of the same year.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the forecast cost of the Future Joint Combat Aircraft programme was from *(a)* direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* indirect resource DEL and *(c)* capital DEL at 31 March (i) 2001, (ii) 2002, (iii) 2003, (iv) 2004, (v) 2005, (vi) 2006, (vii) 2007 and (viii) 2008. [257780]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is shown in the following table. The figures include the cost of the assessment and demonstration phases. JCA has a tailored Main Gate for Demonstration only and approval was for CDEL only. Assessment phase included as RDEL.

	31 March 2001	*31 March 2002*	*31 March 2003*	*31 March 2004*	*31 March 2005*	*31 March 2006*	*31 March 2007*	*31 March 2008*
Direct Resource RDEL	[1]—	144	144	144	144	144	144	144

	31 March 2001	31 March 2002	31 March 2003	31 March 2004	31 March 2005	31 March 2006	31 March 2007	31 March 2008
Indirect Resource DEL	[1]—	311	306	194	239	239	287	283
Capital DEL	[1]—	2,021	2,021	2,378	1,675	1,677	1,571	1,551
Total	2,380	2,476	2,471	[2]2,716	2,058	2,060	2,002	1,978

[1] Breakdown not available.
[2] Due to rounding, the figure does not exactly equal the overall total programme cost published in the Major Project report of the year in question.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the forecast cost of the Modernised Target Acquisition Designation Sight/Pilots Night Vision Sensor programme was from the *(a)* direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* indirect resource DEL and *(c)* capital DEL at 31 March (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008. [257782]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is shown in the following table. The figures include the cost of the assessment, demonstration and manufacture phases.

	31 March 2005	31 March 2006	31 March 2007	£ million 31 March 2008
Direct Resource DEL	28	29	28	[1]33
Indirect Resource DEL	8	9	8	6
Capital DEL	218	199	199	197
Total	254	237	235	236

[1] The apparent increase in RDEL as at 31 March 2008 is due to a change in reporting in relation to contracted-out services VAT. This is a requirement of MPR but is not a cost to the Department as VAT is recovered under the COSVAT scheme. In real terms the costs have not risen.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the forecast cost of the Merlin Sustainment Capability programme was from the *(a)* direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* indirect resource DEL and *(c)* capital DEL at 31 March (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [257783]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is shown in the following table. The figures include the assessment, demonstration and manufacture costs.

	31 March 2007	£ million 31 March 2008
Direct Resource RDEL	27	27
Indirect Resource DEL	27	27
Capital DEL	805	805
Total	859	859

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the forecast cost of the Nimrod Maritime Reconnaissance and Attack Mk 4 Programme was from the *(a)* direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* indirect resource DEL and *(c)* capital DEL at 31 March (i) 2001, (ii) 2002, (iii) 2003, (iv) 2004, (v) 2005, (vi) 2006, (vii) 2007 and (viii) 2008. [257785]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is shown in the following table. The figures include the cost of the assessment, demonstration and manufacture phases.

	31 March 2001	31 March 2002	31 March 2003	31 March 2004	31 March 2005	31 March 2006	31 March 2007	£ million 31 March 2008
Direct Resource DEL	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Indirect Resource DEL	373	371	596	406	549	452	449	461
Capital DEL	2,462	2,467	2,780	3,187	3,258	3,064	3,052	3,141
Total	2,840	2,843	3,381	3,598	3,812	3,521	[1]3,505	3,607

[1] Due to rounding, the total figure does not equal the sum of the parts
Note:
Due to rounding, the figure for 2005 and 2007 do not exactly equal the overall total programme cost published in the Major Project report of the year in question.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish a copy of his Department's website accessibility plan. [257238]

Mr. Kevan Jones: An accessibility policy is available for the MOD corporate website

www.mod.uk.

The policy was produced in line with guidance from the Central Office of Information (COI). The policy contains an action plan for compliance with World Wide Web Consortium's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 1.0

http://www.w3.org/TR/WAI-WEBCONTENT/

Conformance Level Double A

http://www.w3.Org/TR/WCAG10/#Conformance

or WCAG 2.0

http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/

equivalent where applicable, by December 2009. A web page summary of the www.mod.uk accessibility policy will be published to the site by 2 March 2009, as well as the full policy.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 32-3W, on departmental manpower, in which parts of the country civilian staff in the redeployment pool band D and equivalent and above are required to work. [258590]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Full-time staff at Band D and equivalent and above are classed as having a full mobility obligation, which renders them liable to transfer to any location in the UK or abroad. Staff below Band D and all part-time staff, regardless of grade, have a minimum mobility obligation. This means that they are liable to temporary detached duty and can be transferred locally to other suitable employment within reasonable daily travelling distance.

Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Met Office is in 2008-09. [258515]

Mr. Kevan Jones: MOD has only one part vacant property recorded on e-PIMS. The estimated cost of the vacant element is £2,425 in 2008-09. The MOD actually pays some £60,000 per annum in rates on the building. There are no costs associated with properties owned by the Meteorological Office.

Ex-servicemen: Offenders

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* plans to undertake on (i) the factors associated with offending by former members of the armed forces and (ii) the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder amongst such offenders. [258186]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In concert with the Ministry of Justice the Ministry of Defence plans to conduct research this year on the proportion of veterans in the prison population using data provided by the Ministry of Justice. We also aim to conduct research on offending among those who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan linked to our existing health research on this cohort which includes mental health aspects such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the schedule of payments is for the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft under the private finance initiative contract; and when each payment is due to be made. [258997]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The payment for the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft is dependent upon the level of usage by the MOD. Invoices will be presented to the MOD each month.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the private finance initiative contract signed with the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft consortium requires the armed forces to use the consortium to undertake all air-to-air refuelling tasks for the period of the contract. [258998]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The FSTA contract does not prevent the RAF from continuing to receive from, or provide fuel to, other nations' air forces.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many equipment failure reports have been received in respect of armoured vehicles during *(a)* operations in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan and *(b)* training in each of the last 12 months, broken down by vehicle type. [257679]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information is shown in the following table.

Equipment failure reports

						2008						2009
Vehicle	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*
Iraq												
Bulldog	29	15	14	10	13	12	1	30	0	13	6	11
Challenger 2	37	10	8	10	0	7	13	8	31	37	0	27
Titan	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Trojan	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
CVR(T)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Mastiff	22	7	8	18	7	2	22	32	14	9	12	70
Saxon	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Vector	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	24	0	19	3	9
Warrior	65	24	29	88	11	10	14	26	12	32	6	12
Afghanistan												
Bulldog	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Challenger 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Titan	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Equipment failure reports

						2008						2009
Vehicle	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Trojan	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
CVR(T)												
Mastiff	6	0	59	6	30	42	76	2	53	2	0	25
Saxon	17	0	5	22	2	7	0	0	6	0	13	2
Vector	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warrior	35	14	1	4	3	0	1	9	3	1	0	8
Other	5	35	2	1	3	3	11	10	4	0	1	5
Bulldog												
Challenger 2	4	6	3	28	8	11	35	7	6	12	1	4
Titan	124	65	58	169	113	94	133	82	166	89	92	73
Trojan	9	19	38	91	73	3	35	17	13	16	8	10
CVR(T)	9	8	13	93	43	4	71	19	28	57	118	50
Mastiff	46	9	37	24	28	43	10	50	28	41	6	38
Saxon	25	1	5	8	2	0	0	17	3	2	7	3
Vector	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Warrior	0	2	1	0	1	1	3	2	7	2	1	0
	39	33	15	11	22	16	12	58	36	38	30	28

[1] Not deployed

The equipment failure reporting system (EFRS) is the mandated system for equipment users to report failures, such as accidental damage, maintenance related failures and breakdowns, or the failure of an item fitted to the vehicle. It does not incorporate the results of subsequent investigations and therefore does not differentiate between what might later prove to have been a problem caused by operator error or damage sustained as a result of operations. Nor do these data record the severity of a failure which might have no discernible impact on operational capability or safety. It is not possible using EFRs to distinguish how many of the EFRs in the 'Others' section were as a result of training, and some of the EFRs raised in Iraq and Afghanistan may have been during in theatre training rather than during the conduct of operations.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many services personnel have experienced *(a)* heatstroke and *(b)* other heat exhaustion illness in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan in each year since 2005. [257695]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence records instances of heat illness as part of its monitoring of climatic injury. Heat illness has traditionally been divided into heat exhaustion and heat stroke, but in practice it is difficult to define the division between the two. Heat illness is therefore used to cover the full continuum of illness ranging from mild symptoms such as muscular weakness, headache and excess fatigue to more serious outcomes such as collapse or coma.

The following table shows the instances of heat illness, among UK service personnel, that have required attendance at a Field hospital for Operation Telic since 2005 and Operation Herrick since reporting began in August 2006:

	Op Telic	*Op Herrick*
2005	62	n/a
2006	90	16
2007	98	59
2008	32	46

These figures were provided by the Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) and extracted from the Operational Emergency Department Attendance register (OpEDAR).

This table updates the figures given in a previous answer on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 640-41W. Where a change in numbers has occurred this has been due to subsequent validation by DASA of the OpEDAR dataset.

These figures provide an indication of instances of heat illness.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to make a decision on the acquisition of the low initial rate production aircraft for the Joint Strike Fighter. [257683]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We will make a decision once the formal contract negotiations, in which we are closely engaged, for these aircraft are complete and we have been able to judge affordability within the present planning round. I will inform the House once these negotiations have concluded and a decision has been made.

Land Mines

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at which of his Department's properties in Scotland *(a)* land mines and *(b)* cluster bombs are stored. [258119]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Anti-vehicle land mines (bar mines) are stored at the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency's (DSDA) Longtown explosives storage facility at Eastriggs in Dumfries and Galloway.

No cluster munitions are stored on MOD property in Scotland. Inert training versions of the BL 755 bomb, that contain no explosives or bomblets, are stored at DSDA's Glen Douglas facility in Argyll and Bute, awaiting disposal.

Pakistan: Military Aid

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel are currently deployed in Pakistan; in which roles; and if he will make a statement. [258849]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are currently 23 UK military personnel based in Pakistan. UK personnel undertake a variety of roles, including training and liaison. In addition, some personnel undertake diplomatic duties and fill exchange posts.

Peacekeeping Operations

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* maximum, *(b)* minimum and *(c)* average cash allowance awarded to civilian staff in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan was in each of the last two years. [258751]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* The information requested is as follows.

Iraq

The maximum monthly allowance for the last two years is £8,250 before tax for a civil servant based in Basra. The minimum payment for the same period is £5,000 for a civil servant based in Baghdad.

Afghanistan

The maximum monthly allowance for the last two years is £8,000 before tax for a civil servant based in Lashkar Gah. The minimum payment for the same period is £4,750 for a civil servant based in Kandahar.

Information on the average cash allowances awarded to civilian staff in operational theatres is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

MOD civil servants, unlike members of the armed forces, deploy into Iraq and Afghanistan on a voluntary basis to provide specialist support to UK armed forces. They are usually deployed for a six-month period during which time they are required to work long hours, live and work in austere conditions alongside their military counterparts and be exposed to dangerous conditions.

Such conditions are recognised through a system of taxable operational allowances which are reviewed on a regular basis. The total sum payable to individuals will vary. It is dependent on both their grade and their location.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families from which *(a)* duties and *(b)* obligations imposed on maintained schools and their employees some or all academies are exempt; and if he will make a statement. [258222]

Jim Knight: It is not only education law which applies to maintained schools and their employees. There is a wide range of legislation which applies to such schools to a lesser or greater extent. It would therefore be a massive, and ongoing, task for the Department to compile such a list, and to try to establish it would incur a disproportionate cost.

Academies are accountable through their funding agreements and legislation. This includes duties under equalities, procurement, employment and health and safety law, all of which are applied to maintained schools in the same way.

Nevertheless, in relation to education law, the regulatory framework applied to academies is lighter touch than the framework applied to maintained schools. This is because we wish to give academies flexibility in the way they are run in many areas—e.g. curriculum content and delivery (although, since 2007 all new academies have to follow the national curriculum for English, Maths, Science and ICT), organisation of the school day, pay and conditions of teachers—in order to help break through entrenched educational failure and low aspiration. Through offering innovative solutions towards tackling educational under-achievement academies are making significant strides towards improving the attainment of children within our most educationally disadvantaged communities. In 2008, the 36 academies which have been open long enough to have results in both 2007 and 2008 have seen an increase of 11.5 per cent. in the number of pupils at the end of key stage 4 gaining five or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent. This is more than twice the otherwise impressive increase of 4.6 per cent. seen nationally.

Copies of our model funding agreement documentation and a list of some of the key legislative requirements on academies have been placed in the Libraries to illustrate how academies are held to account. Copies of open academies' funding agreements can be viewed on the DCSF FOI website

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/foischeme/subPage.cfm?action=collections.displayCollection&icollectionID=190

Academies: Sponsorship

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what measures are in place to support academies in the event that their sponsors become bankrupt; and if he will make a statement. [249434]

Jim Knight: If a sponsor wishes to withdraw involvement, for whatever reason, once an academy has been opened then the academy trust and DCSF would agree the best way forward. The prime consideration would be the needs of the pupils at the academy.

Academy financial sponsorship is of two types. More recent academies have sponsorship in the form of contribution to endowment funds. The income from these funds is intended to be used to enhance students' opportunities and widen the academy's role in its community, but does not contribute to the recurrent costs of providing education. Therefore any shortfall in sponsorship contributions, whilst regrettable, does not produce any need for additional support of the academy concerned.

Earlier academies have sponsorship in the form of contributions towards the capital cost, and in some cases contributions are complete. Where they are not, and a sponsor has difficulty completing payments on time, we will consider on a case-by-case basis what action to take.

Care Proceedings

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he takes to monitor the activity of local authorities in respect of care proceedings in each year. [258204]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities are responsible for initiating care proceedings based on their assessment in each specific case as to the likelihood of children facing significant harm attributable to the care provided by their parents.

The Department collects data from local authorities via annual returns once children have become looked after which include care orders, placement orders and emergency protection orders. The Department also receives data on the level of care applications via the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the effect of changes in court fees in respect of care applications on numbers of such applications. [258205]

Beverley Hughes: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has asked Lord Laming to consider the key barriers to good safeguarding practice including legal issues as part of his review. This will include the effect of changes in court fees.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many applications for care proceedings were made by local authorities in November *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [258302]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The number of public law care and supervision applications under section 31 of the Children Act 1989 in November 2007 and November 2008 are given in the table below. Public law cases are those brought by local authorities or an authorised person (currently only the NSPCC). Figures relate to the number of children that are subject to each application and have been rounded to the nearest 10, and so the sum of the individual components may not equal the total. Please note that 2008 figures remain subject to change, particularly the later months of the year. Data for November 2008 have changed slightly compared to that provided previously, owing to updated data.

Comparisons between single months should be made with caution as the monthly figures are subject to more volatility than those covering longer time periods.

Number of public law care and supervision applications under section 31 of the Children Act 1989—England and Wales, county courts and family proceedings courts

	November 2007	*November 2008*
Family proceedings courts[1]	920	1,090
County courts[2]	240	160
Total[3]	1,150	1,250

[1] There have been data quality issues with figures for family proceedings courts A new method of collection was introduced in April 2007 which has improved the coverage and completeness of data.
[2] Research undertaken on behalf of Ministry of Justice has identified that some cases that have transferred from the family proceedings court to the county court have been incorrectly recorded as new applications in the county court, thus inflating the reported number of new applications through double counting (see Masson et al 2008)
[3] Does not include applications in High Courts
Source:
HMCS Family Man and manual returns, as at February 2009.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what contingency arrangements his Department has made to be invoked in circumstances where a child's ContactPoint data have been *(a)* compromised and *(b)* made public. [252943]

Beverley Hughes: ContactPoint is designed, built, operated and managed to HM Government standards for security and complies with the strict controls imposed by HM Government security policy. Data contained within the system are made available only to those authorised users and administrators who have been subject to vetting and have completed mandatory training.

The ContactPoint system and access to it is constantly monitored. Suspicious network activity is checked and, if the system was thought to be under any form of threat or, if unauthorised access to ContactPoint was detected, the system would be immediately shut down and access denied to all users. Unauthorised or improper access to ContactPoint is treated as the highest priority, requiring immediate response and action by both my Department and the system supplier. Access to the system would not be restored until my Department had been assured that the source of attack or unauthorised or improper access had been located and any mitigating actions had been taken. Following an incident of this type, a full review would take place and prosecutions would be instigated where appropriate.

Where it was suspected that a child's record had been compromised, the individual (or their parent/carer as appropriate), practitioners or organisations working with them would be contacted to ensure that any necessary safeguarding/child protection procedures were initiated.

In the case of any breach of the system we would also inform the Information Commissioner's Office.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether ContactPoint uses name recognition software. [256479]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* ContactPoint does not use a name recognition software package. To achieve the best possible results ContactPoint

seeks to match data using a number of criteria including name. For names, ContactPoint will seek to match both phonetic (e.g. Mohammed/Mohammad/Mohamad) and alternative names (e.g. James, Jim, Jimmie, Jimmy).

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2236-7W, on children: databases, what formula his Department used to allocate spending to each authority. [258760]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* The grant allocations to local authorities in respect of ContactPoint recognised the level of participation of each authority to support the development of ContactPoint. Grant allocations were based on a flat rate per authority with the balance of the total grant apportioned on the basis of child population. The flat rate and total grant varied from year to year according to the Department's estimate of the costs likely to be incurred by local authorities during the different stages of implementing ContactPoint.

Children: Day Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1062W, on children: daycare, how much his Department is spending on *(a)* increasing awareness of the ban on physical punishment of children in childcare settings and *(b)* making parenting classes more widely available in 2008-09. [258479]

Beverley Hughes: Under the Childcare Act 2006 local authorities are responsible for supporting the training needs of early years providers, and the Department for Children, Schools and Families is providing £440 million to local authorities over the period 2008-11 within the Outcomes, Quality and Inclusion block of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant to help them fulfil this responsibility. Local authorities have discretion to spend this funding in line with their own particular needs and circumstances, to ensure that the specific training needs of early years staff in each area are met. Initial training and continuing professional development courses for child care practitioners include coverage of behaviour management and child protection issues. This may include training to increase awareness of the ban on physical punishment in child care settings. In addition the DCSF spent £7.5 million each year from 2006 to 2009 to support specific Early Years Foundation Stage training on effective practice without the use of physical punishment.

The Department is providing £8.67 million in 2008-09 for the National Academy for Parenting Practitioners to deliver a combination of research and training to support and develop the parenting workforce. We expect this to bring about a significant change in the supply and quality of the parenting support offered to parents, including increased availability of parenting classes.

Children: Protection

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment the Secretary of State has made of the effect of the judgment in Wright *v.* Secretary of State for Health on the implementation of the provisions of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 which relate to children. [255565]

Beverley Hughes: After careful consideration of the House of Lords judgment in Wright, the Government remain satisfied that the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (SVG) Act 2006 is compatible with human rights and in particular with Articles 6 and 8 of the ECHR. The scheme under the SVG Act does not include the feature of provisional listing, which was the focus of the challenge in the Wright case. In particular, whenever the ISA is exercising its discretion to place someone on a barred list, including under the SVG Act 2006 (Transitory Provisions Order) 2009 (SI 2009/12), which came into force on 20 January 2009, it must first invite their representations and also must send the individual the information on which it intends to rely. This is provided for in paragraphs 3(2), 5(2), 9(2), 11(2) and 16(1) of Schedule 3 to the Act. It would only be where a person had committed an offence which, by its nature, indicated that they posed an immediate risk of harm to the vulnerable (prescribed in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Prescribed Criteria and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2009, S.I. 2009/37) that they would be barred before being given the right to make representations. This is provided for in paragraphs 1,2,7 and 8 of Schedule 3 to the Act (the offences prescribed under paragraph 1 include the rape of a child, for example). The judgment in Wright acknowledged that an "ex parte" procedure could be justified in such circumstances.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what systems he has put in place to ensure that protection for vulnerable children is maintained during the transfer of functions to unitary authorities in *(a)* Cheshire and *(b)* elsewhere in England. [256788]

Beverley Hughes: It is for the new local authorities in Cheshire and Bedfordshire to ensure that they deliver effective services for children, young people and families. The Government have always made clear that it is crucial that the transition to the new local authority structures should avoid disruption to children's services, including child protection services in particular. Specialist safeguarding advisers in the relevant Government Offices have been closely involved in monitoring and supporting the process of transition in both areas. Ofsted's recent Annual Performance Assessments for Cheshire and Bedfordshire both conclude that the transition process is progressing well.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1950W, on children: protection, if he will provide a breakdown of the figures by local authority area. [258761]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* Outturn expenditure on children's social care for 2004-05 to 2007-08 by local authority are set out in the tables headed Personal Social Services Expenditure and Unit Costs available on the following website:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/social-care/childrens-social-care

The original answer gave budget figures for 2007-08. Outturn figures have now been published on the website and are a more accurate assessment of spend.

A table has been placed in the Libraries showing each local authority's budget for children's social care in 2008-09.

Class Sizes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of infant school children are taught in classes of *(a)* 15, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 25, *(d)* 30 and *(e)* 35 children or less; and if he will make a statement. [256907]

Jim Knight: The requested information is given in the table.

Primary and all age academies[1]: All Key Stage 1 classes[2], percentage of pupils by size of class[3], as at January 2008, England

Class size of:	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of pupils[4,5]*
15 pupils or less	23,148	1.60
20 pupils or less	124,504	8.58
25 pupils or less	461,309	31.79
30 pupils or less	1,409,711	97.16
35 pupils or less	1,443,469	99.48

[1] Includes LA maintained primary schools and all age academies.
[2] Includes reception classes and classes taught by more than one teacher.
[3] Based on size of class as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.
[4] The percentage of pupils taught in classes of this size, based on the size of class during a single selected period in each school days of the census in January.
[5] Includes all pupils taught in class regardless of type of pupils registration.
Source:
School Census

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost of maintaining the databases owned and managed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies was in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [256145]

Jim Knight: The information as requested is not readily available centrally within the Department for Children, Schools and Families. To respond fully would involve an extensive internal and external information collection exercise which would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold.

Departmental Logos

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on the design of logos for his Department since its establishment. [258653]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We have spent £5,785 on logos for this Department since its establishment.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many language translators are employed in his Department's non-ministerial department; and what the cost of translating services provided by such people was in the latest period for which information is available. [257152]

Jim Knight: Ofsted is the only non-ministerial department linked to this Department. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 19 February 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted carries out all translation using translation agencies. From 1 April 2008 until 17 February 2009, Ofsted has spent £5,310.59 plus VAT (£6,171.47 total) on translation services.

A copy of this reply has been sent to right hon. Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many claims for education maintenance allowance received for the 2008-09 academic year were not in payment on 31 January 2009; and if he will make a statement. [256908]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries.

Education: Culture

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils (i) performed music to a live audience, (ii) visited an historic building, (iii) took part in a theatre production, (iv) visited a library and (v) visited an art gallery as a school activity in each of the last three years. [254436]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Schools offer many arts and cultural activities in the curriculum, for example, in music, art and drama, and there is much cultural activity taking place outside school and beyond the school day. We do not collect year on year data recording children's involvement with the activities listed in the question as school activities.

The Children's Plan made a commitment to ensure that all children and young people, no matter where they live and or what their background, can get involved in high quality cultural activities in and out of school, working towards a five-hour offer to match that for sport. The 10 "Find Your Talent" pathfinders that started in September 2008 will, over the next three years, work towards a position where that commitment is a reality.

Foster Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children from Northern Ireland were fostered in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales in each year since 1997; [256419]

(2) how many children from Wales were fostered in Scotland in each year since 1997; [256420]

(3) how many children from Scotland were fostered in Wales in each year since 1997; [256421]

(4) how many children from Wales were fostered in Northern Ireland in each year since 1997; [256444]

(5) how many children from Scotland were fostered in Northern Ireland in each year since 1997; [256445]

(6) how many children from England were fostered in Northern Ireland in each year since 1997. [256418]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number of children from Northern Ireland, Wales or Scotland who were fostered in either England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland is not collected centrally by the Department.

There were 59,500 looked after children in England at 31 March 2008, of whom 42,300 were in foster placements. In total 540 of the children looked after by English local authorities at 31 March 2008 were in placements outside England and 370 of these were in foster placements, this includes those in placements in Northern Ireland. These figures exclude those children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.

GCE A-Level

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what percentage of schools did not enter any pupils for an A-level in biology in 2006-07; [248476]

(2) how many and what percentage of schools did not enter any pupils for an A-level in mathematics in 2006-07; [248477]

(3) how many and what percentage of schools did not enter any pupils for an A-level in chemistry in 2006-07; [248478]

(4) how many and what percentage of schools did not enter any pupils for an A-level in physics in 2006-07. [248479]

Jim Knight: There were 1,730 maintained schools with GCE A-level candidates that were published in the 2007 School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables. Of these, 115 (7 per cent.) did not enter any pupils for an A-level in biology, 96 (6 per cent.) did not enter any pupils for an A-level in mathematics, 187 (11 per cent.) did not enter any pupils for an A-level in chemistry and 247 (14 per cent.) did not enter any pupils for an A-level in physics in 2006/07.

GCE A-Level: Standards

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what recent assessment he has made of standards at A-level; and if he will make a statement; [258460]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of a recalibration of the standards of A-levels. [258459]

Jim Knight: The responsibility for ensuring that rigorous standards are maintained over time in A-levels rests with the independent regulator, Ofqual. A-levels are internationally respected qualifications and claims that they have got easier have been investigated and refuted on numerous occasions. A-levels have recently been strengthened further to include additional stretch and challenge for the brightest students and the introduction of an A* grade.

The Government have made no assessment of the merits of a "recalibration" of A-levels, which would only be appropriate if we were to change the purpose of the qualification. We have already announced that we will review A-levels in 2013, and can consider any such issues, in consultation with Ofqual, at that time.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils gained five A* to C grade GCSEs including English and mathematics but excluding equivalents, media studies GCSE, psychology GCSE, and PE GCSE. [244288]

Jim Knight: The number of pupils attaining five or more A* to C grade GCSEs including English and Mathematics, but excluding all equivalents and the subjects of media studies, psychology and physical education, was 295,423 in 2008. This corresponds to 45.2 per cent. of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

The source for this answer is the Achievement and Attainment Tables database.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils sat fewer than five GCSEs in 2008. [251099]

Jim Knight: Figures on the number of pupils sitting GCSEs are shown in Table 3 of the Statistical First release "GCSE and Equivalent Results in England, 2007/08 (Revised)", which can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000826/index.shtml

This shows that 93.8 per cent. of pupils entered five or more GCSEs or equivalent in England in 2008, which equates to 40,385 pupils that entered fewer than five GCSEs or equivalents.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils gained at least five A* or A grades at GCSE in 2008. [251100]

Jim Knight: In 2008, 97,704 (15 per cent.) pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in all schools in England, achieved 5 or more grades A* or A grades at GCSE only.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 590-1W, on General Certificate of Secondary Education, if he will give an itemised breakdown of the estimated cost of providing the information requested. [243541]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The total estimated cost was £2,400. These are salary costs.

Detailed breakdown of cost for replying to PQ 224476

	Hours required	Cost to Department
Planning	4.5	112.5
Implementing production rules	0.5	12.5
Writing syntax	4	100
Producing figures (11 years)	49.28	1232
Producing figures (one year)	4.48	112
Run the required filters (maintained/independent sector)	0.32	8
Create variables in exam file	0.32	8
Aggregate up to pupil level	0.2	5
Merge into pupil file	0.32	8
Create tables	0.32	8
Analysis of output	3	75
Additional work	2.75	68.75
Formatting, footnotes, etc.	1.5	37.5
Personal QAing	1	25
Drafting PQ reply	0.25	6.25
QAing	3.5	87.5
Comments, redrafting, etc.	3	75
Signing off at SCS level	1	25
Total	64.03	1600.75

Detailed breakdown of cost for replying to PQ 224477

	Hours required	Cost to Department
Planning	4.5	112.5
Implementing production rules	0.5	12.5
Writing syntax	4	100
Producing figures (four years)	17.92	448
Producing figures (one year)	4.48	112
Run the required filters (maintained/independent sector)	0.32	8

Detailed breakdown of cost for replying to PQ 224477

	Hours required	Cost to Department
Create variables in exam file	0.32	8
Aggregate up to pupil level	0.2	5
Merge into pupil file	0.32	8
Create tables	0.32	8
Analysis of output	3	75
Additional work	2.75	68.75
Formatting, footnotes, etc.	1.5	37.5
Personal QAing	1	25
Drafting PQ reply	0.25	6.25
QAing	3.5	87.5
Comments, redrafting, etc.	3	75
Signing off at SCS level	1	25
Total	32.67	816.75

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns1912-6W; columns 1898-1902W, on languages, if he will list the maintained mainstream schools where no pupils were entered for a GCSE in *(a)* a modern foreign language, *(b)* history and *(c)* geography in 2007, indicating the local authority in each case. [246087]

Jim Knight: The information available will placed in the Libraries.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of those pupils studying GCSE physics were at *(a)* comprehensive, *(b)* independent and *(c)* grammar schools in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [247781]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of pupils at the end of key stage 4 who attempted GCSE physics and the percentage of these pupils who studied at comprehensive, independent and grammar schools.

Number of pupils at the end of key stage 4 attempting GCSE physics, by school type

	Number of pupils attempting GCSE physics	Percentage of which are from: Comprehensive schools	Independent schools	Grammar schools
2004	43,067	48.6	34.0	16.7
2005	45,437	51.7	31.9	15.8
2006	48,771	54.4	29.7	15.1
2007	50,744	55.9	27.9	15.3
2008[1]	67,321	61.0	21.4	16.5

[1] Changes in science curriculum introduced.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 845W, on general certificate of secondary education, how many and what percentage of pupils in the maintained mainstream sector achieved five GCSEs including a science GCSE at grades A* to C in 2008, broken down by index of multiple deprivation decile. [254486]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available.

National Curriculum Tests

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what information his Department holds on the level of agreement between teacher assessments and results in *(a)* Key Stage 1, *(b)* Key Stage 2, *(c)* Key Stage 3 and *(d)* Key Stage 4 tests; [241583]

(2) what assessment he has made of the level of agreement between teacher assessments and Key Stage Test results; and if he will make a statement. [241584]

Jim Knight: The Department has not made an assessment of the level of agreement between teacher assessment and key stage test results at key stages 1, 2 and 4. This is an area being considered by the Expert Group on assessment.

Internal analysis of the level of agreement between the 2007 key stage 3 (KS3) teacher assessments and national curriculum tests has been undertaken and is provided in the following tables.

Analysis of these data indicates that there is a reasonable match between test performance and teacher assessment data. Where there is not, the teacher assessments are equally likely to be higher or lower than the performance test level achieved. When interpreting these data, it should be borne in mind that national curriculum test and teacher assessment data will not always correlate. This is because tests provide a snapshot of attainment at the end of the key stage whereas teacher assessment takes into account evidence of attainment in a variety of contexts (such as discussion and observation), throughout the year. Both are vital to ensure rounded, and validated, assessments can be made about each child's performance.

Percentage

	KS3 test level—English			
Teacher assessment level—English	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*
4	61	38	1	0
5	13	68	18	1
6	1	33	54	12
7	0	6	45	49

Percentage

	KS3 test level—Maths					
Teacher assessment level—Maths	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*
3	78	21	1	0	0	0
4	16	66	17	1	0	0
5	1	15	62	21	1	0
6	0	1	12	71	16	0
7	0	0	0	13	73	13
8	0	0	0	0	17	83

Percentage

	KS3 test level—Science				
Teacher assessment level—Science	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*
3	57	38	4	1	0
4	12	60	26	1	0
5	1	14	64	19	1
6	0	1	21	59	19
7	0	0	2	21	77
8	0	0	0	3	96

The figures work across the table, so for a given teacher assessment level it shows the distribution of test levels achieved. Taking English as an example, of those pupils who were teacher assessed at level 5, 68 per cent. achieved a level 5 in the test; 13 per cent. achieved one level below and 18 per cent. achieved one level higher.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the monetary value of his Department's contract with PricewaterhouseCoopers to provide support to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in procuring the 2009 National Curriculum tests is. [255654]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the delivery of national curriculum tests, and any contractual arrangements relating to the procurement of 2009 national test delivery are with the QCA, not with the department. PA Consulting Ltd. provided support for the procurement of the contract for 2009 national curriculum tests and the value of this work amounted to £650,000. In his report on the delivery of national curriculum tests, Lord Sutherland recommended that the QCA should strengthen its corporate oversight of the management and delivery of its contracts. PricewaterhouseCoopers are providing support to the QCA for the operational delivery of the 2009 national curriculum tests. The QCA Board has approved expenditure of up to £2 million including VAT on this contract.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether Key Stage 3 assessment data provided by schools will be subject to external moderation; and if he will make a statement. [256900]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Key Stage 3 (KS3) teacher assessments provided by schools this year will not be subject to external moderation.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what date he plans to publish the statistics showing the number of requests for the re-marking of Key Stage 2 and 3 Standard Assessment Tests papers for 2008; and if he will make a statement. [257033]

Jim Knight: The Department is not responsible for determining when to publish the statistics showing the number of requests for the re-marking of key stage 2 and 3 national curriculum test papers for 2008. This decision is made by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) in line with the code of practice on statistics. Under the code of practice, the QCA is required to provide four weeks notice of its intention to publish. This notification will be made on the QCA website. I understand that the QCA has indicated its intention to publish these data in mid-March.

Offences against Children: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of children in West Chelmsford constituency abused while subject to a child protection plan in each of the last five years. [254754]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The available figures cover children who are subject to a Child Protection Plan and include information on category of abuse which led to the plan being put in place and re-referrals. These are available in the annual statistical first release "Referrals, Assessments and Children and Young People who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan, England". The latest figures can be found in Table 10B at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000811/index.shtml

Partnerships for Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much Partnerships for Schools has received from the European Investment Bank in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [258955]

Jim Knight: Partnerships for Schools (PfS) have been able to secure a commitment in principle from the European Investment Bank (EIB) for £300 million to provide funding for BSF schemes that have PFI investment in 2009/10. EIB provided £53 million of funding in 2007/08 for BSF projects.

Partnerships for Schools does not receive any money from EIB. The funds secured are used to finance local authority PFI projects.

Primary Education: Admissions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what account *(a)* his Department and *(b)* local education authorities took of the effect of projected population increases in their estimates of the number of children entering primary schools in (i) 2000 and (ii) 2005; and what plans there are to take account of population increases in (A) 2010, (B) 2013, (C) 2015, (D) 2017 and (E) 2020. [256006]

Jim Knight: For funding additional school places the Department relied on authorities' own pupil projections for its estimates of the number of children entering primary schools in each local authority area in 2000-01, 2005-06 and 2010-11. Officials are reviewing emerging pupil number trends to inform the spending review period 2011-12 onwards.

Local authorities use a wide variety of methods for forecasting pupil numbers. The different methods entail a broadly similar approach that involves taking current pupil numbers and adding/subtracting the net totals of children entering/leaving the school system. We would also expect authorities to also take account of local factors that will have an impact on pupil projections—including rising/falling birth rates, population movements in/out of the area, and proposed new housing developments.

The Department relies on its own national pupil projections to set the national envelope for recurrent funding. These are linked to ONS (Office for National Statistics) data, which take account of projected population increases. The Department's local authority level projections were used to provide individual indicative allocations and Guaranteed Units of Funding (GUF) at the start of the current CSR period for 2008-11. These indicative allocations become finalised once the latest pupil numbers are known. There are currently no LA level projections formulated for this purpose beyond the current CSR period.

Pupil Referral Units: Standards

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which pupil referral units in each local authority area were assessed as outstanding by Ofsted in the last five years. [256344]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 16 February 2008:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

Since the introduction of the current school inspection framework (commonly known as section 5) in September 2005, the judgement of a school's overall effectiveness has been made using a four point scale: outstanding, good, satisfactory and inadequate. Under the previous school inspection framework (commonly known as Section 10), a school's overall effectiveness judgement was made using a seven point scale: excellent, very good, good, satisfactory, unsatisfactory, poor and very poor.

It is not possible to operate a simple read-across approach from a seven- to a four-point scale. Ofsted's criteria for making inspection judgements about schools are clearly set out in our inspection guidance. Inspectors do not make reference to, or comparisons with, the previous inspection framework. However, for information, Tables A-E list all of the Pupil Referral Units which have been judged outstanding since September 2005 and all those judged excellent or very good between September 2003 and July 2005. These are grouped by academic year and by local authority.

A copy of this reply has been sent to right hon. Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Table A: Pupil Referral Units judged outstanding in 2007/08 (10 PRUs)

URN	School name	LA name	Inspection date	Overall effectiveness	Type of establishment
105146	Park School	Bolton	11 October 2007	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
132255	Youth Challenge PRU	Bolton	12 March 2008	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
132869	Secondary Behaviour Support Unit (West)	Essex	18 June 2008	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
131100	Dacorum Education Support Centre	Hertfordshire	11 March 2008	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
132139	Middle Years Pupil Referral Unit	North Somerset	13 May 2008	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
132027	Scarborough Pupil Referral Unit	North Yorkshire	9 January 2008	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit

Table A: Pupil Referral Units judged outstanding in 2007/08 (10 PRUs)

URN	School name	LA name	Inspection date	Overall effectiveness	Type of establishment
134390	Tuition, Medical and Behaviour Support Service	Shropshire	28 January 2008	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
132100	Taunton Centre	Somerset	13 June 2008	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
106022	The Pendlebury Centre	Stockport	28 November 2007	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
124526	Old Warren House School	Suffolk	26 February 2008	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit

Table B: Pupil Referral Units judged outstanding in 2006/07 (18 PRUs)

URN	School name	LA name	Inspection date	Overall effectiveness	Type of establishment
105147	The Young Mums Unit	Bolton	3 July 2007	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
108908	The Meriton Education and Support for Young Parents	Bristol, City of	25 June 2007	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
115837	Andover Education Centre Co Cricklade College	Hampshire	9 May 2007	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
102265	Oglethorpe Unit	Havering	8 May 2007	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
118244	The Behaviour Guidance Support Service—Centre Class	Kent	16 May 2007	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
102561	Mecklenburg Pupil Referral Unit	Kingston upon Thames	26 June 2007	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
102562	Maiden Oaks PRU	Kingston upon Thames	26 June 2007	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
119110	Hendon Brook School	Lancashire	1 February 2007	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
133984	Solutions 4	Lincolnshire	21 March 2007	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
108566	The Lodge	North Tyneside	7 December 2006	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
130339	Harrogate Pupil Referral Unit	North Yorkshire	25 April 2007	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
103888	Batmans Hill Unit	Sandwell	21 February 2007	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
104849	Impact KS4 PRU	Sefton	20 June 2007	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
134697	Link Education Centre (South Somerset)	Somerset	26 September 2006	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
106023	Moat House	Stockport	8 March 2007	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
124527	Parkside Pupil Referral Unit	Suffolk	8 May2007	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
134918	Alderwood	Suffolk	5 December 2006	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
130984	St John's Pupil Referral Unit	Worcestershire	17 May 2007	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit

Table C: Pupil Referral Units judged outstanding in 2005/06 (16 PRUs)

URN	School name	LA name	Inspection date	Overall effectiveness	Type of establishment
131441	Brent Pupil Referral Unit	Brent	4 October 2005	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
110202	The Oaks Pupil Referral Unit	Buckinghamshire	15 November 2005	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
110205	The Wycombe Grange Pupil Referral Unit	Buckinghamshire	12 October 2005	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
100007	Camden Primary Pupil Referral Unit	Camden	5 October 2005	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
115478	The St. George's Centre	Gloucestershire	8 December 2005	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
130990	The Priory Pupil Referral Unit	Herefordshire	5 June 2006	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
130991	St. David's Pupil Referral Unit	Herefordshire	18 November 2005	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
117707	The Schoolgirl Mums' Unit At Girls' Boulevard Centre	Kingston upon Hull, City of	14 February 2006	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
133761	New Woodlands PRU Co New Woodlands School	Lewisham	16 March 2006	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
134525	Avenue Centre for Education	Luton	27 June 2006	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
133928	Fenny House—the Milton Keynes Tuition Service	Milton Keynes	20 March 2006	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
131243	Haybrook College PRU	Slough	22 March 2006	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit

Table C: Pupil Referral Units judged outstanding in 2005/06 (16 PRUs)

URN	School name	LA name	Inspection date	Overall effectiveness	Type of establishment
134534	Craig Croft Education Centre	Solihull	31 October 2005	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
131822	First Base	Suffolk	22 March 2006	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
133715	First Base, Ipswich	Suffolk	6 June 2006	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit
131795	Martley Pupil Referral Unit	Worcestershire	29 June 2006	Outstanding	Pupil Referral Unit

Table D: Pupil Referral Units judged excellent or very good in 2004/05 (10 PRUs)

URN	School name	LA name	Inspection date	Overall effectiveness	Type of establishment
133752	Education In Hospital 2 (Bri)	Bradford	22 November 2004	Very good	Pupil Referral Unit
133753	Education In Hospital 1 (Airedale) C/O Learning Support Service, Education Bradford	Bradford	23 November 2004	Very good	Pupil Referral Unit
112491	Deincourt Support Centre	Derbyshire	27 June 2005	Excellent	Pupil Referral Unit
131211	Behaviour Support Service	Enfield	15 March 2005	Very good	Pupil Referral Unit
117082	Lea Valley Education Support Centre	Hertfordshire	19 April 2005	Very good	Pupil Referral Unit
117706	Young People's Education Centre	North Lincolnshire	16 May 2005	Very good	Pupil Referral Unit
132139	Middle Years Pupil Referral Unit	North Somerset	28 April 2005	Very good	Pupil Referral Unit
134390	Tuition, Medical and Behaviour Support Service	Shropshire	6 June 2005	Very good	Pupil Referral Unit
134360	Slough Activate	Slough	18 October 2004	Excellent	Pupil Referral Unit
104038	Triple Crown Centre	Solihull	4 October 2004	Very good	Pupil Referral Unit

Table E: Pupil Referral Units judged excellent or very good in 2003/04 (10 PRUs)

URN	School name	LA name	Inspection date	Overall effectiveness	Type of establishment
103148	Focus College	Birmingham	23 September 2003	Very good	Pupil Referral Unit
105146	Park School	Bolton	2 February 2004	Very good	Pupil Referral Unit
112096	West Cumbria Learning Centre	Cumbria	5 July 2004	Very good	Pupil Referral Unit
131100	Dacorum Education Support Centre	Hertfordshire	26 April 2004	Very good	Pupil Referral Unit
130339	Harrogate Pupil Referral Unit	North Yorkshire	3 November 2003	Very good	Pupil Referral Unit
133531	Hobs Moat Centre	Solihull	3 November 2003	Very good	Pupil Referral Unit
132131	Stowe Teaching Unit	Staffordshire	12 January 2004	Very good	Pupil Referral Unit
131647	South East Surrey Pupil Referral Unit	Surrey	8 March 2004	Very good	Pupil Referral Unit
133919	Ashton PRU	Tameside	1 March 2004	Very good	Pupil Referral Unit
131014	Habberley Pupil Referral Unit	Worcestershire	21 October2003	Very good	Pupil Referral Unit

Pupils: Bullying

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many cases of bullying were recorded in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each local education authority in each of the last five years. [258166]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is not collected centrally. Information on the number of incidents of bullying is not collected. Information is collected, via the school census, on the number of fixed and permanent exclusions which are made due to bullying, however, this will not give information on the total number of incidents.

School Meals: Nutrition

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools did not meet Ofsted's minimum nutrition guidelines for school meals in each year since 2005. [258155]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not collect this information.

Ofsted does not set minimum nutritional guidelines for school meals. However, the Government have set mandatory nutritional standards for school food. Ofsted does not inspect whether a school is meeting all of the standards but, as part of their regular inspections, expect schools to present evidence about their general approach to food and healthy eating (the 'whole school' approach) and will report on any issues which arise out of self-assessment or as a result of their inspection visit. This contributes to the judgement which Ofsted makes on the extent to which learners adopt healthy lifestyles.

Schools: Closures

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary schools in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas closed in each of the last 10 years. [256452]

Jim Knight: The following table sets out the numbers of maintained mainstream primary schools in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas which have closed in each year under local decision making arrangements, which were introduced in September 1999. Information about decisions made under the arrangements that operated prior to September 1999 is not reliable and is, therefore, not included:

Closed – cease to maintain

Locale	*Rural*	*Urban*
2000	2	7
2001	1	19
2002	5	15
2003	6	18
2004	11	21
2005	10	17
2006	10	25
2007	14	23
2008	14	28
Total	73	173

The table shows only school closures where the provision has ceased to be maintained and has not been replaced. There are other changes to school provision where a school closure is part of the process, but where replacement provision has been established e.g. a change to a school's religious character or where an infant and junior school amalgamate to become a primary school.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many small schools in each local education authority area have closed in each of the last 10 years. [258283]

Jim Knight: The number of small schools in each local education authority in England that have ceased to be maintained between 2002 and 2008 is shown in the following tables, broken down by primary, secondary and middle deemed secondary schools. Information on school size was not routinely collected prior to 2002.

Number of small[1] primary schools ceased to be maintained since 2002

Local authority	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
Barnsley	–	–	–	–	–	1		1
Bath and North East Somerset	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	2
Bedfordshire	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
Bolton	1		–	–	–	1	1	3
Bury	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	2
Cheshire	–	1	1	–	1	–	3	6
Cornwall	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	2
Cumbria	–	–	2	1	1	–	1	5
Derby, City of	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
Derbyshire	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	3
Devon	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
Dudley	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1
Durham	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1
East Riding of Yorkshire	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	3
Gloucestershire	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	2
Hackney	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
Hampshire	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1
Herefordshire	1	–	–	1	–	1		3
Hertfordshire	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	2
Kent	–	1	–	–	1	4	1	7
Lincolnshire	–	–	1	1	1	1	–	4
Liverpool	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
Manchester	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1
North Somerset	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
North Yorkshire	–	–	–	–	1	2	1	4
Northamptonshire	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
Northumberland	–	1	–	3	–	–	1	5
Nottingham, City of	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1
Nottinghamshire	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	2
Oxfordshire	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
Sefton	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	2
Shropshire	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	2
Somerset	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1
Staffordshire	–	–	–	–	2	1	1	4
Suffolk	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	2
Surrey	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
West Sussex	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1

Number of small[1] primary schools ceased to be maintained since 2002

Local authority	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Wigan						1		1
Wiltshire			2	2	1	2		7
Wirral						1	1	2
Wolverhampton	1							1
Worcestershire		1					1	2
Total	6	14	9	12	11	22	21	95

[1] Small Primary = Less than 100 pupils

Number of small[1] secondary schools ceased to be maintained since 2002

Local authority	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Barnet				1				1
Birmingham	1					1		2
Brighton and Hove				1				1
Bristol, City of	1		1	1				3
Bromley						1		1
Cheshire					1			1
Croydon							1	1
Cumbria							1	1
Essex							1	1
Hertfordshire	1							1
Kent	1							1
Kingston upon Hull, City of					1			1
Leeds			1					1
Liverpool						1		1
Middlesbrough	1							1
Newcastle	1							1
Nottingham, City of	1	1						2
Nottinghamshire			1					1
Oxfordshire			1					1
Plymouth, City of	1						1	2
Sefton						1		1
St Helens	1				1			2
Staffordshire				1				1
Walsall					1			1
Warwickshire						1		1
Wigan						1		1
Wirral	1							1
Total	10	3	2	4	4	6	4	33

[1] Small Secondary = Less than 600 pupils

Number of small[1] middle deemed secondary schools ceased to be maintained since 2002

Local authority	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Newcastle			1	3				4
Northamptonshire			13					13
Northumberland			1		1			2
Oxfordshire		8						8
Wiltshire			1	3				4
Worcestershire			1				1	2
Total		8	17	6	1		1	33

[1] Small Secondary = Less than 600 pupils

Schools: Cornwall

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many (*a*) primary schools and (*b*) secondary schools there are in each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall where no other school for the same age range is within a four mile radius. [256453]

Jim Knight: The information requested is as follows:

	Primary		Secondary	
	Total number of schools	Number of schools with no other school within 4 miles	Total number of schools	Number of schools with no other school within 4 miles
Falmouth and Camborne	37	0	5	0
North Cornwall	57	0	7	5
South East Cornwall	49	0	6	4

	Primary		Secondary	
	Total number of schools	Number of schools with no other school within 4 miles	Total number of schools	Number of schools with no other school within 4 miles
St. Ives	10	0	7	3
Truro and St. Austell	45	0	6	2

Source:
School Census January 2008

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* undertaken research on the merits of introducing a pupil premium per schools' funding; and if he will make a statement. [258213]

Jim Knight: The current review of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) is investigating how best to provide funding for additional educational needs (AEN), including deprivation. As part of the research to inform the review we have commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to investigate the different types of AEN in terms of level of incidence and severity, the best measures for identifying pupils likely to under-achieve, and the potential role of financial incentives in tackling deprivation. The outcome of the DSG review will be implemented from 2011.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department allocated to support small schools in each of the last 10 years. [258279]

Jim Knight: It is a matter for each local authority to determine the level of funding for each of their schools. However, the following table shows the amount of revenue funding allocated by local authorities in England to maintained primary and secondary school for the last nine years for which information is available:

Total budget share plus grants allocated to local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in England from 2000-01 to 2008-09

	Total budget share plus grants allocated to LA maintained primary schools				Total budget share plus grants allocated to LA maintained secondary schools			
	All LA maintained primary schools		Of which: schools with fewer than 100 pupils		All LA maintained secondary schools		Of which: schools with fewer than 600 pupils	
	£	£ per pupil	£	£ per pupil	£	£ per pupil	£	£ per pupil
2000-01	8,325,552,000	1,940	413,941,000	2,470	8,308,032,000	2,590	834,696,000	2,630
2001-02	9,308,765,000	2,190	465,840,000	2,780	9,130,694,000	2,820	797,602,000	2,930
2002-03	9,796,180,000	2,330	484,068,000	2,920	9,870,455,000	3,020	785,190,000	3,120
2003-04	10,530,790,000	2,520	531,153,000	3,160	10,634,350,000	3,230	809,075,000	3,310
2004-05	11,203,468,000	2,730	571,166,000	3,440	11,497,533,000	3,480	820,351,000	3,570
2005-06	11,960,183,000	2,950	624,540,000	3,720	12,476,540,000	3,760	841,509,000	3,820
2006-07	12,883,941,000	3,210	670,613,000	4,040	13,692,391,000	4,100	931,404,000	4,210
2007-08	13,671,572,000	3,450	716,896,000	4,330	14,397,675,000	4,440	976,813,000	4,580
2008-09	14,297,587,000	3,660	729,155,000	4,440	14,763,570,000	4,630	1,047,111,000	4,780

Notes:
1. Budget share plus grants allocated to schools is the combination of the schools individual budget share plus any revenue grants allocated to the school at the start of the financial year. This does not include any capital funding allocated to schools.
2. The amount of money allocated to a school depends very much on the individual local authorities' own policy for funding their schools. Different authorities retain varying amounts of funding centrally to spend on behalf of their schools while others chose to give schools more autonomy over how they spend their money by devolving more funding to the individual school.
3. The pupil numbers used to calculate the per pupil amounts are as reported by the local authority on their Section 52 Budget Statement (Table 2) comprising of the full-time equivalent number pupils registered at the school used for the initial determination of the school's budget share under the local authority's allocation formula.
4. Included are all local authority maintained primary and secondary schools who are reported by their LA as being open for the entire final year (schools that are reported as either opening or closing during the financial year have been removed). Figures for secondary schools include any LSC funding and LSC pupils for schools with 6th forms.
5. For the purposes of this PQ, a small primary school is defined as having fewer than 100 pupils and a small secondary school is defined as having fewer than 600 pupils.
6. Total budgeted share plus grants figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000. Per pupil figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
7. 2008-09 figures are subject to change by the local authority.
8. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 23 February 2009.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities have applied for school funding brought forward in the 2008 Pre-Budget Report. [259102]

Jim Knight: Applications from local authorities are currently being considered, and we will make an announcement shortly.

Schools: Internet

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which maintained schools in St Albans have broadband internet access. [256970]

Jim Knight: All schools in Hertfordshire local authority have broadband connections. The Department does not collect data at constituency level.

Schools: Standards

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mechanisms are in place to ensure that the principles of validated good practice in schools and childcare settings in respect of Public Service Agreement 11 are mainstreamed. [258084]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Public service agreement 11 of October 2007 set out the Government's commitment to narrow the gap in educational achievement between children from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers. It did not specify principles of validated good practice in schools and child care settings. The Children's Plan set out the Government's policies to extend and mainstream best practice across the whole child care and education system, including through the self-evaluation and Ofsted inspection frameworks. "The Children's Plan - One Year On", published in December 2008, reported on progress since then in enabling all children and young people to succeed, and set out priorities for 2009.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1967W, on schools: standards, which four local authorities are yet to have their National Challenge funding plans signed off; and if he will make a statement. [258305]

Jim Knight: Since 10 February, I have signed off Durham's National Challenge funding plans. The three remaining local authorities are Bradford, Leeds and Milton Keynes and my officials continue to work with them to develop their plans. I expect to be able to sign off plans for Bradford and Milton Keynes this week, and will be meeting with representatives from Leeds to discuss their plan shortly.

Schools: Transport

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on free transport to school for pupils in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [256342]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not hold the information requested.

Schools: Water Charges

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect on school budgets of changes to surface water charges by water companies. [256661]

Jim Knight: The Government are aware that the changes to surface water charges can lead to increased charges for some schools, depending on their site and how much they use the public drainage system for rainwater disposal. Schools and local authorities should work together if this proves to be the case and take steps to improve natural drainage at schools if necessary.

For 2007-08, the total expenditure by schools on water and sewerage was £92.1 million. This is 0.3 per cent. of the total school expenditure of £32.9 billion.

The local authority, in consultation with their schools forum, can consider whether they wish to support schools specifically for additional pressures through the local funding formula. However, this is very much a local decision.

Science: Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy on funding for the study of courses is for the International A-level in *(a)* physics and *(b)* chemistry in mainstream secondary schools. [258677]

Jim Knight: Only qualifications that have been accredited by the regulatory authorities are eligible to be considered for public funding. None of the International A-Levels offered by Cambridge International Examinations has been submitted for accreditation by Ofqual; these qualifications are therefore not eligible to be considered for public funding in England.

Science: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to increase the number of pupils studying *(a)* science and additional science GCSE and *(b)* single science GCSEs. [259092]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: With effect from September 2007 the Education and Inspections Act 2006 introduced a statutory entitlement for all key stage 4 pupils to have access to a course of study leading to at least two science GCSEs. Schools have to offer all pupils access to either

(a) Science GCSE and additional science GCSE; or

(b) all three of Physics, Chemistry and Biology GCSEs (i.e. "triple science").

With effect from September 2008 we introduced a non-statutory entitlement to study triple science for all pupils who achieve Level 6+ in science at key stage 3 and will benefit from studying the three separate sciences. The Learning and Skills Network developed a support programme to help all schools plan develop and implement triple science.

Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which schools which were part of the National Challenge in 2008 did not receive any additional funding as part of the programme; and if he will make a statement; [256901]

(2) which schools achieved less than 30 per cent. of pupils achieving five GCSEs at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics, in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2007 and have not received any additional funding through the National Challenge; and if he will make a statement. [256902]

Jim Knight: Schools in 2007 or 2008 where fewer than 30 per cent. of the pupils achieved five GCSEs at A* to C grade or equivalent, including GCSEs in English and mathematics receive support from a range of sources. If they are in London, the Black Country or Greater Manchester any support will come from the City Challenge

programmes. In the rest of the country, support is provided by the National Challenge. All schools which become academies receive support from the Academies programme.

The support for all these schools is a mix of funding to local authorities and schools, together with support in kind. Some schools which were below the floor target in 2007 or 2008 are not receiving any of this additional support. They are listed in the following tables together with the reasons for this. In the vast majority of cases it is because they have moved above the floor target and are on a sustainable path of further improvement. In these cases there was local agreement that they did not need this additional support.

Schools below the floor target based on 2007 results which are not receiving additional support

School	*Local authority*	*Reason why the school is not receiving support*
The Ravenscroft School and Technology College	Barnet	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Witton Park High School	Blackburn with Darwen	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
The Beaconsfield School	Buckinghamshire	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Halifax High at Wellesley Park	Calderdale	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Todmorden High School	Calderdale	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Solway Community Technology College	Cumbria	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Longfield School	Darlington	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Aldercar Community Language College	Derbyshire	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Isca College of Media Arts	Devon	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Danum School Technology College	Doncaster	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Dormers Wells High School	Ealing	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
West London Academy	Ealing	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Chalvedon School	Essex	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Debden Park High School	Essex	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving

Schools below the floor target based on 2007 results which are not receiving additional support

School	*Local authority*	*Reason why the school is not receiving support*
Mark Hall School	Essex	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Central Technology College	Gloucestershire	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
St. Thomas More Catholic School	Haringey	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Cheshunt School	Hertfordshire	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Hertswood School	Hertfordshire	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
St. Mary's High School (VA)	Hertfordshire	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Westfield Community Technology College	Hertfordshire	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Mellow Lane School	Hillingdon	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
The Leigh Technology Academy	Kent	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Chessington Community College	Kingston upon Thames	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Coombe Boys' School	Kingston upon Thames	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Central Lancaster High School	Lancashire	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Marsden Heights Community College	Lancashire	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Moor Park Business and Enterprise School	Lancashire	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Walton le Dale Arts College and High School	Lancashire	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
King Edward VI Humanities College	Lincolnshire	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
St. Hugh's C of E Mathematics and Computing College	Lincolnshire	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
The Giles School	Lincolnshire	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
St. Peter's RC High School	Manchester	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving

Schools below the floor target based on 2007 results which are not receiving additional support

School	Local authority	Reason why the school is not receiving support
Greenacre School	Medway	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Harris Academy Merton	Merton	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
The Kingswood School	Northamptonshire	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Henry Mellish School and Sports College	Nottingham	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Serlby Park A 3-18 Business and Enterprise Learning Community	Nottinghamshire	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Banbury School	Oxfordshire	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
St. Gregory the Great VA Catholic Secondary School	Oxfordshire	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Carter Community School	Poole	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
The Grange School	Shropshire	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Sandhill View School	Sunderland	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Thornhill School	Sunderland	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
De Stafford School	Surrey	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
King's Manor Community College	West Sussex	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Paddington Academy	Westminster	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Coppice Performing Arts School	Wolverhampton	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Wednesfield High School	Wolverhampton	The school has moved above the floor target and is expected to continue improving
Brookfield High School	Knowsley	Has merged with another school. The merged school is supported.
Ruffwood School	Knowsley	Has merged with another school. The merged school is supported.
St. Edmund of Canterbury Catholic High School	Knowsley	Has merged with another school. The merged school is supported.
The Newark High School	Nottinghamshire	Has merged with another school. The merged school is supported.

Schools below the floor target based on 2007 results which are not receiving additional support

School	Local authority	Reason why the school is not receiving support
Tulketh Community Sports College	Lancashire	Has merged with another school. The merged school is above the floor target and due to become an academy.
Selhurst Mathematics and Computing Specialist School	Croydon	The school has closed
Lochinvar School	Cumbria	The school has closed
The Brays Grove Community School	Essex	The school has closed
The Western Technology School	North East Lincolnshire	The school has closed
Parkside Community College	Plymouth	The school has closed
Stamford High School	Tameside	The school has closed
The Ridings School	Calderdale	The school is due to close on 31 August 2009
Haywood School	Nottingham	The school is due to close on 31 August 2009

Schools below the floor target based on 2008 results which are not receiving additional support

School	Local authority	Reason why the school is not receiving support
The Ridings School	Calderdale	The school is due to close on 31 August 2009
Haywood School	Nottingham	The school is due to close on 31 August 2009
Ryelsh Green School	Wokingham	The school is due to close on 31 August 2010

Serious Case Review Panel

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the minimum qualifications required for professionals to sit on a Serious Case Review Panel are. [252945]

Beverley Hughes: Paragraph 8.10 of "Working Together To Safeguard Children 2006" states that

> 'Local Safeguarding Children Boards should establish a Serious Case Review Panel, involving at least LA children's social care, health, education and the police, to consider questions such as whether a serious case review should take place'.

Minimum qualifications are not prescribed for any particular individual. It is the responsibility of LSCBs to ensure that panels have the membership they need to perform their functions effectively.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils attended special schools in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [258729]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information for the years 1997, 1998 and 1999 has been placed in the Libraries.

Information for years 2000 to 2008 is available through the following links.

January 2000

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000192/index.shtml

(table 3)

January 2001

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000288/index.shtml

(table 3)

January 2002

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000359/index.shtml

(table 3)

January 2003

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000417/index.shtml

(table 3)

January 2004

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000495/index.shtml

(table 3)

January 2005

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000606/tables4.html

(table 12)

January 2006

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000682/index.shtml

(table 12)

January 2007

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml

(table 12)

January 2008

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/index.shtml

(table B2).

Special Educational Needs: Pupil Exclusions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils with special educational needs were given a fixed-period exclusion from secondary schools in each local authority area in 2007-08, broken down by reason for exclusion. [258192]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on exclusions for the 2007/08 school year is expected to be published in the summer.

Special Educational Needs: Standards

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which maintained special schools in each local authority area were assessed as outstanding by Ofsted in the last five years. [256585]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries.

Teachers: Conditions of Employment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps his Department has taken on the conditions of employment for peripatetic teachers. [258454]

Jim Knight: Peripatetic teachers who are employed under a contract of employment by local authorities are covered by the School Teacher's Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD) in the same way as teachers who are employed wholly in specific schools. The STPCD is revised each year to take account of any changes in the pay and conditions of teachers in the light of recommendations from the School Teachers Review Body.

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many graduates who began secondary school teaching careers had a *(a)* first class, *(b)* upper second class, *(c)* lower second class and *(d)* third class degree in each of the last 15 years; and if he will make a statement. [254507]

Jim Knight: The class of degree held is not recorded in the case of all teachers and therefore the numbers requested are not available.

Teachers: South West

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of teachers employed in *(a)* the South West Region, *(b)* Devon and *(c)* Plymouth are recorded as being disabled; and what percentage of the total workforce each figure represents. [259013]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Teachers: Vacancies

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teacher vacancies there are in schools, broken down by decile of deprivation based on school location. [259152]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Work Experience: Accidents

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school children were injured whilst at work in England in each of the last four years. [259217]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is in the table.

Injuries to workers[1] (aged under 16 years) by employment status as reported to all enforcing authorities[2], 2004-05 to 2007-08[3]

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07[p]	2007-08	Total
Employee[4]					
Fatal	—	—	—	1	1
Major	12	17	18	5	52

Injuries to workers[1] (aged under 16 years) by employment status as reported to all enforcing authorities[2], 2004-05 to 2007-08[3]

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07[4]	2007-08	Total
Over-3-day	15	20	8	11	54
Total	27	37	26	17	107
Work experience[5]					
Fatal	—	—			0
Major	13	10	12	9	44
Over-3-day	4	8	20	6	38
Total	17	18	32	15	82
Trainee[5]					
Fatal	—	—			0
Major	1	1			2
Over-3-day	2	1		1	4
Total	3	2	0	1	6
Total					
Fatal	—	—		1	1
Major	26	28	30	14	98
Over-3-day	21	29	29	18	97
Total	47	57	59	33	196

[1] Employees and the self-employed. In the period shown there were no reported injuries to self-employed people aged under 16 years.
[2] Injuries are reported and defined under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995. The information available under RIDDOR 95 includes three categories of severity to workers: fatal injuries, defined major injuries and other injuries leading to more than three days absence (over-3-day).
[3] The annual basis is the planning year 1 April to 31 March.
[4] Includes one major and one over-3-day injury with employment status employed by someone else.
[5] Data for workers 2006-07 onwards exclude RI incidents, however these are included in the total, therefore breakdown may not match the workers total.
Source:
HSE figures for Under 16s at work

Written Questions: Government Responses

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to answer *(a)* Question 240758, on reviews of child deaths, *(b)* Question 240761, on serious case reviews and *(c)* Question 240755, tabled on 4 and 5 December, on membership of a serious case review panel. [250182]

Beverley Hughes: Questions 240758 and 240761 were answered on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 442-43W. Question 240755 was answered on 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1054W.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 27 February 2009

TRANSPORT

Bus Lanes: Bedfordshire

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has committed funds to the Luton to Dunstable busway for 2010-11. [259403]

Paul Clark: In September 2008 we granted conditional approval to a maximum Government contribution of £78.39 million towards the cost of this scheme.

Full approval will not be given until final prices have been fixed following a tendering exercise by Luton borough council. We understand that the council will be seeking full approval towards the end of 2009.

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many sites have been developed following use of his powers under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2006 in each of the last three years. [258733]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* In the last three years the Highways Agency have established a total of six site compounds using powers under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2006.

Of the six compounds, three were established in 2006, and three in 2007. No site compounds were established using these powers in 2008 by the Highways Agency.

Railways

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of setting maximum passenger levels for rail services. [258267]

Paul Clark: Trains are designed to operate effectively and safely even when they are loaded to maximum capacity. Therefore, Her Majesty's Government have not considered any guidance or instructions about setting maximum passenger levels on railway services.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the amount of salt provided by the Highways Agency to Gloucestershire county council during the recent snowfall; and if he will make a statement. [255778]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 10 February 2009]:* It is for local authorities to determine levels of salt necessary for their winter maintenance programme as set out in the UK Roads Board's (voluntary) code of practice on highways maintenance management, "Well-maintained Highways". The Highways Agency provided 550 tonnes of road salt to Gloucestershire county council under the mutual aid scheme on 8 February 2009.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what process his Department uses to *(a)* monitor the level of salt available for road treatment and *(b)* estimate future road salt requirements. [256619]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* It is for Local Authorities to determine levels of salt necessary for their winter maintenance programme as set out in the UK Roads Board's (voluntary) code of practice on highways maintenance management, "Well-maintained Highways". For the trunk road network, the Highways Agency has in place long established procedures which require salt stock capability reporting on a daily basis between 1 October and 30 April. Salt stock requirements are ascertained from a combination of longer term weather forecast information and records of salt usage. Salt capability is expressed as the number of treatment days available based on six treatments per day at 20gm/m2—the level of treatment typical for snow conditions. A weekly summary is produced which gives an overview of salt stocks and provides advance warning when salt stocks are approaching a critical level.

As a result of the recent severe weather, central government, the Local Government Association and the Highways Agency have been working together to provide daily advice to suppliers on the most effective distribution of available salt supplies in order to minimise the risk to public safety. This advice is based on daily demand estimates informed by the Met Office's 24 hour forecast and comparisons between existing salt stocks and available supply.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Allowances

Mr. Maude: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Bassetlaw of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1570-71W, on Members' expenses, what consideration she gave to consulting the Information Commissioner on the provisions of the draft Freedom of Information (Parliament) Order 2009. [258665]

Chris Bryant: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Bassetlaw (John Mann) of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1570-71W.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Chichester of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1W, on Members: allowances, what criteria govern the assessment of the merits of a request for an advance on a hon. Member's communications allowance. [258667]

Chris Bryant: Subject to the administrative rules set out in my answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1W, the requester would need to demonstrate that the advance was for a specific purpose which

enabled him or her to carry out a parliamentary duty and that it was a proper use of public money in support of his or her role. There must be no suggestion that the use of the allowance would be for party political advantage or electioneering.

To date no advance from the communications allowance for 2009-10 has been requested this year nor were any advances made last year.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* consolatory payments and *(b)* other compensatory payments the Child Support Agency made to residents of (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire in each of the last 10 years; and what the monetary value of such payments was in each such year. [256507]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Ribble Valley (Mr. Evans) on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 46-48W.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy for his Department to sign the Information Commissioner's Personal Information Promise. [258968]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government welcome the Promise as a commendable initiative to raise awareness of the importance of effective data protection safeguards, particularly for those organisations with no similar commitments already in place.

The Government take data protection very seriously. Following the Cabinet Office Review of Data Handling Procedures in Government, departments have implemented a raft of measures to improve data security.

The Ministry of Justice is considering actively with the ICO how the Promise might add additional value to those measures we have already signed up to. These include the Information Charters, the recommendations of the Data Handling Review and the Thomas/Walport Review and, of course, our legal obligations under the Data Protection Act and other legislation and regulations.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many equalities impact assessments his Department has undertaken in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such assessments. [255061]

Jonathan Shaw: During the last 12 months (January 2008 to January 2009) 146 equality impact assessments were undertaken in the Department for Work and Pensions.

The cost of carrying out the equality impact assessment is not possible to estimate as the Department's equality impact assessment process is embedded in the development and implementation of new (or changes to) functions, policies and services that are the responsibility of the Department.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff currently working in his Department are on secondment from EDS; and what roles and responsibilities they have. [259123]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 26 February 2009]:* Information on how many staff currently working in the Department for Work and Pensions are on secondment from EDS, and their roles and responsibilities, is not available in the format requested.

DWP does not keep central records of individuals seconded into DWP. To extract this information from individual records would be at a disproportionate cost.

Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by his Department is in 2008-09. [258521]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP has a total of 3,467 m^2 of vacant workspace recorded on e-PIMS. This workspace constitutes partial holdings in buildings retained for operational requirements. This workspace represents only a fraction of 1 per cent. of the total DWP estate as at 1 February 2009.

The estimated cost in empty business rates for this workspace is £138,000 p.a.

Fireworks: Safety

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information the Health and Safety Executive requires companies seeking a classification and authorisation document for a firework to provide. [258131]

Jonathan Shaw: Companies seeking a firework classification are required to submit a proposed classification for approval by the Health and Safety Executive. They are also required to provide sufficient information to enable the HSE to determine that the proposed classification is appropriate. This information includes details of the manufacturer, the firework names and types, part numbers, their chemical composition, information on the packaging and design and details of any relevant tests conducted on them.

There is no requirement for firework authorisation.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what checks on provision of licensed storage the Health and Safety Executive performs before granting a classification and authorisation document to importers of fireworks. [258132]

Jonathan Shaw: The Health and Safety Executive does not conduct checks on the provision of licensed storage before granting a classification document for fireworks. A classification assigns information on the hazard posed by fireworks during transport; the eventual provision of licensed storage does not affect safety during transport. There is no requirement in any circumstances to grant an authorisation for fireworks.

The requirements for safe storage of fireworks are set out in the Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations 2005 (MSER) and are enforced by either the Health and Safety Executive or local authority, depending on the amount of fireworks to be stored.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which companies issued with a classification and authorisation document for a firework by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in each of the last five years had *(a)* HSE-licensed and *(b)* local storage when the document was issued. [258133]

Jonathan Shaw: The Health and Safety Executive does not collect this information.

Industrial Health and Safety: Death

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many fatal accidents at work there were in each of the last 20 years. [257972]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is as follows:

Fatal injuries to workers[1] as reported to all enforcing authorities, 1988-89 to 2007-08[2, 3]

	Employees	*Self-employed*	*Workers*
1988-89[4]	529	80	609
1989-90	370	105	475
1990-91	346	87	433
1991-92	297	71	368
1992-93	276	63	339
1993-94	245	51	296
1994-95	191	81	272
1995-96	209	49	258
1996-97[5]	207	80	287
1997-98	212	62	274
1998-99	188	65	253
1999-2000	162	58	220
2000-01	213	79	292
2001-02	206	45	251
2002-03	183	44	227
2003-04	168	68	236
2004-05	172	51	223
2005-06	164	53	217
2006-07	191	56	247
2007-08[2]	179	50	229

[1] The term 'workers' includes employees and the self-employed combined
[2] Provisional
[3] The annual basis is the planning year 1 April to 31 March
[4] The Piper Alpha disaster occurred in July 1988. The fatality count for 1988-89 therefore reflects the 167 deaths that occurred in this single incident
[5] Changes in the legislation covering accident reporting came into effect in April 1996. Prior to this date reports were made under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1985. From 1996-97 onwards reports were made under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995.

Jobcentre Plus: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the level of accessibility of Jobcentre Plus offices for disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [248498]

Jonathan Shaw: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what assessment he has made of the accessibility of Jobcentre Plus offices for disabled people. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus strives to be an exemplar in delivering services to all of our customers, including disabled people. The design of our modern Jobcentre Plus offices incorporated all reasonable and practicable measures regarding access arrangements for disabled people, to ensure that we take into account the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Where full access to all people cannot be provided for genuine reasons (e.g. listed building status, prohibitive cost, or the structure of the existing building), every effort is made to ensure that access is provided for the maximum number of disabled people. For example, where internal alterations could not be made to enable upper floor access, services are made available on the ground floor where possible. We also consider other ways of contacting our customers, such as visiting people at home.

I am satisfied the arrangements in place ensure that our offices continue to comply with our guidelines.

Rheumatoid Arthritis

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1423-4W, on rheumatoid arthritis, how many claimants of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* severe disablement allowance had each type of (i) medical and (ii) disabling condition recorded in relation to their claims in each of the last five years. [257171]

Jonathan Shaw: The information has been placed in the Library.

Social Security Benefits

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 24 February 2009 on disability benefits, what his estimate is of the effect on the number of people claiming *(a)* disability living allowance (care component), *(b)* attendance allowance and *(c)* carer's allowance of the European Court of Justice's decision to reclassify these benefits as sickness benefits; and if he will make a statement. [259584]

Jonathan Shaw: The effect on the number of people claiming the disability benefits is very difficult to predict. Our estimates indicate that this will result in an increase in the number of customers as set out in the following table:

Benefit	*Estimated caseload*
Disability Living Allowance	20,000
Attendance Allowance	[1]—
Carers Allowance	[1]—
Total	20,000

[1] Estimate is less than 5,000 and therefore equals zero when rounded to the nearest 10,000.
Notes:
1. These estimates relate to 2010-11 because this is assumed to be the first full year following full implementation of the judgment.

Welfare Reform Bill 2008-09: Impact Assessments

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of version *(a)* one and *(b)* two of the impact assessment for the Welfare Reform Bill 2009. [253617]

Mr. McNulty: Version one of the impact assessment related to, and was published electronically alongside, the Green Paper 'No-one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility' and is available on the Department for Work and Pensions website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/welfarereform/noonewrittenoff/noonewrittenoffer-impactassesment.pdf

Version two of the impact assessment related to, and was published electronically alongside, the White Paper 'Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future' and is available on the Department for Work and Pensions website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/welfarereform/raisingexpectations/impact-assessment.pdf

Version three of the impact assessment relates to the Welfare Reform Bill and is available in the Library.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the initial estimated *(a)* cost and *(b)* delivery date was of each ICT project initiated by his Department and its predecessor in each year since 1997; what the (i) outturn cost and (ii) completion date was of each such project subsequently completed; which contractors were hired for each project; and how much has been paid to each contractor in respect of each project to date. [251385]

Mr. McFadden: For the last 10 years the Department's and its predecessors IT services have been provided through a PFI agreement with Fujitsu Services and covers the provision of all desktop services, web infrastructure services, document management and other business applications. In addition, the Department has in place an alternative IT framework agreement with a number of suppliers to enable competition where this is deemed appropriate. However, due to a change in the Department's accounting system during 2003-04 and the previously devolved nature of the ICT, consistent data on all the information requested cannot be obtained without disproportionate cost.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on bonuses for press officers within his Department in each of the last five years; and how many such bonuses were awarded. [258512]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Such information as is available for press officers is shown in the table.

	Number of bonuses	*Total cost (£)*
2005-06	8	9,659
2006-07	12	8,780
2007-08	10	9,250

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport makes bonus payments to its staff for two purposes: (a) special bonuses to reward outstanding contributions in particularly demanding tasks or situations, and (b) performance bonuses to reward successful performance over a whole year.

To provide historical information requested for earlier periods than shown would incur disproportionate cost.

English Heritage: VAT

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport at which of its venues English Heritage *(a)* reduced and *(b)* did not reduce the retail prices of tickets following the December 2008 reduction in value added tax. [258392]

Barbara Follett: English Heritage advises that following the reduction in VAT, it reduced admission prices on 1 December on all its properties open to the public. These were reduced to the nearest 10 pence price point so, in some instances, the saving is greater than the VAT change and in others slightly less. The VAT reduction has been passed on for all admission prices with the exception of some child prices where the change would amount to five pence or less.

National Lottery: Catz Club

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 54W, on Catz Club, for which projects and for what purpose each of the Lottery grants listed was made to Catz Club. [258587]

Barbara Follett: The following information comes from the Department's lottery grants database. The database is searchable at

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

and uses information on lottery grants supplied by the lottery distributors.

Distributing body	*Grant date*	*Recipient name*	*Project description*	*Grant amount (£)*
New Opportunities Fund	26 June 2003	Catz Club	The grant will be used to create 168 after-school places for children aged four to 11-years-old in Northamptonshire. It will create seven new clubs.	80,269

Distributing body	Grant date	Recipient name	Project description	Grant amount (£)
New Opportunities Fund	17/10/2003	Catz Club	The grant will be used to create 48 after-school places for children aged four to 11-years-old in Kent. The project will create two new clubs.	24,496
New Opportunities Fund	17 October 2003	Catz Club	The grant will be used to create 72 after-school places for children aged four to 11-years-old in Norfolk. The project will create three new clubs.	24,496
New Opportunities Fund	17 October 2003	Catz Club	The grant will be used to create 48 after-school places for children aged four to 11-years-old in Cambridgeshire. The project will create two new clubs.	12,247
New Opportunities Fund	17 October 2003	Catz Club	The grant will be used to create 72 after-school places for children aged four to 11-years-old in Ealing. The project will create three new clubs.	7,080
New Opportunities Fund	17 October 2003	Catz Club	The grant will be used to create 48 after-school places for children aged four to 11-years-old in Hackney. The project will create two new clubs.	24,496
New Opportunities Fund	17 October 2003	Catz Club	The grant will be used to create 120 after-school places for children aged four to 11-years-old in Middlesex. The project will create five new clubs.	24,496
New Opportunities Fund	10 February 2006	Catz Club	The grant would be used to create 24 before and 24 after-school places for children aged between four and 11-years-old by creating one new provision in the Windsor area. One local school would be served.	5,527

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Eddisbury of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 171W, on apprentices, how many of the apprenticeships referred to were state-funded. [258064]

Mr. Simon: The information provided on 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 171W, was apprenticeship places in England funded by the Government through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) since 2001, and previously through Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs). Hence, all apprenticeship starts given in the table were state-funded.

Table 1 as follows gives updated LSC/TEC-funded apprenticeship starts from 1997/98 to 2007/08. Information for 2007/08 was first published in a statistical first release on 18 December 2008:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/Statistics

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts, 1997/98 to 2007/08

	Starts
1997/98	75,000
1998/99	118,000
1999/2000	165,000
2000/01	177,000
2001/02	162,000
2002/03	204,000
2003/04	194,000
2004/05	189,000
2005/06	175,000
2006/07	184,000
2007/08	225,000

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand.
Source:
WBL ILR/ISR

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his Department's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public has been since it was established. [251442]

Mr. Simon: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of departments in replying to Members' correspondence. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Information for 2008 is currently being collated and will be published as soon as it ready. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

With respect to correspondence from members of the public the Department cannot provide the requested information within disproportionate costs limits, but we do aim to respond to all written correspondence within 15 working days. Statistics on the handling of letters from members of public is published in the Department's annual report.

Skilled Workers: Lincolnshire

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what reports he has received on the skills requirements of the workforce at the Lindsey oil refinery; and if he will make a statement; [256190]

(2) what skills courses currently funded by his Department relate to posts which have been contracted to workers from other EU member states at the Lindsey oil refinery; and how many such courses are currently available in North East Lincolnshire. [256193]

Mr. Simon: The Learning and Skills Council funds provision at the local College, Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Education, which offers a range of industry-specific programmes of learning to help learners acquire and improve the skills needed to work in the chemical refining sector. These include chemical process operations, fabrication and welding, Health and Safety Passport scheme and general engineering and plant maintenance. We are not aware that courses are specifically arranged for learners from other EU member states.

The Government have recently announced a review of productivity and skills in the engineering construction sector. This will make recommendations on ways to improve skills and productivity in the UK engineering construction industry and identify specific factors influencing success for UK-based companies bidding for UK and foreign engineering construction contracts.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Billy Wright Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Wright Inquiry has spent on security. [257112]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Billy Wright Inquiry that the inquiry has spent £577,000 on security to the end of January 2009.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Wright Inquiry has spent on *(a)* transport, *(b)* accommodation, *(c)* advertising and *(d)* virtual reality technology. [257113]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Billy Wright Inquiry that, to the end of January 2009, the inquiry has spent:

(a) £693,000 on transport;

(b) £1.70 million on accommodation;

(c) Nothing on advertising; and

(d) Nothing on virtual reality technology.

Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Saville Inquiry has spent on *(a)* advertising, *(b)* accommodation, *(c)* transport and *(d)* virtual reality technology. [257118]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Bloody Sunday Inquiry that, to the end of January 2009, the inquiry has spent:

(a) Approximately £19,000 on advertising;

(b) Approximately £26 million on accommodation (including hire of venues for inquiry hearings plus office and private accommodation);

(c) Approximately £5 million on transport; and

(d) Approximately £106,000 on virtual reality technology.

This covers only expenditure by the inquiry and not expenditure by the Ministry of Defence associated with the inquiry.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Saville Inquiry has spent on security. [257119]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Bloody Sunday Inquiry that the Inquiry has spent approximately £3.4 million on security to the end of January 2009.

Departmental Consultants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of his Department's contracts with management consultants was in each of the last five years. [251367]

Mr. Woodward: The cost of contracts with management consultants is not held centrally. Information in relation to spending on the different types of consultancies has been recorded since 2005-06.

In each of the last three years my Department has spent the following amounts on management consultants:

	£
2007-08	126,618
2006-07	464,906
2005-06	1,193,693

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 988-91W, on departmental consultants, how many consultants from each of the companies listed his Department has employed in the last 12 months. [257268]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office does not record the number of individual consultants used by consultancy firms employed by my Department as contracts are awarded directly to the company.

With reference to the answer given on 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 988-91W, my Department has employed 32 of the companies listed in the last 12 months.

Police

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* other staff paid from the policing budget for Northern Ireland undertook duties at the public event hosted by the Northern Ireland Policing Board in Londonderry on 18 February 2009. [259725]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Robert Hamill Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Hamill Inquiry has spent on *(a)* advertising, *(b)* transport, *(c)* accommodation and *(d)* virtual reality technology. [257126]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Robert Hamill Inquiry that, to the end of January 2009, the inquiry has spent:

(a) Nothing on advertising;

(b) £230,000 on transport;

(c) £3.50 million on accommodation; and

(d) £50,000 on virtual reality technology.

Rosemary Nelson Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Nelson Inquiry has spent on (a) advertising, (b) security, (c) accommodation, (d) transport and (e) virtual reality technology. [257105]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Rosemary Nelson Inquiry that, to the end of January 2009, the inquiry has spent:

(a) Nothing on advertising;

(b) £957,000 on security;

(c) £4.48 million on accommodation;

(d) £446,000 on transport; and

(e) Nothing on virtual reality technology.

OLYMPICS

CompeteFor

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much the CompeteFor website has cost to (a) develop and (b) run in each year since its inception; and how much of the funding was provided by (i) the Government, (ii) the London Development Agency and (iii) regional development agencies. [251305]

Tessa Jowell: The information requested is as follows:

The costs of CompeteFor are as follows:

(a) CompeteFor cost £3.633million to develop, which included concept development, specification, implementation and testing, and establishing the support structure.

(b) Running costs are as follows:

Year 1 (December 2007 to March 2008) £220,000

Year 2 (April 2008 to March 2009) projected at £1.241 million

Funding arrangements are as follows

(i) No direct funding was provided by Central Government.

(ii) The London Development Agency and the eight other regional development agencies have each provided £379,000 in set up and running costs in Year 1 and will provide approximately £111,000 each in running costs by the end of this financial year.

The remaining costs are met by contributions provided by the devolved administrations.

Government Olympic Executive: Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much has been spent on the Government Olympic Executive in each of the last three years. [258337]

Tessa Jowell: The expenditure of the Government Olympic Executive (GOE), part of the DCMS, for the last two complete financial years is as follows:

£	£ million
2006-07	3.1
2007-08	5.4

The estimated expenditure for GOE in 2008-09 is £8.1 million.

This planned increase in costs (a) reflects the wider role the GOE has taken on during this period—GOE is now the only organisation overseeing the entire Olympic project, integrating the work of multiple delivery bodies, and ensuring the games is delivered within the £9.3 billion public sector funding provision; (b) is a planned response to the expected growth in work to deliver the Government's commitments and guarantees, as 2012 approaches; and (c) is consistent with GOE's staffing and resource plan for 2008-09 to 2010-11, which was agreed by Treasury early in 2008.

GOE's budget covers funding for both (a) GOE staff costs and (b) 2012-related programmes aimed at maximising the benefits of the games for the whole of the UK. In 2008-09, for example, this has included a contribution towards the costs of regional Cultural Olympiad programmers, the costs of events to engage with the public and to raise awareness of the opportunities the games can provide for all the nations and regions of the UK, the costs of establishing a 2012 evaluation framework Cabinet Office and the costs of publishing the 2012 Legacy Action Plan and the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Annual Report.

Government Olympic Executive: Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) how many staff worked in the Government Olympic Executive in each of the last three years; [258334]

(2) how many staff worked for her in each of the last three years. [258555]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* Since its inception in June 2007 my private office has consisted of five officials and a special adviser, except for when it has carried vacancies.

In addition, staff working in the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) report to me through the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The number of staff (full-time equivalents (FTEs)) working in the GOE has risen over the last three years as follows.

As at February each year	FTEs
2006	30
2007	44.3
2008	63
2009	87.3

This planned increase in staffing (a) reflects the wider role the GOE has taken on during this period - GOE is now the only organisation overseeing the entire Olympic project, integrating the work of multiple delivery bodies, and ensuring the games is delivered within the £9.3 billion public sector funding provision; (b) is a planned response to the expected growth in work to deliver the Government's commitments and guarantees, as 2012 approaches; and (c) is consistent with GOE's staffing and resource plan for 2008-09 to 2010-11, which was agreed by the Treasury early in 2008.

Olympic Games 2012

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics by what process the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games plans to design the opening and closing ceremonies of the London 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [259806]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 26 February 2009]*: The opening and closing ceremonies of both the Olympic games and the Paralympic games in 2012 will be significant moments for the UK, representing an opportunity to showcase the excellent cultural talent we have.

The decision making process to design and deliver these ceremonies is the responsibility of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). The first stage of this process is to host key stakeholder forums, to scope the initial ambition for these ceremonies. These events are taking place in the different nations and regions of the UK in the coming weeks.

Following these consultations, LOCOG will work to put in place the brief and plans necessary to deliver the ceremonies, and appoint the creative team to run the ceremonies.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 17 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2273W, on Olympic games 2012: construction, whether the Olympics Delivery Authority predicted the cost implications for the velopark budget of moving the velodrome. [259801]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 26 February 2009]*: The Velodrome was moved slightly to the west to help with the design and layout of the wider cycling facilities to be built in legacy. The Olympic Delivery Authority was aware of the generally poor ground conditions. However, the VeloPark budget could only be adjusted when the full extent of these conditions was known.

Olympic Games: China

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether she has made an assessment of UK public opinion on London 2012's contribution to the Beijing Olympics closing ceremony; and if she will make a statement. [259804]

Tessa Jowell [holding answer 26 February 2009]: No formal assessment has been made of public opinion in the UK on London's Handover Ceremony in Beijing.

Since the August Handover ceremony, my Department's research has shown that interest in the 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games has risen by six percentage points.

The Museums Libraries and Archives Council has carried out some assessment as part of their "People's Record" project. 5,000 people gave their views on the Handover celebrations and the Cultural Olympiad; the results will be published in spring.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic games will build on the experience gained and lessons learnt during this ceremony to deliver the ceremonies in 2012.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Capgemini

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in respect of which consultations conducted by his Department Capgemini has undertaken work. [259312]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Full public consultations undertaken by the Department for Children, Schools and Families are conducted by the Department's Communications Directorate. Capgemini has not undertaken any work on these consultations.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's 2002 long-term partnering agreement with Capgemini. [259314]

Jim Knight: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families will place a copy of the business services framework agreement between the Department and Capgemini dated 6 November 2001 in the Libraries following agreement with Capgemini on what potentially sensitive commercial information may or may not be released.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) within how long after their completion local authorities are expected to supply his Department with copies of serious case reviews; [248680]

(2) what procedures his Department follows when it receives a full serious case review. [248681]

Beverley Hughes: Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are asked to provide an anonymised copy of each full serious case review to the Department for Children, Schools and Families as soon as possible after the publication of the executive summary. This is to inform biennial overview reports which analyse the key findings from serious case reviews taken as a whole and identify the implications for policy and practice. When an individual serious case review is complete the report is then evaluated by Ofsted. DCSF children and learners teams in the Regional Government Offices have a support and challenge role, in particular with respect to the implementation by LSCBs and local agencies of recommendations in individual serious case review reports.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many serious case reviews initiated in 2008 were not published within four months of their being requested by the local safeguarding board. [252944]

Beverley Hughes: These data are not compiled centrally. The first annual Ofsted report on Serious Case Reviews, 'Learning Lessons, Taking Action', published on 1 December 2008, gave information on 50 serious case reviews evaluated by Ofsted between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008. It noted that of the 50 reviews evaluated, five were completed within four months, although the report also observed that 'a significant number of reviews

were delayed because they were awaiting the outcome of coroners' courts and/or criminal proceedings'. Guidance in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006 is clear, that any delays in completing serious case reviews should not prevent early lessons learnt from being implemented.

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department or its predecessors were on sick leave for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days in each of the last five years. [256319]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department was set up as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. All sickness absence data are available on the Department's website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/sicknessabsence/.

Information for individual members of staff who had sick leave for the periods specified is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportion cost.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department were recorded as having been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December in each of the last five years. [256634]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department was set up as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. The figures for the Department apply from 31 December 2007 onwards.

Number of people who have been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December

	Number
2008	9
2007	4

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 10W, on education maintenance allowance (EMA), whether the regular updates on the EMA delivery issues provided to Ministers by the Learning and Skills Council are provided in written form. [257823]

Jim Knight: The processing statistics supplied by the contractor via the Learning and Skills Council to officials in the Department for Children School and Families were provided in written form. These statistics were provided daily during the working week, between September 2008 to January 2009. Officials are currently collating these records and we will make them available before 12 March.

Music: Education

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many *(a)* people and *(b)* schools have registered with the Sing Up website; [258323]

(2) what percentage of primary school pupils in the relevant age category have taken part in the Sing Up programme. [258324]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: People register on the Sing Up website only if they want to receive the magazine that is sent out once a term. Other people can visit the site without registering. The data for February show that there have so far been 26,149 registrations on the website, including from 13,489 individual schools.

Over 100,000 children have been directly involved in Sing Up activity, such as workshops in the Southbank Centre and Birmingham Symphony Hall. Over 20,000 people have participated in Sing Up training and CPD activity and the website attracts 20,000 visitors each week. There is no measure of how many children are subsequently reached by those who have received training or visited the website.

National Curriculum Tests: Special Educational Needs

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* all children identified with speech, language and communication difficulties, *(b)* children identified with speech, language and communications difficulties from the 10 per cent. most deprived areas and *(c)* children identified with speech, language and communication difficulties from the five per cent. most deprived areas achieved the national standard in all Key Stage 1 assessments in each year since 1997; [257607]

(2) how many and what proportion of children identified with speech, language and communication difficulties from *(a)* the 10 per cent. most deprived areas and *(b)* the five per cent. most deprived areas achieved the national standard in Key Stage 1 (i) reading, (ii) writing, (iii) mathematics and (iv) science assessments in each year since 1997; [257608]

(3) how many and what proportion of children identified with speech, language and communication difficulties achieved the national standard in Key Stage 1 *(a)* reading, *(b)* writing, *(c)* mathematics and *(d)* science assessments in each year since 1997. [257609]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department only collects data by type of special educational need for children at School Action Plus or with statements. School Action Plus, under the SEN Code of Practice, is where a school receives some external help to meet a child's SEN. A SEN statement is drawn up by a local authority, following an assessment, where it is necessary to determine the special educational provision which a child's learning difficulties call for.

The available 2008 information is attached to the "Statistical First Release: Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2007/08", which can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000822/index.shtml

Analysis similar to that requested for pupils with speech, language and communication difficulty attaining the expected level in Key Stage 1 was carried out using 2006 data and the relevant information is given as follows.

This information is not available for years before 2005 when type of SEN information for pupils was not collected.

The analysis only relates to the primary SEN type of pupils. Some of these children may also have a secondary SEN type which has not been taken into consideration in the analysis.

Percentage of pupils achieving level 2 (expected level) or above in Key Stage 1 assessments in 2006

Number of pupils with speech language and communication difficulty at school action plus = reading/writing/maths 8,875, science 8,870

Number of pupils with speech language and communication difficulty with statements = reading/writing/maths 2,410, science 2,405

	Reading	*Writing*	*Maths*	*Science*
School action plus				
Speech language and communication difficulty	45	38	60	58
Statement				
Speech language and communication difficulty	29	22	38	33

Note:
Figures relate to seven-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) in maintained schools.

The Department intends to publish similar information for pupils with special educational needs based on 2008 data later this year.

Further information can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

School Meals: Nutrition

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent assessment is of the effect of secondary schools allowing pupils to leave school premises at lunchtime on the ability of schools to deliver higher nutritional standards in school meals. [257819]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Food based standards for school lunches have been in place since September 2006. Schools must also meet the Government's nutrient based standards for school lunches, which were introduced for primary school lunches in September 2008 and will be introduced in secondary and special schools in September 2009. Clearly, secondary school pupils who leave the school premises at lunchtime and do not eat a school lunch will not benefit from the healthier food on offer at the school. It is for head teachers to decide whether to adopt a stay on site policy.

Schools: Catering

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school premises have a dining hall. [256009]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not hold up-to-date information on the numbers and proportions of primary and secondary schools that have a dining hall. It is thought that:

(a) most primary schools have halls where dining takes place. For some schools this is a dedicated dining hall, for many it is a multi-purpose hall used for assembly, PE and dining;

(b) most, if not all, secondary schools have dining halls.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996-97 to £6.7 billion in 2008-09 and will rise further to £8.0 billion by 2010-11. Progress is being made year-by-year in improving the quality of the school building stock. The bulk of schools capital is now allocated by formula to local authorities and schools. This enables them to fund priority projects which could include providing a dining hall at a school that does not have one.

Schools: Inspections

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons agreements of contracts between Ofsted and inspection contractors have not been reached in accordance with the originally planned timetable. [259625]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 26 February 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

The original timetable for the awarding of new inspection contracts made provision for decisions being made in January 2009. In October 2008, a decision was taken to delay this by one month to allow the process to take full account of organisational changes within Ofsted.

On 25 February 2009, bidders were informed about the outcomes and a press release was placed on the Ofsted website. The contract award is subject to an Alcatel (standstill) period under European legislation, which will end on 9 March 2009. Publicity during the Alcatel period is being kept deliberately 'low key', restricted to information that bidders are obliged to provide under the London Stock Exchange Disclosure and Transparency Rules (DTR).

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which maintained special schools opened in 2008; and what the cost of establishing each was. [256346]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department's records, based on information supplied by local authorities, indicate that the following maintained special schools opened in 2008. The Department does not have a record of the cost of establishing these schools; this will be held locally.

Name of maintained special school	*Postaltown*	*Postalcounty area*	*Date opened*
Phoenix Schools	Walsall	West Midlands	1 January 2008
Elmwood School	Walsall	West Midlands	1 January 2008
Nene Gate	Peterborough	Cambridgeshire	2 January 2008
Castle Wood	Coventry	West Midlands	1 April 2008
Newbridge Learning Community	Wigan	Lancashire	1 September 2008
Seven Hills School	Sheffield	South Yorkshire	1 September 2008

Name of maintained special school	*Postaltown*	*Postal/county area*	*Date opened*
Sir Tom Finney Community High School	Preston	Lancashire	1 September 2008
Acorns Primary School	Preston	Lancashire	1 September 2008
Elm Tree Community Primary School	Skelmersdale	Lancashire	1 September 2008
Heatherwood School	Doncaster	South Yorkshire	1 September 2008
Pennine View School	Doncaster	South Yorkshire	1 September 2008
Coppice Community School	Doncaster	South Yorkshire	1 September 2008
Stone Hill School	Doncaster	South Yorkshire	1 September 2008
North Ridge Community School	Doncaster	South Yorkshire	1 September 2008
Cottenham Foundation Special School	Cambridge	Cambridgeshire	1 November 2008

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained special schools there were in each local authority in each year since 1997, broken down by special educational needs priority 1. [256443]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We cannot provide the information requested because it would require the manipulation of large volumes of data which could be undertaken only at a disproportionate cost.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1730-2W, on special educational needs, how many pupils were given *(a)* a fixed period and *(b)* a permanent exclusion. [258051]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Teachers: Training

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the Continued Professional Development proposed for teachers operating in challenging circumstances, as referred to in his Department's publication "New Opportunities, Fair Chances for the Future", will include training on the effects of poverty on children's experiences of school. [258089]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The teachers' Professional Standards already require them to identify and support children and young people whose progress, development or well-being is affected by changes or difficulties in their personal circumstances, and when to refer them to colleagues for specialist support.

In connection with the extra support announced in the New Opportunities White Paper, I have asked the Training and Development Agency for Schools to assemble a package of guidance and advice for both new and experienced teachers and other school staff working in challenging circumstances. This will be available from September and will support teachers in achieving and maintaining the Professional Standards and other school staff in supporting children and young people.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Codes of Practice

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on research in preparing for the new Code of Good Agricultural Practice. [252771]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* A number of technical specialists from DEFRA and its agencies contributed to the content of the new Code of Good Agricultural Practice. The publication updates the previously published codes of practice for water, soil and air which have been periodically updated for the past 20 years. Therefore, the cost of research in preparing the new Code of Good Agricultural Practice is not readily available in DEFRA.

Angling: Devon

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment his Department has made of the contribution of recreational sea angling to the North Devon economy; [258420]

(2) how many people resident in North Devon are employed in the North Devon recreational sea angling sector; [258421]

(3) how many recreational sea anglers are estimated to visit North Devon each year; [258422]

(4) what recent assessment he has made of the effect that Article 47 of the EU Proposal for the Monitoring of Recreational Fisheries would have on recreational sea angling. [258423]

Huw Irranca-Davies: A DEFRA-funded study carried out by Drew Associates into the economic impact of the recreational sea angling sector in England and Wales was published in 2004. This study estimated that 18,889 people were employed in the sector and that the total expenditure of anglers was £538 million per year. Although we do not have detailed data on angling activity in North Devon, the same report considered the principal locations for angling in that area and identified that there were 15 charter angling vessels in the North Devon and Bristol Channel area.

In England there are around 400 charter angling vessels that would require an authorisation under Article 47 of the draft EU proposal, plus an as yet unquantified number of privately owned vessels. As part of the process of negotiating this proposal, we shall be seeking clarification from the Commission on a number of issues relating to Article 47. Until we have that clarification it is difficult to assess accurately its potential impact on recreational sea angling. We shall be seeking stakeholders' views on these points and considering them in more detail in the impact assessment that my officials are drawing up and which we shall publish as part of the formal consultation procedure.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on research into a vaccine for *(a)* BVT1, *(b)* BVT8, *(c)* BVT6 and *(d)* all other strains of bluetongue disease in each of the last six years. [257428]

Jane Kennedy: The research, development and production of bluetongue vaccine is a commercial proposition and there are a number of private companies involved in the development, production and sale of vaccine. Although Government do not actively fund work specifically on development of vaccines, significant funding on bluetongue research in recent years has provided a fundamental science base that contributes to and underpins the use of vaccines in disease control. This research, which includes work to understand the molecular basis of infection and protection from bluetongue, is published and made available to the wider scientific community.

It is, therefore, not possible to state an exact figure that has contributed directly to vaccine development, but the overall Bluetongue Virus (BTV) research spend, of which some has been spent on molecular research over the last six years, has been:

	Bluetongue (£ million)
2003-04	0.34
2004-05	0.45
2005-06	0.55
2006-07	0.63
2007-08	0.71
2008-09	[1]0.73

[1] Estimated

DEFRA continues to engage with experts and manufacturers on the issue of vaccine development and authorisation for other serotypes.

Departmental Legal Proceedings

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what provision his Department has made in its budget for potential civil liabilities stemming from legal proceedings. [241190]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The provision made by the Department in its budget for potential civil liabilities stemming from legal proceedings is £5,958,667.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2019W, on departmental marketing, how the *(a)* long-sleeved T-shirts, *(b)* travel wallets, *(c)* pens and *(d)* travel toothbrush sets were branded; what (i) slogan and (ii) logo was used on each; and what the cost of each such type of promotional material was to his Department. [249360]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Departmental Communications Directorate has procured the following DEFRA branded products:

Product	*Date*	*Slogan*	*Logos*	*Use*	*Cost (£ each)*
Long sleeved T-shirt	2005-06	Don't break the law check the rules before you travel	DEFRA HM Revenue and Customs	Personal food imports campaign	6.95
Travel wallets	2006-07	Don't break the law check the rules before you travel	DEFRA HM Revenue and Customs Food Standards Agency	Personal food imports campaign	0.77
Pens	2006-07	Don't break the law check the rules before you travel	DEFRA	Personal food imports campaign	0.19
Travel toothbrush sets	2006-07	Don't break the law check the rules before you travel	DEFRA	Personal food imports campaign	0.36

Departmental Pay

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent in bonuses to staff of each grade in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [258230]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Performance related pay schemes encourage high attainment, help drive performance in departments and agencies and support better public service delivery. DEFRA's uses non-consolidated payments to reward high performance during the year and these are based on how well an individual has met or exceeded set objectives, relative to their peers.

Non-consolidated performance payments are one-off payments and do not count towards pension. They are allocated from a 'pot' expressed as a percentage of the salary budget each year. Non-consolidated performance

payments paid from the 2007 pay budget relate to performance in the, 2006-07 appraisal year and those paid from 2008 pay budget relate to performance in the 2007-08 appraisal year.

For the senior civil service (SCS) the size of the pot available is agreed centrally each year following recommendations from the senior salaries review body. In recent years, this pot has increased as greater emphasis is placed on non-consolidated performance pay with proportionately smaller increases to consolidated base pay.

The size of the pot for non-SCS is determined individually by Departments and Agencies through the pay remit process and in negotiations with the Trades Unions. DEFRA's pay remit level approved over the past two years has been below the average of those approved across Whitehall departments.

The following tables show the total amount of non-consolidated performance payments awarded to staff in each grade in 2007 and 2008. For DEFRA, the data cover staff in core-DEFRA (including staff who transferred to DECC in October 2008) and those agencies covered by DEFRA terms and conditions (Animal Health, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Marine and Fisheries Agency and Government Decontamination Service and until 1 April 2008 Pesticides Safety Directorate).

2007

£

Grade equivalent	*DEFRA*	*VLA*	*RPA*	*CSL*	*CEFAS*
AA	26,912	3,196	700	2,063	3,887
AO	162,911	6,119	134,305	25,944	87,337
EO	228,800	10,712	142,949	33,609	95,341
HEO	451,455	6,216	66,217	51,112	139,554
Fast Stream	36,862	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SEO	309,306	8,155	27,628	49,005	139,211
Vet. Officer	96,534	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
G7	529,639	7,910	13,141	53,091	95,165
G6	208,736	3,048	4,400	22,290	58,249
SCS PB1 plus chief execs	896,822	43,140	47,673	39,191	11,000
SCS PB2	275,702	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SCS PB3	50,500	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

2008

£

Grade Equivalent	*DEFRA*	*VLA*	*RPA*	*CSL*	*CEFAS*
AA	22,773	1,643	800	£2,129	£3,251
AO	143,857	1,996	165,704	£25,552	£94,509
EO	186,459	7,280	165,590	£29,127	£113,017
HEO	343,955	5,913	80,117	£53,359	£174,100
Fast Stream	39,624	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SEO	207,280	8,916	£36,953	£58,728	£167,559
Vet Officer	93,163	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
G7	450,138	8,404	£18,335	£55,996	£128,147
G6	238,399	2,509	£4,800	£28,436	£61,175
SCS PB1 plus chief execs	922,590	42,184	£51,371	£33,391	£31,989
SCS PB2	311,600	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SCS PB3	77,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by *(a)* the Consumer Council for Water and *(b)* the Environment Agency is in 2008-09. [258527]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Consumer Council for Water has no vacant or unoccupied properties recorded on the e-PIMS database.

The Environment Agency has three properties recorded as vacant on the e-PIMS database. The estimated cost of vacant business rates on these properties is £96,000. £92,000 is attributable to one building which has now been sub-let in part. The Environment Agency is actively pursuing disposal of the remainder.

The Environment Agency has a further five properties that have been vacant in 2008-09, and the estimated cost of business rates on these properties is £24,000.

Flood Control: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's funding framework is for storage of flood water as part of a flood alleviation scheme; from which budget such schemes will be funded; and to which bodies applications for such funding should be made. [257030]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Flood storage is one of a number of options available to operating authorities to manage flood risk. Options are appraised in line with Government guidance to ensure schemes are sustainable and cost beneficial. The Environment Agency approves funding for appropriate schemes from the funds allocated under the comprehensive spending review up to delegated Treasury limits. Proposals for schemes to address flood risk should be discussed initially with the Environment Agency for inclusion on the "medium term plan" for flood risk management schemes.

Floods: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice the Environment Agency has given to the Highways Authority on building on the flood risk area in relation to the Roscommon Way Extension, Canvey Island; and if he will make a statement. [258344]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency has met with the Highways Authority consultants, Mouchel Parkman, regarding the proposed extension to Roscommon Way. The Environment Agency informed Mouchel Parkman that the impact of the extension must be fully considered and adequate mitigation measures provided so there is no increased flood risk to the surrounding area.

Floods: Essex

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on flood prevention measures in Essex in the last 12 months. [258299]

Huw Irranca-Davies: During the financial year 2008-09, the Anglian eastern area of the Environment Agency spent over £17 million on flood protection measures in the Essex catchment. £4.67 million has been spent on the maintenance of rivers and tidal defences, £2.62 million on major refurbishment of existing flood defences and £10.4 million on new or improved flood defences.

Floods: Hull

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of secondary flooding on the time taken for people to be able to return to their homes in Hull. [257032]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There have been 910 incidences of 'secondary flooding' in Hull since January 2008, although the relationship between the flooding in summer 2007 and subsequent water ingress remains to be explored further. The city council is working with the Environment Agency and the university of Hull to understand the factors which contribute to the continuing incidences of water ingress into homes. As of 29 January 2009, of the 472 households displaced from their homes in Hull by flooding, 360 were displaced as a result of water ingress from January 2008 or subsequently.

The Government are concerned about all households which are still displaced from their homes following the 2007 summer flooding. Approximately 100 households returned each week between the end of June and the middle of November and on that basis we estimate that more than 19 out of every 20 households originally displaced are back home. That compares well to the Carlisle floods in 2005 when one in 10 were still out of their homes after 18 months.

But we recognise that is no consolation to those still displaced and the Minister for Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey) is continuing to work with local authorities and the insurance industry to ensure that the momentum in getting people home is maintained.

Those families still living wholly or partially in caravans are a particular concern and the Minister for Local Government has linked up with council leaders in the most affected authorities, which include Hull, to offer additional support to help to those households over the winter.

Health Hazards

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department classifies building foam containing ozone depleting substance blowing agents as hazardous. [257525]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Most insulation foam containing ozone-depleting substances are currently contained within buildings. At this point, annual emissions are known to be at their lowest and therefore present little risk to the ozone layer.

On becoming waste, insulation foam containing 0.1 per cent. or more of ozone-depleting substances is classified as hazardous waste. Further information on the classification of hazardous waste is available in the Environment Agency's technical guidance WM2, 'Hazardous waste: Interpreting the definition and classification of hazardous waste, 2nd edition v2.2, 2005 (updated 2008)'.

DEFRA is working with building industry stakeholders to assess the current infrastructure available for dealing with the recovery or destruction of ozone-depleting substances in building foams and the technical and economic issues that arise.

Marine Management Organisation: Location

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 82-84WS, on the Marine Management Organisation's headquarters, what assessment he has made of the suitability of Plymouth as a site for the Marine Management Organisation's headquarters. [258571]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* In a transparent and fair process which involved stakeholders in drawing up a set of business and quality of life criteria and the consultancy firm KPMG carrying out an independent assessment against these criteria, Plymouth was selected as one of the six shortlisted locations for the Marine Management Organisation's headquarters. The criteria used to arrive at the shortlist, and subsequently tested through site visits and presentations from the locations, were:

- Business needs for the MMO HQ such as availability of skilled work force and good transport links.
- Cost and value for money.
- Government policies on location of public sector bodies.
- Quality of Life factors including cost of living, education, employment, healthcare.

As well as carrying out site visits to further test locations against these criteria, all shortlisted locations were given the opportunity to present their case to be the home of the MMO HQ and I met with MPs from all the shortlisted locations. Plymouth presented a strong case and, like all of the shortlisted locations, would have been a good home for the MMO HQ, allowing the MMO to meet its business needs and benefit from local marine expertise, organisational networks and academic links.

However, Tyneside demonstrated the strongest and most comprehensive case to be the home of the organisation and provides a location from which the organisation can best achieve its aims. Among other factors, Tyneside has a broad range and good balance of marine interests with a working port, all of which fit well with the role of the MMO. Tyneside also provides strong transport links in terms of access to key stakeholders in London, Brussels and Scotland. There was a compelling demonstration of support from a wide range of stakeholders across the North East region, a region which has benefited little to date from the Lyons Review in respect of the relocation of public sector employment. The extensive evidence of partnership working in the area provided confidence that Tyneside had actively considered the bespoke requirements of the MMO with regard to its role under the Marine and Coastal Access Bill.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Minister for Farming and the Environment will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 9 December 2008, about tigers being farmed for use in Chinese medicine. [259311]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I replied to the hon. Member's letter on 13 January and a copy of this was sent by officials on 25 February.

River Lymington: Ferries

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps he plans to take in response to the decision by Wightlink to initiate its new ferry service between Lymington and Yarmouth prior to completion of the appropriate assessment; and if he will make a statement; [259337]

(2) what assessment he has made of *(a)* the likely environmental effects on the Lymington Marshes Natura 2000 site and *(b)* the compliance with the EU Environmental Liability Directive of the operation of a ferry service between Lymington and Yarmouth; and if he will make a statement. [259339]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The introduction of new "W" class ferries by Wightlink on the Lymington to Yarmouth route is now the subject of legal proceedings against the Department and others. In these circumstances it would be inappropriate for me to answer questions on the subject.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Rents

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to allow local authorities to retain all their receipts from council tenants' rent. [258973]

Mr. Iain Wright: The current system of local authority housing finance is based on a system of surplus authorities (where assumed income exceeds assumed costs) making payment to central Government and deficit authorities (where assumed income is less than assumed costs) receiving subsidy. In the current year approximately £550 million will be paid to deficit authorities in aggregate. So a change to enable all local authorities in surplus to keep their receipts would entail a considerable increase in public expenditure.

However, CLG and HM Treasury are holding a Review of Council Housing Finance and Rents Policy. Our aim is to have a long term solution to financing council housing that is sustainable and fair to both tenant and taxpayer. The issue of councils retaining all rental receipts is closely bound up with a number of other key policy decisions, including what rents should pay for and how these receipts would be used in a local area. It would be premature to reach conclusions specifically on this matter until the Review reports to Ministers later this year, when it will be considered as part of the overall structure for a new or improved system.

Fire Services: Working Hours

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent meetings she has had on the Working Time Directive in respect of retained firefighters from *(a)* the Fire Brigades Union, *(b)* the Retained Firefighters Union and *(c)* other stakeholders; what representations she has received in each case; and if she will make a statement. [259219]

Mr. Khan: There have been no recent meetings at ministerial level with *(a)* the Fire Brigades' Union, *(b)* the Retained Firefighters' Union or *(c)* other stakeholders at which the working time directive in respect of firefighters working a retained duty system has been discussed. Written representations about the potential impact on firefighters working a retained duty system of losing the opt-out have been received from the Retained Firefighters' Union, MPs and MSPs.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1076W.

Local Authorities: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 314W, on local authorities: carbon emissions, if she will place in the Library a copy of the letter from January 2007; and whether local authorities may carbon offset using projects based in their local authority area. [252391]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply, and can confirm that the letter in question will be placed in the Libraries of the House. On carbon offsetting, it is very difficult to ensure that UK-based carbon offset projects are truly additional—that is, that they result in real emission reductions that would not have happened anyway in the absence of carbon finance. For this reason the government's voluntary quality assurance scheme for carbon offsetting which was launched on 26 February 2009 will not cover projects based in the UK. Support for local emission reduction projects can be beneficial, but caution should be exercised in claiming those emission reductions as offsets to balance a carbon footprint.

Local Government Services: Essex

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will hold discussions with Essex County Council on its proposals to outsource services and delivery support functions. [259623]

John Healey: The Department has no plans to discuss with Essex county council any procurement exercise that may be proposed on service delivery. Subject to their legal duties, including the duty of best value and public procurement law, local authorities are responsible for taking their own procurement decisions. In doing so, they will have regard to available guidance, including that on work force matters.

Multiple Occupation

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to consult on amendments to use classes orders in relation to houses in multiple occupation. [257445]

Mr. Iain Wright: We are committed to consulting on possible changes to the use class order in relation to houses in multiple occupation.

We are considering the most appropriate mechanism for this consultation, and plan to consult in the spring.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department informed the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) that prescriptive rating of docks was to end; and when the VOA was asked to prepare individual assessments of port businesses. [258233]

John Healey: The Government's policy to end the power to prescribe formed part of the long-term policy to apply conventional rating valuation methods across all industry sectors. The ending of prescribed rating was enacted in the Local Government Act 2003. Prescription applied only to the operational land of the statutory port not to other companies or businesses operating under licence or other agreement with exclusive use of property within the boundaries of ports. A separate assessment for such property is a long established principle that applies right across non-domestic rating, including within ports.

Rateable values are assessed independently by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), and this Department is not involved in the process.

The review of the port rating assessments was undertaken as part of the VOA's statutory duty to maintain correct rating lists. As inaccuracies in the rating assessments were identified, action was taken to correct them.

Rents

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average weekly rent for local housing was in each local housing authority in the latest period for which figures are available, listed from highest to lowest; what the percentage change in average weekly rent in each authority was in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms between (i) 1987 and 1997 and (ii) 1997 and 2007-08, listed from highest to lowest in each case. [256135]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on average rent for local housing comes from housing revenue account (HRA) subsidy forms. The latest available figures are at end-April 2008. The average weekly rent for local authority housing in each local authority area for this period, listed from highest to lowest, are provided in table 1. A copy of this table has been placed in the Library.

Data prior to 1996 on local housing average rent are not held electronically.

Table 2 provides information on the cash difference and the real terms difference between local authority average rents in 1997 and 2008 for each local authority area, listed from highest to lowest. Copies of these tables have been placed in the Library.

Not all local authorities are listed because some may have transferred their stock by large scale voluntary transfer (LSVT) to registered social landlords.

Social Rented Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number and proportion of social housing tenants in each region not in receipt of housing benefit who are *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* of working age. [259759]

Mr. Iain Wright: Estimates of the number and proportion of social housing tenants not in receipt of housing benefit who are of working age and pensionable age are set out in the following table. These estimates are based on data from the Survey of English Housing.

Social rented households not receiving Housing Benefit, England, 2-year average 2006-07 and 2007-08

Thousand

	Households of working age[1]	*Households of pensionable age*[2]	*Total*
North East	59	24	82
North West	145	51	196
Yorks and Humber	123	45	169
The North	326	120	446
East Midlands	77	32	109
West Midlands	124	34	158
The Midlands	201	66	267
Eastern	125	39	164
London	216	58	273
South-East	137	54	191
South West	85	28	113
The South	563	178	741
England	1,090	364	1,454

Percentage

	Households of working age[1]	*Households of pensionable age*[2]	*Total*
North East	71	29	100
North West	74	26	100
Yorks and Humber	73	27	100
The North	73	27	100
East Midlands	71	29	100
West Midlands	78	22	100
The Midlands	75	25	100
Eastern	76	24	100
London	79	21	100
South-East	72	28	100
South West	75	25	100
The South	76	24	100
England	75	25	100

[1] Males aged 16-64, females aged16-59.
[2] Males aged 65 or over, females aged 60 or over.
Source:
Survey of English Housing

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

British Plastics Federation

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects the European Commission to decide on a state aids exemption for the British Plastics Federation climate change agreement. [257814]

Joan Ruddock: The UK submitted an application for state aid approval to the proposed climate change agreements with the plastics sector on 27 March 2008. This was followed by a series of exchanges between the European Commission and the Government as the Commission sought additional detailed information. The Government responded to the latest request for additional information on 15 January 2009. The Commission has two months in which to reply.

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received on the British Plastics Federation's climate change agreement. [257815]

Joan Ruddock: During the last 10 months there has been regular contact between the British Plastics Federation and officials in DECC during which the Government have sought state aid approval of a climate change agreement for the plastics sector.

Carbon Emissions

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps are being taken to ensure the effectiveness of the Act on CO_2 campaign in all parts of the UK. [258253]

Joan Ruddock: Our evaluation of the effectiveness of the Act on CO_2 campaign looks at a series of measures including:

Response (e.g. website usage);

Campaign awareness, recognition and comprehension (assessed in regular research fieldwork dips); and

Claimed action and declared propensity to change behaviour (from research, as aforementioned).

Since the launch of the current 'Save money save energy' phase of the Act on CO_2 campaign on 17 September 2008, the Act on CO_2 website has had over 550,000 unique visitors. Since its launch in June 2007 to November 2008 there have been over 1.3 million visitors to the Act on CO_2 calculator.

As of December 2008 awareness of the phrase 'Act on CO_2' is 72 per cent. and 73 per cent. of respondents currently say they have taken actions or are planning to take actions to reduce their CO_2 emissions as a result of the campaign. This compares favourably to 50 per cent. in summer 2007, when research was undertaken to evaluate the first television campaign.

Act on CO_2 is currently ran as an England-only campaign. The Devolved Administrations ran their own bespoke communications approaches and therefore we do not actively pursue or measure its effectiveness within the devolved areas.

Carbon Emissions: Telephone Services

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* set-up and *(b)* maintenance costs of the Act on CO_2 advice line are; and how many calls have been received on the line since its establishment. [254127]

Joan Ruddock: DECC grant fund the Energy Saving Trust (EST) for their work as independent and trusted experts in the carbon abatement field. Total grant funding to EST for 2008-09 was £35.2 million. The EST is contributing to the Government's Act on CO_2 campaign by running the Act on CO_2 advice line and nationwide network of regional advice centres, which provide the consumer with comprehensive and tailored advice on how to reduce their carbon footprint. The funding of specific EST activities is a matter for EST's board.

I understand from the Trust that since the establishment of the Act on CO_2 advice line in April 2008 it has received 407,944 calls up to December 2008.

Climate Change: International Cooperation

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what proposals his Department has put forward for an international financing mechanism to fund the UN Climate Change Adaptation Fund; what discussions he has had with the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer on these proposals; and if he will make a statement; [255731]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the UK's level of financial support for the UN Climate Change Adaptation Fund; and if he will make a statement. [255732]

Joan Ruddock: Discussions were held across Whitehall in preparation for the agreement by parties that 2 per cent. of the share of proceeds from the Certified Emissions Reductions issued for the Clean Development Mechanism will go towards the Adaptation Fund. This international financing mechanism is now in place. The UK Government are working with others on the Adaptation Fund Board to establish sound operational procedures for the Adaptation Fund to ensure that it will meet international fiduciary standards and be an effective mechanism for delivering increased finance where it is needed. The UK Government take the subject of adaptation finance extremely seriously and recognise that the process will be complex and will take time to get right.

The board's approach to making the fund operational was approved by parties in Poznan, thus enabling it to start operations in 2009. The board is now working to put in place the mechanisms it set out in the approach submitted to parties in Poznan, and the UK continues to play a key role in assisting the board to find innovative ways to enable the fund to become operational this year. The UK was the board's biggest financial supporter in 2008 (£500,000) and has set aside an additional £500,000 for 2009 to assist the board in its work to set up the necessary operational structures to enable direct access.

Discussions by parties in Poznan revealed weaknesses in the governance structure of the Adaptation Fund, which have restricted the authority and operational efficacy of the board. These will need to be addressed to

ensure that the fund will be able to make decisions on allocation of funding that are not affected by political considerations. This process has been particularly challenging as parties have requested access to funding without the assistance of intermediaries. The international community has thus far relied on these to provide sound fiduciary risk management for international assistance to developing countries. The UK has been playing a key role in the board to find ways to facilitate such direct access to funding.

The UK Government will be considering options for scaling up the movement of international financial assistance through the Adaptation Fund after consideration of the adequacy of the implementation structures the fund will have put in place this year, and in line with our wider objectives on the international financial architecture. It is clear that a blend of options will offer the best prospects of raising the level of funding required. Our vision is of a climate 'compact' between developed and developing countries whereby funds are disbursed at scale on the basis of national plans that integrate mitigation and adaptation needs alongside development priorities.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change by what date he expects his Department's Nuclear Directorate office in Cheltenham to be operational. [255971]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The Nuclear Directorates management team are currently working on the Cheltenham office being operational as soon as possible, subject to contract negotiations and furnishing to make ready for staff.

Departmental Correspondence

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the address of his Department's Nuclear Directorate is. [255970]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The Nuclear Directorate's address is:

Redgrave Court
Merton Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7HS.

Departmental Manpower

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff of his Department are based at its Nuclear Directorate's offices in London; and how many are in each civil service pay band. [255972]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The Nuclear Directorate (ND) currently has seven members of staff located at ND's London based office. The breakdown of staff in each civil service pay band is as follows:

Civil service pay band	*Number of staff*	*HSE equivalent grade*
UG7	3	Band 2
SEO	1	Band 3
HEO	1	Band 4
EO	1	Band 5
AO	1	Band 6

In addition ND currently have a further two Health and Safety Executive members of staff on attachment to the directorate working in their London office as follows:

Civil service pay band	*Number of staff*	*HSE equivalent grade*
UG6	1	Band 1
AO	1	Band 6

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on the use of blinds and awnings as energy efficient products in domestic and commercial property; and whether officials of his Department have met representatives of the blind and awning industry. [256376]

Joan Ruddock: As far as it is possible to establish, DECC Ministers and officials have not met with or received representations from any representatives of this industry.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has undertaken on the effect on energy efficiency of the use of blinds and awnings in domestic and commercial buildings. [256378]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has undertaken no specific research on the effect on energy efficiency of the use of blinds and awnings in domestic and commercial buildings. Nonetheless, the benefits of blinds and awnings are understood and included in our National Calculation Methodologies, by which building related energy efficiency measures are assessed.

Energy: Finance

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the availability of private finance initiative credits for energy infrastructure projects. [255170]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC does not receive any PFI credits.

Treasury is the Department responsible for allocating PFI credits among Departments.

Environmental Transformation Fund

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change through which sub-funds of bilateral and multilateral organisations Environmental Transformation Fund disbursements will be channelled in the next two years. [256941]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The UK (the Department for International Development (DFID) and my Department) has allocated the £800 million Environmental Transformation Fund to the World Bank-administered Climate Investment Funds. The Climate Investment Funds are divided into the Clean Technology Fund and the Strategic Climate Fund. Sub-programmes of the latter include: the Pilot programme for climate resilience, and two programmes under development: the Forest Investment programme and the Scaling-up Renewable Energy programme. The funds will be administered by the World Bank with individual programmes implemented through any one of the Multilateral Development Banks. Decisions are made by recipient countries on the basis of their country-led investment plans. We expect UN agencies to participate as delivery agents.

More information can be viewed at:

www.WorldBank.org/cif

http://www.worldbank.org/cif

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with which other Government Departments his Department works in administering the Environmental Transformation Fund; what the arrangements are for doing so; and what *(a)* administrative, *(b)* accounting and *(c)* reporting structures are in place for this purpose. [256942]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 232 February 2009]:* The information requested is as follows:

(a) The UK (the Department for International Development and my Department) has allocated the £800 million Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF) to the World Bank administered Climate Investment Funds (CIFs). The administration of the funds is overseen across Whitehall by the ETF board consisting of representatives of my Department, the Department for International Development, HM Treasury, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. A cross-Whitehall team provides secretariat support to the board for UK administration of the funds.

(b) The funds will be administered by the World Bank with individual programmes implemented through any one of the Multilateral Development Banks (MDB). The World Bank is the administrator and trustee of the funds. It produces quarterly reports on financial progress and annual audited reports of accounts to the UK.

(c) As a minimum, each MDB will report annually to the Strategic Climate Fund Trust Fund Committee on the monitoring and evaluation it has conducted in accordance with their procedures. The governance framework can be viewed at:

www.WorldBank.org/cif

The UK is in discussions with the Clean Technology Fund and Strategic Climate Fund Trust Fund Committees about the best reporting criteria framework for the funds. An independent evaluation of the operations of the Climate Investment Funds and the impact of their activities will be conducted. This will be carried out jointly with the MDBs after three years of operation.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he next expects to release up-to-date figures on the number of people living in fuel poverty. [253731]

Joan Ruddock: The Government intends to publish updated figures on the number of people living in fuel poverty in its next annual progress report on the fuel poverty strategy to be published later in the year.

Members: Correspondence

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letters of 5 November and 9 December 2008 from the hon. Member for Weston-Super-Mare sent on behalf of a constituent, Mr. Richard Cains. [252712]

Joan Ruddock: A letter from the hon. Member for Weston-Super-Mare was received on 9 December 2008 but not one dated 5 November 2008. My officials have been in contact with his office to request the original letter with the details of his constituent's concerns and I will then reply to the hon. Member.

Nuclear Power Stations: Inspections

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of the report by Veredus on the pay and conditions of nuclear inspectors. [255983]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The Veredus report was commissioned by the HSE to inform its consideration of the appropriate remuneration package to retain and recruit the nuclear inspectors it needs. As such it is very pertinent to the ongoing pay negotiations that the HSE is conducting at present as well as the negotiations that will take place in setting ND up as a statutory corporation under HSE auspices. Consequently, it is not considered appropriate to place a copy in the Library at this time.

Nuclear Power: Regulation

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish the full version of Dr Tim Stone's recommendations to his Department on nuclear regulation following his nuclear regulatory review. [255969]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In January 2008, following the publication of the White Paper on Nuclear Power, the Government asked Dr. Tim Stone to conduct a review of nuclear regulation. On 27 January 2009 we published the Summary Recommendations and a Government Response.

The Summary Recommendations set out all of Dr. Stone's recommendations. They were supported by private advice to Ministers, which was not intended for publication.

Warm Front Scheme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the value of the administration fee paid to Eaga in regard to the Warm Front scheme was in each of the last 10 years. [242494]

Joan Ruddock: Eaga has been the main contractor for Warm Front across the country since 2005. Since that point, the administration fees paid have been:

	Administration cost (£)	Percentage total of budget
2005-06	18,048,000	9.6
2006-07	25,551,000	9.1
2007-08	31,464,000	8.9
2008-09 (Forecast)	20,563,000	6.5

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applications for Warm Front grants have been *(a)* made and *(b)* refused in the last 12 months. [253605]

Joan Ruddock: Over the last year Warm Front has received applications from 308,915 households that are entitled to a Warm Front grant. Warm Front does not record the number of ineligible households that approach the scheme seeking assistance.

Warm Front Scheme: Contracts

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how frequently payments to Eaga are made in respect of its management of the Warm Front scheme. [255937]

Joan Ruddock: Eaga is paid management fees on a monthly basis.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan and Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the standard rifle used by *(a)* the Royal Marine Commando, *(b)* each UK special force and *(c)* each other UK service is in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan. [258316]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The standard rifle used by all UK forces, excluding Special Forces, is the SA80 A2. It is the policy of this Department not to comment on matters relating to UK Special Forces.

Aircraft Carriers

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the Future Aircraft Carrier main gate business case submission. [257773]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I am withholding the requested document as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests in relation to the Future Aircraft Carrier project.

Armed Forces: Foreigners

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many foreign nationals are serving in the armed forces, broken down by *(a)* country of origin and *(b)* service. [257446]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Country of origin data are not currently available due to an ongoing data validation of the Ministry of Defence Joint Personnel Administrative system (JPA). The following tables show the number of non-British nationals currently serving in the trained UK Regular armed forces as at 1 December 2008 by recorded nationality category on JPA and service.

	Number
Navy total non-UK	630
Navy Commonwealth[1]	580
Australian	10
Barbadian	[2]
Botswanan	[2]
Cameroonian	[2]
Canadian	20
Citizen of Fiji	100
Citizen of Sri Lanka	[2]
Dominican	10
Gambian	10
Ghanaian	10
Grenadian	[2]
Guyanese	[2]
Indian	10
Jamaican	30
Kenyan	10
Malawian	10
Malaysian	[2]
Maltese	[2]
Mauritian	[2]
New Zealander	10
Nigerian	10
Pakistani	[2]
Sierra Leonean	[2]
South African	60
St. Lucian	10
Trinidad and Tobago citizen	30
Ugandan	[2]
Vincentian	200
Zambian	10
Zimbabwean	20
Navy other foreign	60
Dutch	[2]
Irish	50
Ukrainian	[2]
United States citizen	[2]

[1] Includes Zimbabwean and Fijian citizens, who continue to retain Commonwealth status under the British Nationality Act 1981.
[2] Denotes fewer than five.
Notes
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures are provisional due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System.
3. Figures are for trained UK Regular forces, and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service personnel and mobilised reservists.
Source:
DASA (Quad-Service)

	Number
Army total non-UK	6,770
Army Commonwealth[1]	6,320
Antiguan	[2]
Australian	60
Bahamian	[2]
Bangladeshi	10
Barbadian	10
Belizean	[2]
Botswanan	10

	Number
British Commonwealth	10
Cameroonian	40
Canadian	50
Citizen of Fiji	2,110
Citizen of Seychelles	10
Citizen of Sri Lanka	10
Citizen of St. Christopher (St. Kitts) and Nevis	-
Dominican	20
Gambian	150
Ghanaian	730
Grenadian	50
Guyanese	20
Indian	70
Jamaican	600
Kenyan	120
Malawian	160
Malaysian	-
Maltese	-
Mauritian	40
Namibian	-
New Zealander	60
Nigerian	110
Pakistani	10
Papua New Guinean	-
Sierra Leonean	40
Singaporean	-
South African	760
St. Lucian	190
Swazi	10
Tanzanian	-
Tongan	10
Trinidad and Tobago citizen	70
Ugandan	70
Vincentian	230
Zambian	20
Zimbabwean	440
Army other foreign	450
Afghan	-
Brazilian	-
Filipino	-
Foreign	-
French	-
German	-
Greek	-
Irish	210
Mauritanian	-
Nepalese	220
Swiss	-
United States citizen	-

[1] Includes Zimbabwean and Fijian citizens, who continue to retain Commonwealth status under the British Nationality Act 1981.
[2] Denotes fewer than five.
Notes
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures are provisional due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System.
3. Figures are for trained UK Regular forces, and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service personnel and mobilised reservists.
Source:
DASA (Quad-Service)

	Number
Royal Air Force total non-UK	90
Royal Air Force Commonwealth[1]	60
Australian	-
Canadian	-
Citizen of Fiji	10
Citizen of Sri Lanka	-
Ghanaian	-
Grenadian	-
Indian	-
Jamaican	10
Kenyan	-
Malawian	-
Malaysian	-
Mauritian	-
New Zealander	-
South African	10
St. Lucian	-
Trinidad and Tobago citizen	10
Vincentian	-
Zimbabwean	-
Royal Air Force other foreign	30
Irish	20
United States citizen	-

[1] Includes Zimbabwean and Fijian citizens, who continue to retain Commonwealth status under the British Nationality Act 1981.
[2] Denotes fewer than five.
Notes
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures are provisional due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System.
3. Figures are for trained UK Regular forces, and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service personnel and mobilised reservists.
Source:
DASA (Quad-Service)

Armed Forces: Pay

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current salary bill for all service personnel is, broken down by *(a)* service and *(b)* rank. [258430]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The most recently published total salary bill (including allowances) for service personnel broken down by service can be found in the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency Annual Report and Accounts for Financial Year 2007-08. A copy of this is held in the Library of the House. For ease of reference, details are reproduced as follows:

Service	*Total (£ billion)*
Royal Navy	1.72
Army	4.46
RAF	1.97
Total	8.15

A breakdown of the total salary bill by rank is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Working Hours

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hours on average were worked by *(a)* junior and *(b)* senior service personnel at each rank of each service in each age band in each week of the last 12 months. [258312]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally on administration systems. However Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) carry out a Continuous Survey of Working Patterns which is used to provide estimates of the average weekly hours worked over a financial year.

The estimates provided within the report are broken down by service, rank group and broad location. Information on age is not collected within this survey and hence breakdowns by age are not available.

Due to the size of the sample survey estimates are only considered to be statistically valid over long time periods, as such estimates could not be provided for each week.

The 2006-07 copy of the Continuous Survey of Working Patterns report is available in the Library of the House.

The 2007-08 report will be placed in the Library of the House by the end of April 2009.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured vehicles of each type are *(a)* in service with the Army and *(b)* in working order. [257694]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The term 'working order' has been interpreted as 'fit for purpose' . Several vehicle platforms have been undergoing radio conversion work, repairs and overhauls and have therefore been taken out of service on a rolling basis to enable this work to take place. This has affected the number of fit for purpose vehicles available, which may change on a daily basis.

As at 24 February 2009, the information requested is:

Vehicle type	*Number 'in service'*	*Number 'fit for purpose'*
Challenger 2	345	322
Driver Track Training Vehicle	22	21
Challenger Armoured Repair and Recovery Vehicle	91	73
Trojan	20	20
Titan	18	18
Warrior	789	769
Saxon	147	143
Samson	52	30
Spartan	495	251
Scimitar	331	229
Samaritan	50	33
Sultan	295	119
Snatch Land Rover	645	580
FV430	834	466
Mastiff	107	107
Jackal	145	134
Vector	178	168
Bulldog	650	632
Panther	186	100

Defence: Procurement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the forecast cost of the Falcon programme was from the *(a)* direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* indirect resource DEL and *(c)* capital DEL at 31 March (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [257781]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is shown in the following table. The figures include the cost of the assessment, demonstration and manufacture phases.

	31 March 2007	*£ million 31 March 2008*
Direct Resource DEL	31	31
Indirect Resource DEL	10	10
Capital DEL	282	281
Total	323	322

These figures are for Increment A of Falcon only. Increment C costs will be reported in MPR09.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the forecast cost of the Naval Extremely High Frequency/Super High Frequency Satellite Communication Terminal Programme was from the *(a)* direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* indirect resource DEL and *(c)* capital DEL at 31 March (i) 2004, (ii) 2005, (iii) 2006, (iv) 2007 and (v) 2008. [257784]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information is shown in the following table. The figures include the cost of the assessment, demonstration and manufacture phases.

	31 March 2004	*31 March 2005*	*31 March 2006*	*31 March 2007*	*£ million 31 March 2008*
Direct Resource DEL	67	67	67	92	91
Indirect Resource DEL	12	17	17	13	13
Capital DEL	163	145	147	132	139
Total	272	249	251	237	243

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [256045]

Mr. Kevan Jones: A list of buildings occupied by this Department and its agencies, for which display energy

certificates and advisory reports have been produced, has been placed in the Library of the House.

Copies of the certificates and advisory reports for each building can be accessed from the Non-Domestic Energy Performance Certificate Register through the following link:

https://www.ndepcregister.com/

Departmental Civil Servants

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the information placed in the Library in relation to the Answer of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1175W, on departmental civil servants, what the job descriptions are for the job family classifications (*a*) business management and improvement, (*b*) corporate support, (*c*) engineering and science, (*d*) estates, (*e*) logistics and (*f*) security, health and safety. [258710]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following tables show the lists of job codes contained in each job family:

(*a*) Business management and improvement

Job family	Job code
Business Management and Improvement	Consultancy
	Audit and Assurance
	Business Management
	Performance Management

(*b*) Corporate support

Job family	Job code
Corporate Support	Administrative Support
	Secretarial
	Community Development Work
	Community Service
	Customer Services
	Defence Export Services
	Direct Military Support
	Disposal Services
	Economics
	Epidemiology
	Occupational Psychology
	Secretariat and Private Office
	Statistical Analysis
	Statistics

(*c*) Engineering and science

Job family	Job code
Engineering and Science	Acoustics
	Aeroeng (Aero/Struct) Mech
	Aeroeng (Electronics Avionics)
	Chemical/Bio Science and Tech
	Combat Systems Engineering
	Computer Science and Engineering
	Engineering Civ Appointees
	Land Sys Eng (Elec/Electronics)
	Land Sys Eng (Struct/Mech)
	Land Systems Eng (Weapons)
	Marine Engineering
	Naval Architecture
	Nuclear Propulsion
	Nuclear Weapons
	Operational Analysis
	Ordnance, Munitions and Explosives
	Science and Technology Management
	Science and Technology Policy
	Scrutiny
	Systems Engineering
	Technical (Trades)
	Weapons Engineering

(*d*) Estates

Job family	Job code
Estates	Facilities Management
	Building
	Building Surveying
	Estate Advice
	Estate Planning
	Estate Surveying
	Forestry
	Housing Customer Care
	Quantity Surveying
	Range Management
	Site Estate
	Soft Facilities Management
	Town and Country Planning

(*e*) Logistics

Job family	Job code
Logistics	Integrated Logistics Support
	Logistics Management
	Transport/Movement
	Driving
	Afloat Support Group
	Configuration Management
	Engineering and Technical Support
	Inventory Management
	Inventory Planning
	Logistics (Trades)
	Material Accounting
	Platform Support Group
	Port Operations
	Postal and Courier
	Salvage and Marine Operations
	Storekeeping/Warehouse Ops
	Supply Chain Mgt and Policy

(*f*) Security, health and safety

Job family	Job code
Security, Health and Safety	Safety Management
	Fire Service

(f) Security, health and safety

Job family	Job code
	Security
	Armed Policing (MDP)
	Business Continuity
	Case Assessment
	Criminal Investigation (MDP)
	Customs and Immigration
	General Policing (MDP)
	IT Security
	Marine Policing (MDP)
	MGS Dog Handling
	MGS Unarmed Guarding
	Operational Support Unit (MDP)
	Police Dog Handling (MDP)
	Project Security Officer
	Safety, Health, Environment and Fire
	Security Advice
	Security Management
	Security Policy
	Security Support
	Sovereign Base Area Policing
	Special Escort Group (MDP)

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department were on sick leave for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days in each of the last five years. [256322]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Numbers of MOD civilian sick absence episodes of over 30 calendar days, over 50 calendar days and over 100 calendar days in the calendar years ending 31 December 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, are shown in the following table:

Number of civilian sick absence episodes

	30-49 calendar days	50-99 calendar days	100 or more calendar days
2005	2,700	2,750	1,920
2006	2,410	2,160	1,680
2007	2,200	2,180	1,600
2008	2,020	1,940	1,470

Notes:
1. These figures exclude staff in Trading Funds (as the data are of insufficient quality), and exclude the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, and locally engaged civilians for whom sickness absence data are not centrally recorded. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Any portion of a sick absence episode that falls outside the relevant calendar year is not included in that year.

Information prior to the 12 months ending 31 December 2005 was compiled on a previous methodology and definition for monitoring sickness absence, which is not consistent with figures for later years.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed services personnel will be required to undertake a lengthened tour in Iraq so that their departure coincides with the date of UK armed forces withdrawal. [256428]

Mr. Hutton: Plans are currently being finalised for the withdrawal of personnel from southern Iraq. Every effort is being made to ensure that the number of personnel required to remain in Theatre beyond their expected tour lengths is minimised.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual number of helicopter crews for each helicopter type in the armed forces is, broken down by service. [257689]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The numbers of aircrew individuals for each helicopter type broken down by service are shown in the following table.

	Required strength	Actual strength
Army Air Corps		
Apache AH Mk 1	120	68
Lynx Mk 7/9	120	120
Gazelle Mk1	34	35
AgustaA109	6	6
Bell 212	24	24
School of Army Aviation[1]	46	43
Royal Navy		
Sea King Mk 4/6c	139	139
Lynx Mk 3/8	96	96
Lynx Mk 7/9	30	30
Merlin Mk 1	168	154
Sea King Mk 5	65	56
Sea King Mk 7	48	38
Royal Air Force		
Chinook Mk 2/2a	246	220
Puma Mk 1	139	119
Merlin Mk 3/3a	151	116
SAR Sea King Mk 3/3a	149	136
Defence Helicopter Flying School		
Squirrel	16	16
Griffin	72	63

[1] SAAVN figures cannot be split by aircraft type (AH/Squirrel/Lynx/Gazelle).

Museums and Galleries: VAT

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the retail prices for *(a)* entry and *(b)* guided tours have been reduced at the (i) National Army Museum, (ii) Royal Air Force Museum, (iii) Royal Marines Museum, (iv) Royal Naval Museum and (v) Royal Naval Submarine Museum as a result of the December 2008 reduction in value added tax. [258388]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This is a matter for the individual museums.

Navy: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy ships will take part in the forthcoming NATO maritime operation in the Gulf of Aden. [258875]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Navy is not involved in the forthcoming NATO maritime operation in the Gulf of Aden.

Nuclear Weapons

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether British personnel were involved in the design competition for the Reliable Replacement Warhead. [258416]

Mr. Hutton: No.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether British personnel were briefed on the results of the Reliable Replacement Warhead design competition. [258417]

Mr. Hutton: Officials from the Ministry of Defence and the Atomic Weapons Establishment regularly discuss a range of nuclear matters with their US counterparts under the auspices of the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement. I am withholding information about the detail of these discussions in the interests of national security.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the date was of each meeting of the Joint Working Group since 2001; and what the purpose of each meeting was. [258424]

Mr. Hutton: The following Joint Working Groups (JOWOGS) operate under the auspices of the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement:

Joint working group	*Title*
6	Radiation Simulation and Kinetic Effects
9	Energetic Materials
22	Nuclear Materials
23	Warhead Electrical Components and Technologies
28	Non-Nuclear Materials
29	Nuclear Counter-Terrorism Technology
30	Facilities
31	Nuclear Weapons Engineering
32	Nuclear Warhead Physics
34	Computational Technology
36	Aircraft, Missile and Space System Hardening
37	Laboratory Plasma Physics
39	Manufacturing Practices
41	Nuclear Warhead Accident Response
42	Nuclear Weapon Code Development
43	Nuclear Weapon Environment and Damage Effects
44	Methodologies for Nuclear Weapon Safety Assurance

Since January 2001 the following number of JOWOG and JOWOG related meetings have taken place:

	Meetings in the US	*Meetings in the UK*	*Total number of meetings*
2001	118	62	180
2002	133	66	199
2003	133	58	191
2004	118	87	205
2005	168	75	243
2006	159	80	239
2007	207	91	298
2008	187	93	280
2009 (to date)	23	10	33

I am withholding further detail of the content of JOWOG discussions in the interests of national security.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what visits have been made by *(a)* US personnel to Aldermaston and *(b)* Aldermaston personnel to (i) Los Alamos, (ii) Sandia and (iii) Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories in each year since 2003; and what the purpose of each of those visits was. [258427]

Mr. Hutton: The total number of visits by Atomic Weapons Establishment personnel to each of the US national laboratories and vice versa in support of all aspects of work covered by the Mutual Defence Agreement (including the Polaris Sales Agreement as amended for Trident), is as follows:

	To Los Alamos	*From Los Alamos*
2003	228	242
2004	130	215
2005	183	152
2006	194	170
2007	312	182
2008	217	255
2009 (to date)	35	37

	To Sandia	*From Sandia*
2003	155	104
2004	162	103
2005	271	70
2006	213	104
2007	288	151
2008	291	185
2009 (to date)	93	13

	To Lawrence Livermore	*From Lawrence Livermore*
2003	104	87
2004	123	93
2005	205	105
2006	156	97
2007	217	143
2008	149	140
2009 (to date)	28	13

These figures include personnel making more than one visit, and visits to several sites during a single trip.

I am withholding further detail of the purpose of these visits in the interests of national security.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether scientists from the United States have made use of hydrodynamic facilities at the Atomic Weapons Establishment for experiments on US warhead designs. [258434]

Mr. Hutton: Under the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement, joint UK/US hydrodynamic experiments have been carried out to ensure the continued safety, security, and performance of our current nuclear stockpiles.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Detainees: Mentally Ill

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people detained in a place of safety under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 were held in police cells in each of the last five years; [258341]

(2) how many people were detained in a place of safety under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 in each of the last five years. [258342]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

Comprehensive national information on the number of people detained in a place of safety under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 is not available.

Statistics are published by the Information Centre for health and social care on detentions under section 136 in hospitals in England and by the Welsh Assembly Government on detentions under that section in mental health facilities in Wales. Information on the number of such detentions is shown in the following table.

Number of detentions under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 in hospitals in England and in mental health facilities in Wales, 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Number of detentions	
	England	*Wales*
2003-04	4,106	239
2004-05	4,765	217
2005-06	5,495	263
2006-07	6,004	316
2007-08	7,035	355

Sources:
1. In-patients formally detained in hospitals under the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation, England: 1997-98 to 2007-08, Information Centre for Health and Social Care, October 2008.
2 Admission of patients to mental health facilities in Wales (Including patients detained under the Mental Health Act 1983), Statistical Release 167/2008, Welsh Assembly Government, October 2008.

Equivalent information about detentions in police custody is not available. Research by the Independent Police Complaints Commission estimated that a total of 11,517 people were detained in police stations in England and Wales under section 136 in 2005-06.

Detainees: Prostitution

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals who had worked as a prostitute in the UK were subsequently detained in prison in each year since 2000. [258270]

Mr. Malik: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not held centrally. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Justice (Mr. Hanson) to my hon. Friend the hon. Member for Bolton, South-East (Dr. Iddon) on 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 116W.

The legal background to the offence of being a common prostitute, loitering, or soliciting for the purposes of prostitution is contained in Section 1 of the Street Offences Act, 1959.

Under the Act the maximum penalty for this offence is a fine, not imprisonment. Figures obtained from the prison service IT system confirm that there are currently no women serving prison sentences for the offence. Non-payment of any fine accruing from the offence would be recorded as defaulting on the payment of the fine.

It is not known how many males or females who previously worked as prostitutes have subsequently been detained in prison.

This is the position regarding England and Wales; for information regarding the legal position and a response to the question as it applies to Scotland and Northern Ireland it would be necessary to approach the Scottish Government and the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

Human Trafficking: Victims

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much her Department is spending on the Poppy project in 2008-09; [258445]

(2) what capacity the Poppy project has to provide intensive support for the initial four-week support period; [258446]

(3) what mechanisms are in place to monitor the work of the Poppy project, including *(a)* how public funds are spent, *(b)* the capacity of the project in relation to demand, *(c)* the quality of counselling provided and *(d)* checks on volunteers; [258447]

(4) how many *(a)* full-time staff, *(b)* fully-qualified counsellors and *(c)* fully-qualified translators are employed by the Poppy project; [258448]

(5) what conditions apply to people receiving services provided by the Poppy project on *(a)* the initial four-week support, *(b)* support for resettlement, *(c)* compensation through (i) the courts and (ii) the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme and *(d)* eligibility for the new renewable one-year residence permits; [258449]

(6) how many identified victims of trafficking received from the Poppy project *(a)* the initial four week support, *(b)* support for resettlement, *(c)* compensation through (i) the courts and (ii) the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, *(d)* eligibility for the new renewable one-year residence permits and *(e)* other services in each of the last five years; [258450]

(7) how many identified victims of trafficking were denied services from the Poppy project in each of the last five years due to (a) the project's limited capacity and (b) the refusal by the victim to co-operate with prosecutions; and what other options for support are available for victims in such cases. [258451]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have invested £5.8 million into Eaves Housing for Women to run the Poppy project since 2003. The grant for this financial year is £1.3 million. This provides for a range of services including 35 supported accommodation places and eight full-time staff. While the project facilitates access to counselling and interpretative services and can pay for this where necessary, it does not directly employ these professionals.

Eaves Housing for Women is required to submit regular monitoring and financial information, which is reviewed on a quarterly basis. The organisation does

not submit any specific information on the use of volunteers. However the organisation is required to take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of clients, which includes undertaking Criminal Records Bureau checks for staff and volunteers.

Under the terms of the grant clients can be supported for an initial four weeks, with longer-term services provided in return for cooperation with the authorities. To qualify for support women must be over 18-years-old, trafficked into the United Kingdom and sexually exploited through prostitution in the United Kingdom.

Between March 2003 and December 2008, 423 women received support from the Poppy project; 215 benefited from supported accommodation and 208 received outreach support. The Poppy project has developed partnerships with other organisations to help provide alternative services for individuals that do not meet the eligibility criteria or when the project is at capacity. Information on the number of individuals that have been unable to access the Poppy project is not held centrally.

It is open to the courts to award compensation orders in favour of a victim of crime and victims of violence can also apply to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. While the Poppy project can inform victims of avenues to access compensation, it is not within their authority to determine eligibility for, or administer compensation.

This year we will be expanding support services for victims of human trafficking and extending the reflection and recovery period to a minimum of 45 days. The Government will also introduce new renewable temporary residence permits for identified victims of human trafficking that participate in a criminal investigation.

Identity Cards: Freedom of Information

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Identity Cards Gateway Review will be published under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [258828]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

On 19 February 2009 the Information Tribunal ordered Office of Government Commerce to disclose two Gate 0 reports, dated June 2003 and January 2004, on the Identity Cards Programme. OGC, in consultation with Ministers, officials at the Home Office and MoJ, are currently considering the detail of the decision. OGC has until 19 March 2009 to disclose the reports or to appeal further.

JUSTICE

Crimes of Violence: Winchester

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases of *(a)* rape, *(b)* grievous bodily harm, *(c)* actual bodily harm and *(d)* burglary were recorded in Winchester in each of the last five years; and how many (i) prosecutions and (ii) convictions there were in relation to such offences in each category in each of those years. [258227]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of recorded offences of rape and burglary in the Winchester Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area has been provided by the Home Office and is shown in the following table 1. However, there are no statistics currently available relating specifically to offences of grievous bodily harm or actual bodily harm. Such offences would be included in the Home Office classifications of 'more serious wounding' or 'less serious wounding' as appropriate and cannot be separately identified from other offences within those classifications.

From data held by the Ministry of Justice, the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to rape, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, and burglary in Hampshire police force area can be viewed in Table 2 as follows.

Court proceedings data are not available at constituency level. Therefore Hampshire police force area data have been provided in lieu.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Recorded crime and court proceedings statistics are from two different databases and recorded in quite different ways. Recorded crime data are provided on a financial year basis and counts offences whereas court proceedings data are on a calendar year basis and count offenders. Therefore, these two separate data-sets are not directly comparable.

Table 1: Offences of rape and burglary recorded by the police in the Winchester Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area, 2003-04 to 2007-08

Number of offences

	Rape	*Burglary*
2003-04	21	966
2004-05	23	706
2005-06	16	706
2006-07	23	722
2007-08		724

Source:
Home Office Statistics (Policing)

Table 2: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts for rape, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, and burglary offences in Hampshire police force area, 2003 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

	Proceeded against					*Found guilty*				
Offence	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Rape	91	84	98	62	90	10	14	27	30	25
Grievous bodily harm	191	161	167	130	154	46	54	54	42	40
Actual bodily harm	162	148	164	156	131	127	136	133	134	122

Table 2: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts for rape, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, and burglary offences in Hampshire police force area, 2003 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

	Proceeded against					Found guilty				
Offence	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Burglary	1,111[5]	999	844	813	774	658	644	601	627	567

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Offences against the Person Act 1861 Sec 18.
Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm.
Offences against the Person Art 1861 Sec 20.
Malicious wounding: wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm.
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1
Rape of a female aged under 16.
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1
Rape of a female aged 16 or over.
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1
Rape of a male aged under 16.
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1
Rape of a male aged 16 or over.
Burglary in a Dwelling :
Theft Act 1968 Sec 9(1)(a).
Burglary in a dwelling with intent to commit or the commission of an offence triable only on indictment.
Theft Act 1968 Sec9(1)(b).
Burglary in a dwelling with the commission of an offence triable only on indictment or with violence or the threat of violence.
Theft Act 1968 Sec 9.
Other burglary in a dwelling.
Aggravated Burglary in a Dwelling:
Theft Act 1968 Sec 10.
Aggravated burglary in a dwelling (including attempts).
Burglary in a Building Other than a Dwelling
Theft Act 1968 Sec 9.
Burglary in a building other than a dwelling with intent to commit or the commission of an offence triable only on indictment.
Theft Act 1968 Sec 9.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Debt Collection

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of each guidance document produced by *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* HM Courts Service on the use of bailiffs' powers of forced entry under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. [258066]

Bridget Prentice: Only one set of guidance has been published by my Department, and its predecessor, on the use of bailiffs' powers of forced entry under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004.

A copy of HMCS's Search and Entry Powers (Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004) Guidance to Civilian Enforcement Officers and Approved Enforcement Agents was placed in the Libraries of the House in January. The guidance contains a number of redactions for reasons of public interest and on health and safety grounds.

Departmental NDPBs: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by the *(a)* Land Registry, *(b)* National Probation Directorate and *(c)* HM Courts Service is in 2008-09. [258535]

Mr. Wills: The estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database in 2008-09 owned by the *(a)* Land Registry is £14,900 and *(b)* National Probation Directorate is £53,650. NPD also maintain their own database which is updated more regularly and which shows a figure of £170,000 for the same period. *(c)* HM Courts Service is £349,570.

Departmental Travel

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure his Department has incurred in providing transport for Ministers between Parliament and departmental premises in each year since his Department was established. [251872]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 6W. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code'.

Discrimination: Legal Aid

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much legal aid has been granted to claimants in cases relating to alleged discrimination of each type in *(a)* goods and services and *(b)* employment in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [258355]

Mr. Malik: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not hold data on claims in relation to alleged discrimination in the supply of goods and services as this is not a recognised category of legal aid work. Any relevant funding may have been granted under other categories of work such as "public law" or "consumer".

In the "employment" category, where legal help is available and civil representation in certain cases, the LSC does not record which of those cases involve discrimination issues.

Personal Records: Data Protection

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on provisions in the Coroners and Justice Bill to facilitate data sharing between public authorities and private sector firms. [258384]

Mr. Straw: I have regular meetings with ministerial colleagues on a wide range of issues, including on the Coroners and Justice Bill, which have covered data sharing between public authorities and private sector firms.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Chichester of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 519W, on political parties: finance, which public authority will decide whether an hon. Member's expenditure was triggered as a result of breaching the rules on the communications allowance. [258580]

Mr. Straw: Potential breaches of the rules on the use of parliamentary allowances, including the communications allowance, are investigated by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, which reports to the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee.

However, it is not for the Commissioner to rule on whether that expenditure should then be regarded as a candidate election expense under the Representation of the People Act 1983 ("the 1983 Act"). Rather, as with any other potential item of election expenditure, responsibility lies with the candidate and agent to consider whether expenditure meets the definition of election expenditure used by the 1983 Act and, if so, to ensure that the expenditure in question is recorded on the candidate spending return as required under section 81 of the 1983 Act. This states that such a return must include a statement of all election expenses incurred by or on behalf of a candidate. Section 82 of the 1983 Act requires that this return be accompanied by declarations by the candidate and election agent which verify the return. It is a corrupt practice knowingly to make a false declaration under section 82. It is an illegal practice to fail to comply with the requirements of section 81 or section 82.

Breaches of the 1983 Act are pursued through the courts.

Illegal practices in the 1983 Act are triable summarily. Corrupt practices in the 1983 Act are triable summarily or on indictment. It would therefore ultimately be a matter for the relevant court to decide whether a particular item of expenditure was knowingly excluded from a candidate's expenditure return where it should clearly have been recorded. In reaching its decision, the court could well take into account any judgment from the Commissioner of Standards in relation to expenditure which breached the rules on the use of parliamentary allowances, should the court consider this relevant.

Prisons: Fires

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fires there have been in each prison in each of the last five years. [258285]

Mr. Malik: All fires recorded range from a simple piece of paper lit and thrown out of a cell window to fires resulting in damage to cells, which are less frequent. During the last year we have invested £20 million in fire safety systems in the refurbishment of the prison estate. It should be noted that deaths from fires in prisons are rare and there have been two in the last five years.

The following table shows data of fires in prison establishments by establishment over the last recorded five years.

Fires within prison establishments for the last five years

Establishment	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total for establishment*
HMP Altcourse	5	5	11	6	11	38
HMP Askham Grange	1	—	1	1	—	3
HMP Acklington	5	4	6	2	—	17
HMP Albany	1	—	—	1	2	4
HMYOI Ashfield	22	18	7	2	5	54
HMP Ashwell	9	12	6	6	2	35
HMYOI Aylesbury	8	3	4	11	13	39
HMP Belmarsh	8	7	9	7	1	32
HMP Buckley Hall	21	8	6	15	7	57
HMP Blundeston	6	7	2	3	2	20
HMP Bedford	4	7	15	6	5	37
HMP Blantyre House	—	—	—	—	—	0
HMP Brockhill	15	2	4	—	1	22
HMP Bristol	11	7	9	7	3	37
HMP Birmingham	10	12	11	13	12	58
HMP Bullingdon	11	7	3	2	12	35
HMRC Brinsford	4	5	21	10	21	61
HMP Blakenhurst	23	16	11	11	7	68
HMP Bullwood Hall	8	4	5	3	2	22
HMP Brixton	19	21	17	12	4	73
HMP Brockhill	15	2	4	3	1	25

Fires within prison establishments for the last five years

Establishment	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total for establishment*
HMP Bronzefield	—	6	14	29	24	73
HMP Chelmsford	10	17	16	10	15	68
HMP Cardiff	2	7	7	3	4	23
HMP Camp Hill	5	28	21	3	—	57
HMP Cookham Wood	11	—	1	1	1	14
HMP Coldingley	—	—	1	1	1	3
HMYOI Castington	9	12	10	12	4	47
HMP Channings Wood	5	1	5	11	13	35
HMP Canterbury	2	1	1	1	—	5
HMP Dartmoor	3	1	6	2	3	15
HMP Dovegate	20	17	13	6	14	70
HMP Drake Hall	—	—	—	1	1	2
HMP Durham	22	24	17	15	13	91
HMP Doncaster	13	9	6	3	9	40
HMP Dorchester	1	2	4	2	4	13
HMP Deerbolt	5	7	10	7	9	38
HMYOI Dover	2	0	0	3	4	9
HMP Downview	5	7	5	2	3	22
HMP Erlestoke	—	2	1	—	3	6
HMP Edmunds Hill	8	2	4	6	2	22
HMP East Sutton Park	—	1	—	—	—	1
HMRC Everthorpe	—	1	4	5	4	14
HMYOI Eastwood Park	8	17	27	13	18	83
HMP Exeter	7	—	6	6	6	25
HMP Elmley	10	18	15	16	10	69
HMP Forest Bank	20	23	26	26	10	105
HMP Ford	7	5	3	1	1	17
HMP Foston Hall	5	7	4	4	4	24
HMP Frankland	3	8	2	9	15	37
HMRC Feltham	23	60	45	44	42	214
HMP Full Sutton	7	23	23	16	8	77
HMP Featherstone	2	2	1	4	2	11
HMP Garth	7	3	2	5	11	28
HMP Gloucester	5	8	5	5	9	32
HMYOI Guys Marsh	1	2	1	2	1	7
HMP Grendon/Spring Hill	1	—	—	—	1	2
HMRC Glen Parva	8	4	8	2	18	40
HMP Gartree	—	—	—	7	8	15
HMYOI Huntercombe	8	8	3	6	4	29
HMP Hewell Grange	—	1	—	—	—	1
HMP Holme House	4	2	3	10	9	28
HMP Hollesley Bay	1	—	2	2	1	6
HMRC Hindley	23	5	32	38	23	121
HMP Hull	8	18	9	7	13	55
HMP High Down	19	18	38	32	14	121
HMP Highpoint	10	7	19	9	8	53
HMP Haslar	3	—	—	4	—	7
HMP Haverigg	—	—	11	15	24	50
HMP Holloway	11	9	21	10	28	79
HMP Kirkham	2	—	2	—	—	4
HMP Kingston/Portsmouth	—	—	1	—	1	2
HMP Kennet	—	—	—	—	2	2
HMYOI Kirklevington	—	1	—	2	1	4
HMP Lancaster	2	1	—	—	—	3
HMP Leicester	8	5	5	10	4	32
HMP Leeds	8	10	9	8	5	40
HMP Lancaster Farms	3	6	8	25	3	45
HMP Lowdham Grange	2	2	5	8	3	20
HMP Lindholme	17	10	11	4	10	52
HMP Lincoln	22	14	7	19	27	89
HMP Long Lartin	1	2	8	3	6	20
HMRC Latchmere House	—	1	—	—	1	2
HMRC Low Newton	14	16	10	9	9	58
HMP Liverpool	11	19	10	21	16	77

Fires within prison establishments for the last five years

Establishment	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total for establishment*
HMP Littlehey	4	6	2	1	2	15
HMP Lewes	14	18	7	9	11	59
HMP Leyhill	3	3	4	8	4	22
HMP Moorland Closed	8	2	6	6	7	29
HMP Moorland Open	1	—	—	1	—	2
HMP Morton Hall	—	7	3	1	2	13
HMP Manchester	20	14	12	16	15	77
HMP Maidstone	7	3	4	4	13	31
HMP The Mount	2	2	2	3	2	11
HMYOI Northallerton	2	—	1	4	1	8
HMP New Hall	20	17	2	4	3	46
HMP North Sea Camp	6	—	—	4	4	14
HMRC Norwich	19	16	10	11	—	56
HMP Nottingham	13	4	4	10	10	41
HMYOI Onley	7	8	11	6	8	40
HMP Peterborough	—	—	34	24	26	84
HMYOI Portland	5	17	11	4	15	52
HMP Parkhurst	9	7	25	8	3	52
HMP Preston	9	7	5	4	10	35
HMP Parc	—	13	11	10	18	52
HMP Pentonville	46	13	30	23	20	132
HMRC Rochester	3	5	2	3	3	16
HMP Reading	1	1	4	9	13	28
HMP Rye Hill	8	16	27	34	11	96
HMP Ranby	5	5	1	11	8	30
HMP Risley	16	8	16	4	6	50
HMP Send	3	1	1	—	1	6
HMP Standford Hill	4	2	5	—	2	13
HMP Stafford	4	7	3	6	4	24
HMRC Stoke Heath	4	10	19	27	24	84
HMP Stocken	—	3	4	6	3	16
HMP Swaleside	27	13	19	17	22	98
HMP Shepton Mallet	3	—	—	—	1	4
HMYOI Swinfen Hall	1	5	1	2	1	10
HMP Styal	14	18	16	27	25	100
HMP Sudbury	1	1	1	—	—	3
HMRC Swansea	1	6	2	1	4	14
HMP Shrewsbury	3	1	4	—	2	10
HMYOI Thorn Cross	—	2	—	4	2	8
HMP Usk	—	1	1	—	—	2
HMP The Verne	10	1	1	3	2	17
HMP The Weare	—	1	2	—	—	3
HMYOI Welfingborough	9	11	10	4	8	42
HMP Winchester	16	17	5	9	7	54
HMP Wakefield	4	5	4	19	8	40
HMP Wealstun	6	3	—	3	4	16
HMP Woodhill	6	2	6	5	11	30
HMP Warren Hill	2	—	1	8	2	13
HMP Wayland	12	16	5	10	7	50
HMP Wymott	4	6	4	1	12	27
HMYOI Werrington	1	—	—	9	4	14
HMRC Wolds	7	1	1	4	3	16
HMP Whitemoor	13	12	11	19	15	70
HMP Wormwood Scrubs	16	22	16	11	26	91
HMP Whatton	—	—	—	—	6	6
HMP Wandsworth	37	33	22	16	12	120
HMYOI Wetherby	14	24	8	4	4	54
Total in each year	1,070	1,043	1,086	1,083	1,055	5,337
Total over the last five years						5,337

[1] Closed

Note

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Tribunals: Disabled

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to ensure that employment tribunal hearing centres have *(a)* hearing aid loops and *(b)* wheelchair access; and if he will make a statement. [258353]

Bridget Prentice: The Employment Tribunal, as part of the Tribunals Service, carries out Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) audits on all its sites. Those identified as needing improvements to the facilities have these carried out on a priority basis.

All permanent Employment Tribunal sites have hearing loops and where temporary venues are used, individual customers' needs are assessed and catered for, including the use of mobile hearing loops. Where the DDA audit establishes that work is necessary to provide access for wheelchair users in compliance with DDA legislation, reasonable adjustments are made, as far as is possible.

HEALTH

Abortion

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assistance his Department provides to women from Northern Ireland who come to England to have an abortion; and if he will make a statement. [258508]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not provide any form of assistance to women who travel from Northern Ireland to England seeking an abortion under the Abortion Act 1967, as amended.

Blood Transfusions: CJD

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what testing will be offered to patients with bleeding disorders exposed to the risk of infection of vCJD from transfusions; and if he will make a statement. [258720]

Dawn Primarolo: At present there are no suitable blood screening tests available, although there are tests under development which are currently being assessed. Advice on the suitability of candidate tests will be given by the UK Blood Service's Prion Assay Working Group and by the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood Tissues and Organs. If a suitable test is identified the offer of such a test to individuals will be for agreement between the individual and their clinician.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients with bleeding disorders have been contacted to inform them of the level of risk of infection of vCJD they may have been exposed to from NHS transfusions; and if he will make a statement; [258721]

(2) what communication strategy his Department has undertaken in order to inform patients with bleeding disorders of the risk of infection of vCJD from NHS transfusions; what the cost of that strategy is; and if he will make a statement. [258722]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2004, haemophiliacs were notified that they were considered as 'at risk of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) for public health purposes'. The Health Protection Agency (HPA) wrote to all haemophiliac care centres asking them to notify haemophilia patients and give them the opportunity to discuss the implications.

On the advice of the UK Haemophilia Centre Doctors' Organisation (UKHCDO) and the CJD Incidents Panel, it was agreed that all patients with bleeding disorders who had received plasma product clotting factors between 1980 and 2001 should be managed as 'at risk' whether or not they were known to have received specific product batches manufactured from donors who subsequently developed clinical vCJD. Haemophilia centre doctors were asked to give patients the choice of finding out whether or not they had been treated with products known to have been manufactured using plasma from donors who developed vCJD. In 2006 when further implicated batches were identified, doctors were asked to notify those patients who had received these batches.

In February 2009, the HPA coordinated a patient notification exercise about a finding at post mortem of abnormal vCJD prion protein detected in the spleen of a patient with haemophilia. The HPA and the UKHCDO wrote to centres asking that a letter be sent to all patients informing them of this finding and emphasising that it did not change the status of patients already informed that they were 'at risk'. The doctors were asked to give patients the opportunity to discuss the finding if they wished.

The patient notification exercises were supported by a wider communication strategy in which documentation was sent to others, including medical directors of NHS trusts, general practitioners and clinician and patient organisations, including the Haemophilia Society, and information placed on the HPA website.

There are thought to be approximately 4,000 patients who received plasma products between 1980 and 2001, and these patients were contacted by their clinicians. However, the precise numbers of patients contacted in each exercises is not collected centrally.

Expenditure on these notification exercises has not been separately costed.

Breast Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of women in Wiltshire with suspected breast cancer saw a specialist within two weeks of referral in each of the last five years. [258282]

Ann Keen: The number and percentage of women in Wiltshire with suspected breast cancer seen by a specialist within two weeks of referral for each financial year for the three national health service trusts that cover Wiltshire are given in the following tables.

Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust

	Number of women	*As percentage seen within 14 days*
2003-04	803	100
2004-05	842	100
2005-06	947	100
2006-07	816	100
2007-08	820	99.9

Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust (Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust since December 2008)

	Number of women	*As percentage seen within 14 days*
2003-04	873	99.7
2004-05	910	98.7

Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust (Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust since December 2008)

	Number of women	As percentage seen within 14 days
2005-06	861	81.7
2006-07	936	100
2007-08	911	100

Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust

	Number of women	As percentage seen within 14 days
2003-04	194	100
2004-05	648	99.1
2005-06	605	100
2006-07	648	100
2007-08	609	100

Notes:
The data in the table above are aggregate figures from the quarterly cancer waiting data.
Source:
Quarterly cancer waiting data can be found on the Cancer Waiting Times Database

Charities: Finance

Frank Cook: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which of the organisations which submitted an application for funding under the Third Sector Investment Programme for 2009-10 are awaiting a decision on that application; and which organisations submitted applications which were not progressed to the second stage of the programme. [258859]

Phil Hope: Out of 988 applications received under the Third Sector Investment Programme, 715 were declined at Stage 1 of the application process and 247 are awaiting a decision at Stage 2. A list of the organisations in each category has been placed in the Library.

Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in each age cohort (*a*) were diagnosed with and (*b*) had their death attributed to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in each of the last 10 years; and what the equivalent figures are for 2009 to date. [259728]

Dawn Primarolo: The following tables show separately the deaths from sporadic Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD), familial or genetic CJD/Gerstmann-Straussler-Scheinker syndrome, iatrogenic CJD and variant CJD from 1999-2009 by 10-year age cohorts. A further table shows age at diagnosis for variant CJD in 10 year age cohorts or, for those cases who were diagnosed only after death (i.e. post mortem), age at death. For other forms of CJD, data on year of diagnosis are almost identical to year of death as mean survival are only four months.

Deaths from sporadic CJD in the UK: 1999-2008 and 2009 to date

	Age at death (yrs)									
	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90+	Total
1999	—	1	—	6	16	19	16	4	—	62
2000	—	—	—	3	2	25	17	3	—	50
2001	—	—	—	—	9	19	22	8	—	58
2002	—	—	—	3	11	33	22	3	—	72
2003	—	—	—	1	10	32	29	6	1	79
2004	—	—	—	3	11	17	12	7	—	50
2005	—	—	—	—	10	22	26	8	—	66
2006	—	—	—	2	7	24	25	10	—	68
2007	—	—	—	1	7	22	28	4	—	62
2008	—	—	1	—	9	26	34	8	—	78
2009 to date	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2

Deaths from familial or genetic CJD/GSS in the UK: 1999-2008 and 2009 to date

	Age at death (yrs)									
	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90+	Total
1999	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
2000	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	3
2001	—	—	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	6
2002	—	—	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	5
2003	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	6
2004	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	—	—	6
2005	—	—	1	7	2	3	—	—	—	13
2006	—	—	1	2	5	1	—	—	—	9
2007	—	—	—	—	3	4	1	—	—	8
2008	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	—	5
2009 to date	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1

Deaths from iatrogenic CJD in the UK: 1999-2008 and 2009 to date

	Age at death (yrs)									
	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90+	Total
1999	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
2000	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

Deaths from iatrogenic CJD in the UK, 1999-2008 and 2009 to date

	Age at death (yrs)									
	10-19	*20-29*	*30-39*	*40-49*	*50-59*	*60-69*	*70-79*	*80-89*	*90+*	*Total*
2001		1	2	1						4
2002										
2003		1	3	1						5
2004			1	1						2
2005		1	2				1			4
2006				1						1
2007		1		1						2
2008			1	4						5
2009 to date				1						1

Deaths from vCJD in the UK, 1999-2008 and 2009 to date

	Age at death (yrs)									
	10-19	*20-29*	*30-39*	*40-49*	*50-59*	*60-69*	*70-79*	*80-89*	*90+*	*Total*
1999	2	6	3	1	2		1			15
2000	6	14	7		1					28
2001	1	10	8	1						20
2002	2	7	5	2	1					17
2003	3	6	6		1	2				18
2004	1	4	3	1						9
2005	1		3		1					5
2006		1	4							5
2007	1	3					1			5
2008		1								1
2009 to date										

Diagnosis of vCJD in the UK, 1999-2008 and 2009 to date

	Age at diagnosis (yrs)									
	10-19	*20-29*	*30-39*	*40-49*	*50-59*	*60-69*	*70-79*	*80-89*	*90+*	*Total*
1999	3	6	4	2	2					17
2000	5	13	6	1	1		1			27
2001	3	12	8	2						25
2002	6	5	3	1	1					16
2003	3	4	6		1	2				16
2004	1	2	4	1						8
2005		2	3		1					6
2006	1	1	3				1			6
2007		1								1
2008		1								1
2009 to date				1						1

Doctors: Qualifications

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place for periodic assessment of the *(a)* qualifications and *(b)* competence of doctors; and what checks are carried out to assess whether medical qualifications obtained overseas by persons seeking to practise medicine in the UK are comparable with those obtained in the UK. [258491]

Ann Keen: In the White Paper 'Trust Assurance and Safety—The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century' the Government endorsed the Chief Medical Officer's recommendation that there should be a system of revalidation to ensure that registered doctors remain up to date and fit to practise. Work to implement revalidation is being undertaken by the General Medical Council (GMC), the Department, devolved administrations, medical royal colleges and others under the leadership of the UK Revalidation Programme Board established by the GMC.

The GMC carry out checks on overseas medical qualifications to ensure they are of an acceptable standard.

The law states that an 'acceptable overseas qualification' means any qualification granted outside the United Kingdom, where that qualification is for the time being accepted by the GMC as qualifying a person to practise as a medical practitioner in the United Kingdom.

Epilepsy

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will appoint a National Clinical Director for Epilepsy; [258976]

(2) if his Department will take steps to encourage primary care trusts to appoint epilepsy specialist nurses; [258977]

(3) what assessment he has made of the implementation by healthcare providers of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy; [258978]

Ann Keen: From April 2009, the Care Quality Commission will take over from the Healthcare Commission and will consider, in discussion with stakeholders including the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), how to take account of NICE guidance as it develops its compliance criteria.

Local trusts are responsible for the skill mix of their workforce including the provision of specialist nurses for patients with epilepsy. They are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community and must have the freedom to deploy staff in ways appropriate for local conditions.

There are no plans to appoint a national clinical director for epilepsy.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures his Department has put in place to ensure continuity in care for people with epilepsy in their transition from childhood to adulthood. [258979]

Ann Keen: It is the responsibility of strategic health authorities to ensure appropriate services are in place to meet the transition needs of people with childhood-onset conditions, such as epilepsy, moving from children's to adult services. The "National Service Framework for Long-term (neurological) Conditions" includes guidance for commissioners and service providers on providing these person-centred services. A copy of the framework has already been placed in the Library.

Fabry Disease

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been diagnosed with *(a)* Fabry disease and *(b)* general lysosomal storage disorders in the last 12 months; and what (i) therapy and (ii) treatment is available for such conditions in the NHS. [258418]

Ann Keen: In the calendar year 2008, there were 76 people diagnosed with Fabry disease and 186 people were diagnosed with general lysosomal storage disorders (LSDs).

The National Commissioning Group has nationally designated and commissioned a service for LSDs since April 2005. There are seven designated centres. The service provided by these centres includes diagnosis, patient assessment and treatment including enzyme replacement therapies and substrate reduction therapies.

Hearing Aids

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS hearing aids have been fitted by private sector contractors in each of the last three calendar years; and what guidance his Department provides to primary care trusts on competition, for adult hearing aid service contracts. [259565]

Phil Hope: Information on the number of national health service hearing aids fitted by independent sector contractors across the English NHS is not collected centrally.

The Department has not issued any specific guidance to primary care trusts (PCTs) on competition specifically for adult hearing aid service contracts. However, the Department published a 'PCT Procurement Guide for Health Services' in May 2008. The guide supports NHS commissioners in deciding whether and how to procure health services through formal tendering and market-testing exercises. A copy of the guide has been placed in the Library.

Heart Diseases: Health Services

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the merits of an integrated strategy for the prevention, treatment and care of *(a)* heart disease, *(b)* stroke, *(c)* diabetes and *(d)* kidney disease; and if he will make a statement. [258443]

Ann Keen: There already exist well-established national service frameworks for diabetes, kidney disease and coronary heart disease and a national stroke strategy was launched in December 2007. All four of these strategies include a focus on prevention. A vascular risk assessment and management programme is under development at present. This will target the group of modifiable risk factors shared by these four conditions. The analytical modelling and evidence base underpinning this programme indicate that there are significant health gains to be made in this area. No recent assessment has been made of the potential benefits of integrating treatment and care in respect of diagnosed cases of these conditions. However there is considerable opportunity for sharing examples in generic areas, such as support for people living with a chronic condition, across these four disease groups.

Hemel Hempstead Hospital

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps were taken by his Department to consult staff about the recent scaling down of resources at Hemel Hempstead hospital. [259169]

Phil Hope: This is a matter for the local national health service to take forward, it is their responsibility to ensure that any major service changes are consulted on not only with staff but also key stakeholders and the communities that they serve.

Hospitals

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* hospital beds and *(b)* hospitals required in England in (i) 2010, (ii) 2015, (iii) 2020 and (iv) 2025; what account this estimate takes of population forecasts; what estimate he has made of the additional costs of such provision; and if he will make a statement. [255728]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 10 February 2009]:* The organisation of national health services is a matter for the local NHS. Decisions are taken locally, for the benefit of patients, working with doctors and other health care professionals and involving key stakeholders such as carers, the public and other partners.

In Vitro Fertilisation: EU Countries

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued on the transportation of sperm from an NHS clinic to an unlicensed EU clinic; and if he will make a statement. [258829]

Dawn Primarolo: Subsection 24(3A) of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 prohibits the export of sperm from any clinic within the United Kingdom to an establishment within the European Union, unless that establishment has been accredited, designated, authorised or licensed by the competent authority in that country in compliance with Article 6 of Directive 2004/23/EC setting standards of quality and safety for the donation, procurement, testing, processing, preservation, storage and distribution of human tissue and cells intended for human application.

The Department has not issued guidance on export. However, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), which is the United Kingdom competent authority for reproductive cells, first issued guidance to licensed establishments on the import and export of reproductive cells within the European economic area in July 2007. That guidance was revised in March 2008. Copies of the guidance have been placed in the Library.

Infectious Diseases: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* syphilis, *(b)* HIV infection and *(c)* gonorrhoea have been diagnosed in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire in each of the last 10 years. [258321]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on diagnoses of syphilis, HIV and gonorrhoea in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics are only collected by strategic health authority (SHA). Data for syphilis, HIV and gonorrhoea for England and the East of England SHA since 1998 to 2007, the latest year for which figures are available, are given in the following table.

Infection	*Area of diagnoses*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
HIV	England	2,659	2,952	3,651	4,835	5,985	6,926	7,065	7,161	6,822	7,109
	East of England	90	103	184	320	498	551	599	543	549	529
Syphilis	England	131	211	322	717	1,106	1,536	2,034	2,491	2,422	2,437
	East of England	7	25	31	19	36	78	88	82	61	67
Gonorrhoea	England	12,535	15,549	20,486	22,398	24,397	23,492	20,779	17,702	17,309	17,262
	East of England	568	722	896	1,001	1,041	1,251	1,223	987	939	926

Notes:
1. HIV
Numbers will rise as further reports are received.
Diagnoses are from reports received to end June 2008.
Data include individuals who have an existing infection as well as those who have a newly acquired infection and therefore the data do not present incidence of infection.
Areas when presented are area of diagnoses and not of residence, there is evidence that a large proportion of individuals are diagnosed outside of their PCT of residence.
2. Syphilis and Gonorrhoea
The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as General Practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed.
The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
Data are unavailable for 2008.
Syphilis figures include diagnoses of primary and secondary infection only.
Source:
Health Protection Agency, HIV and AIDS new diagnoses and KC60 Returns.

Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government has taken to support *(a)* men, *(b)* women, *(c)* children and *(d)* older people with Crohn's disease. [258266]

Ann Keen: Those living with Crohn's disease are able to access a full range of health and social care options. These include treatment with steroids, 5-aminosalicylate medicines, antibiotics and immunosuppressants, as well as dietary and life-style advice.

In 2007, the Department asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to appraise the clinical and cost-effectiveness of the tumour necrosis factor alpha inhibitors, and natalizumab, for the treatment of Crohn's disease.

Maternity Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 240W, on maternity services, which organisations have been identified as continuing to demonstrate a failure to grip recovery on maternity services; and what steps are to be taken as a consequence. [258703]

Ann Keen: All organisations identified as the poorest performers by the Healthcare Commission in its report of July 2008, have plans in place to improve and their strategic health authorities are monitoring the implementation of these plans.

Measles: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of measles in (a) Hemel Hempstead and (b) Hertfordshire. [258320]

Dawn Primarolo: The way to reduce the number of confirmed cases of measles recorded each year is to increase the number of children vaccinated with the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

In addition to the routine MMR vaccination programme, on 6 August 2008 the Department launched a national MMR vaccine catch-up campaign. The aim of the campaign is to immunise all children between one and 18 years of age who are unvaccinated or only partially vaccinated with MMR vaccine.

To support the campaign the Department has provided extra funding to primary care trusts (PCTs) with PCTs outside London having their funding limits increased by £30,000 and London PCTs' funding limits increased by £60,000. The Department has also sourced additional supplies of vaccine, provided technical support to general practitioners to help them identify children who have not received the MMR vaccine and provided additional online reports to PCTs to help them monitor the effectiveness of their catch-up programmes. The Department has also sent all general practitioner surgeries new measles leaflets and posters.

The Department has held meetings with both strategic health authorities and PCT immunisation co-ordinators, regional directors of public health and directors of performance to emphasise the importance of reducing measles cases through improving vaccination uptake.

A public relations campaign will be rolled out from March 2009. Key messages will include how serious and infectious measles is and how it is never too late to have the MMR vaccine.

Hemel Hempstead is covered by West Hertfordshire PCT. West Hertfordshire PCT and East and North Hertfordshire PCT are implementing the national MMR vaccine catch-up campaign.

MMR Vaccine

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the total number of children in each region who had not received the MMR vaccine in each of the last 10 years. [259310]

Dawn Primarolo: Tables of the percentage of children immunised with measles, mumps and rubella vaccine at two and five years of age in each strategic health authority are published in the annual statistical bulletin 'NHS Immunisation Statistics, England'. Copies of the reports titled: 'NHS Immunisation Statistics, England 1998-99', 'NHS Immunisation Statistics, England 1999-2000', 'NHS Immunisation Statistics, England 2000-01' and 'NHS Immunisation Statistics, England 2001-02' have been placed in the Library. Copies of the reports titled: 'NHS Immunisation Statistics, England, 2002-03', 'NHS Immunisation Statistics, England, 2003-04', 'NHS Immunisation Statistics, England, 2004-05', 'NHS Immunisation Statistics, England, 2005-06', 'NHS Immunisation Statistics, England, 2006-07' and 'NHS Immunisation Statistics, England 2007-08' have already been placed in the Library.

Multiple Sclerosis: Drugs

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the clinical effects of low doses of naltrexone for patients with multiple sclerosis; and if he will make a statement. [258834]

Ann Keen: The Department has made no assessment of the clinical effectiveness of low dose naltrexone for those living with multiple sclerosis.

Myelodysplastic Syndromes

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will outline his Department's policy on the treatment of myelodysplastic syndromes; [258436]

(2) whether the British Committee on Standards in Haematology guidelines on myelodysplastic syndromes will be updated to take into account advances in research and treatment since the last published guidelines in 2003; [258437]

(3) what consideration his Department has given to the variations in levels of access to supportive treatment for patients with myelodysplastic syndromes. [258438]

Ann Keen: The 2003 "Improving Outcomes in Haematological Cancers" guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) sets out recommendations abut the care and treatment of patients with myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS), with the emphasis on symptom control and supportive treatment.

It is for the national health service locally to implement this guidance. Good progress has been made and the National Cancer Action Team continue to work with the NHS at a local level to ensure full implementation.

NICE is also appraising the drug azacitidine for the treatment of MDS and expects to publish guidance towards the end of this year.

The British Committee on Standards in Haematology (BCSH) is an independent organisation. Contact details for queries about guidance issued by the BCSH can be found at:

www.bcshguidelines.com.

Patient Choice Schemes: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what efficiencies have been achieved through the centralisation of appointment booking systems between hospitals in West Hertfordshire NHS Hospital Trust. [259168]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not held centrally.

Pharmacy: Competition

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that competition and choice are taken into

consideration by primary care trusts when considering new pharmacy applications; and if he will make a statement. [258396]

Phil Hope: The Department keeps the operation of the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005 under regular review. These regulations were substantially revised from April 2005 and introduced, among other measures, a new criterion of 'reasonable choice' to the regulatory test known as control of entry in order to improve choice with regard to the services and to the providers of such services that are available to patients and consumers and to promote more competition. The Department is considering carefully a recent judgment by the Court of Appeal on this matter and what further steps, if any, may be appropriate to ensure this aim is achieved.

Royal Free Hospital: Medical Records

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* estimate he has made of the cost and *(b)* assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the computerised record system at the Royal Free Hospital. [259780]

Mr. Bradshaw: The strategic Cerner Millennium system at the Royal Free Hospital went live on 15 June 2008. It has been widely reported that, following a successful go-live, initial operation did not go as smoothly as everyone involved would have wished, and that the problems experienced affected trust performance. The local service provider, BT, and the system supplier, Cerner UK, with the close involvement of the London Programme for IT, addressed the problems as a matter of urgency, and service enhancements have been implemented incrementally since October 2008.

The trust has reported that the system became stable in its operation following changes made in November and December 2008. A small amount of additional functionality was added in mid-January and, by the end of January 2009, the trust confirmed that the system was fit to be deployed at other acute hospitals in London.

Lessons have been learned from the deployment at the Royal Free Hospital, which now has an effective patient record system. These lessons will help to improve future deployments.

The cost of deploying the computerised record system at the Royal Free Hospital, as at other trusts, has three components. A one-off deployment charge is paid when the trust has accepted the system. An ongoing monthly service charge is then made for the live service, and there will be local costs associated with preparation, deployment and support. The agreed deployment charge for full deployment of all bundles of service at the Royal Free Hospital is £4.676 millions at 2003-04 prices, and the monthly service charge £33,644 per month. Information is not held centrally about the local costs, which will vary from trust to trust.

Social Care Inspection: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by the Commission for Social Care Inspection is in 2008-09. [258519]

Phil Hope: We are informed by the Chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection that the estimated cost in empty property business rates for 2008-09 is £536,154.05.

Transplant Surgery: Waiting Lists

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people died while on the transplant waiting list in each year since 2000. [258964]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the number of people who died while on the transplant waiting list in England in each calendar year, 2000-08:

Organ listed	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008[1]*
Kidney	229	201	205	249	236	236	239	253	195
Pancreas	0	0	0	2	1	2	1	1	2
Kidney/pancreas	11	6	7	5	9	14	9	10	15
Heart	42	33	18	15	22	24	29	36	19
Lung(s)	52	64	58	68	54	71	62	72	50
Heart/lung	38	32	28	20	17	9	9	8	3
Liver	65	61	64	74	67	99	101	112	93
Total	437	397	380	433	406	455	450	492	377

[1] Figures for 2008 are likely to be under-reported due to late notification

West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps were taken by his Department to consult staff on changes to the administrative system operated by West Hertfordshire NHS Hospital Trust. [259183]

Phil Hope: This is a matter for the local national health service to take forward, it is their responsibility to consult staff about proposed service changes.

West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust on the production of literature relating to the restructuring of local NHS services in the latest period for which figures are available. [259170]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not held centrally. This is a matter for the local national health service.

Wheelchairs

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many wheelchair services are meeting the 18 week pathway for provision of their services; and what funding his Department has provided to primary care trusts to deliver such services in the last 12 months. [259624]

Phil Hope: Funding for all national health service wheelchair services comes out of general allocation funding to primary care trusts (PCTs). This funding is not ring-fenced and it is for each PCT to assess local need and allocate funds accordingly.

Wheelchairs are classified as medical devices and are covered by the 18 weeks referral to treatment commitment where the need for the specialised wheelchair is identified as the first definitive treatment on an 18 weeks referral to treatment consultant-led pathway.

The Department does not collect data separately on the provision of wheelchair services on 18 weeks referral to treatment pathways.

NHS spend on wheelchair services in 2006-07, which is the latest year figures are available for, was £125.8 million.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Elderly People

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the percentage of households where one or more persons is over 80 years in *(a)* Eastbourne constituency, *(b)* East Sussex and *(c)* England in 2008-09. [258894]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

Recent estimates for Eastbourne constituency and East Sussex are not available.

For England, the most recent estimate is that 8 per cent. of all households have at least one member aged 80 or over. This is based on an average of the latest three years of the Survey of English Housing (2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08).

TREASURY

Bank Services: Local Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 17 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1577W, on local government: banking services, when *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Financial Services Authority was first informed of the financial vulnerability of Icelandic banking institutions. [258498]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1083W.

Bank Services: Regulation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date the Financial Services Authority added each Icelandic bank to the list of authorised deposit-takers for local authorities. [258405]

Ian Pearson: The FSA is responsible for authorisation of UK deposit-taking institutions under part IV of the Financial Services and Markets Act (FSMA). Deposit-taking institutions incorporated in other EEA states are authorised by their home state regulator and can establish branches in the UK using 'passport' rights under EC law. The FSA does not produce a list of authorised deposit-taking institutions specifically for the guidance of local authorities.

Banks: Finance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on the availability of credit to customers of the credit scoring methodologies of those banks in which the Government holds shares; [258556]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on availability of mortgages of the affordability calculations used to determine eligibility for a mortgage made by those lenders in which the Government has a significant shareholding. [259631]

Ian Pearson: Where there is public sector investment in financial institutions these stakes are to be managed on a commercial basis by an arm's length company, UK Financial Investments Ltd (UKFI). UKFI's objective is to protect and create value for the taxpayer as shareholder with due regard to the maintenance of financial stability and to act in a way that promotes competition. Decisions concerning risk assessment of individual borrowers remain commercial decisions for banks and building societies.

Child Benefit

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to ensure that all relevant staff of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) are aware of the new targets relating to time taken to process claims for child benefit; and when he expects the first measures of HMRC performance against these targets to be published. [258637]

Mr. Timms: HMRC's target to pay 60 per cent. of new child benefit claims in nine working days and all new claims in an average of 20 calendar days was introduced from April 2008.

HMRC made staff aware of the new target at the time it was introduced through a series of management communications and presentations. Individual contributions towards the claims target are also a feature of the annual performance agreements of relevant staff.

Outturn for 2008-09 will be available later in the year.

Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* donations and *(b)* bequests were made to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt in each month since January 2006; and what the monetary value of each was. [258371]

Ian Pearson: The following table lists, on a month-by-month basis, the totals of cash and gilts that have been surrendered to the Donations and Bequests account, administered by the Commissioners for the Reduction

of the National Debt, from January 2006 to date. It does not include any donations of cash, gilts or other property that may still be being administered or processed by the Treasury Solicitor.

	Number of transactions	Month value total (£)	Month value bonds (£)	Month value cash (£)
January 2006	3	103.14	103.14	—
February 2006	3	33.16	33.16	—
March 2006	2	21,562.04	26.69	21,535.35
April 2006	2	57.81	57.81	—
May 2006	1	26.17	26.17	—
June 2006	3	130.60	130.60	—
July 2006	0	—	—	—
August 2006	0	—	—	—
September 2006	5	34.11	34.11	—
October 2006	0	—	—	—
November 2006	0	—	—	—
December 2006	0	—	—	—
January 2007	0	—	—	—
February 2007	0	—	—	—
March 2007	2	12,729.53	8.65	12,720.88
April 2007	0	—	—	—
May 2007	2	122.34	122.34	—
June 2007	1	0.45	0.45	—
July 2007	1	309,253.49	—	309,253.49
August 2007	0	—	—	—
September 2007	0	—	—	—
October 2007	0	—	—	—
November 2007	0	—	—	—
December 2007	1	555,001.99	—	555,001.99
January 2008	0	—	—	—
February 2008	1	4.18	4.18	—
March 2008	0	—	—	—
April 2008	1	8.14	8.14	—
May 2008	0	—	—	—
June 2008	0	—	—	—
July 2008	2	474.96	474.96	—
August 2008	0	—	—	—
September 2008	0	—	—	—
October 2008	0	—	—	—
November 2008	0	—	—	—
December 2008	0	—	—	—
January 2009	1	0.95	0.95	—
February 2009	2	7,300.80	7,300.80	—

Construction Industry Scheme

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses formerly registered for gross payment under the Construction Industry Scheme have ceased to hold that status in each year since the scheme's inception. [258307]

Angela Eagle: There has been a special compliance scheme for the construction industry since 1972. Information over that period could be provided only at disproportionate cost. For the period of the current scheme, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 777W to the hon. Member for Hyndburn (Mr. Pope).

Council Tax: Parking

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2498W, on council tax: parking, how many domestic dwellings in England have been assigned the dwellinghouse coding for parking of *(a)* G1, *(b)* G2, *(c)* G3, *(d)* G4, *(e)* G5, *(f)* G6, *(g)* G7, *(h)* G8 and *(i)* G9 according to records held by the Valuation Office Agency. [258477]

Mr. Timms: As at 1 February 2009 the relevant numbers were:

	Number
G1	6,867,200
G2	1,095,864
G3	34,945
G4	8,982
G5	1,195
G6	753
G7	153
G8	150
G9	271

A comprehensive exercise to capture information about parking for all domestic properties has not been undertaken, nor is one planned.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 329W, on council tax: valuation, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the two manuals. [258500]

Mr. Timms: No. These guidance manuals are technical instructions on the use of Valuation Office Agency (VOA) internal IT applications. It is not appropriate to publish information which might assist unauthorised access to VOA systems or databases.

Debt Collection: Powers of Entry

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many times bailiffs hired by HM Revenue and Customs used their powers of forced entry in the last year for which figures are available; [258645]

(2) in how many cases HM Revenue and Customs has commissioned bailiffs to recover tax arrears in the last year for which figures are available; and what HM Revenue and Customs' gross expenditure on bailiffs was in that period. [258646]

Mr. Timms: HMRC does not currently commission bailiffs to recover tax arrears and has no plans to do so.

HMRC has a statutory power of distraint which is exercised directly by HMRC Officers.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* directly-operated and *(b)* franchised catering outlets his Department and its agencies provide for staff. [249084]

Angela Eagle: Catering facilities in 1 Horse Guards Road are provided as part of the PFI contract for servicing the building. These facilities are used by both staff and visitors to the building.

Departmental Correspondence

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters received by his Department were not replied to within four weeks in the last 12 months. [253156]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not held.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy for his Department to sign the Information Commissioner's Personal Information Promise. [258970]

Angela Eagle: The Government welcomed the Promise as a commendable initiative to raise awareness of the importance of effective data protection safeguards, particularly for those organisations with no similar commitments already in place.

The Government take data protection very seriously. Following the Cabinet Office Review of Data Handling Procedures in Government, Departments have implemented a raft of measures to improve data security.

The Ministry of Justice is considering actively with the ICO how the Promise might add additional value to those measures we have already signed up to. These include the Information Charters, the recommendations of the Data Handling Review and the Thomas/Walport Review and, of course, our legal obligations under the Data Protection Act and other legislation and regulations.

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department uses WPA2 encryption protocol on all its wireless networks. [259713]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury has no wireless networks

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of maintaining the databases owned and managed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies was in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [256152]

Angela Eagle: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many public consultations his Department has conducted in the last 12 months; how long each consultation was open for; how many responses were received in each case; and what the cost of conducting each consultation was. [259700]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1392W, to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban).

Departmental Temporary Employment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer from which companies his Department sourced temporary staff in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value of contracts with each such company was in each of those years. [251660]

Angela Eagle: Details of companies' sourced for temporary staff and the amounts paid to each company are shown in the following table:

£

Company	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Badenoch and Clark	76,390	40,961	34,989	71,571	105,722
Brook Street (UK) Ltd	79,195	184,224	127,856	120,980	27,272
Campion Willcocks and Associates Ltd			192,232	68,103	
Hudson Global Resources Ltd	102,763	66,723	179,778	280,338	198,437
Huntress Search Ltd	133,424	148,132	77,213	66,617	67,740
Josephine Sammons Ltd	19,489		11,994	29,226	32,128

£

Company	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Kelly Services	-	-	-	-	170,930
MacDonald and Company	-	-	12,813	-	-
Method Consulting Ltd.	-	-	125,392	193,848	11,844
Michael Page Ltd.	84,931	86,954	114,131	301,717	185,760
Office Angels	165,234	69,792	38,729	37,859	4,833

Departmental Written Questions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of parliamentary Questions to his Department received a response referring the hon. Member to a website in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2006. [260049]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

It has been the practice of successive Administrations to refer Members to publications and other source documents from which information they are seeking can be extracted.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether each Government department is required to appoint a designated Euro Minister as part of the Euro Changeover preparations. [258367]

Ian Pearson: The requirement on Departments to have a designated Euro Minister remains unchanged.

Financial Inclusion

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many financial inclusion strategies his Department has had since May 1997; what the *(a)* title and *(b)* date of each was; and what recommendations each made to increase levels of financial inclusion in areas of high financial exclusion. [258624]

Ian Pearson: HM Treasury has published three documents setting out the Government's policy and commitments on financial inclusion. The first was 'Promoting financial inclusion', in December 2004. In March 2007 HM Treasury published 'Financial inclusion: the way forward'. The most recent document was 'Financial inclusion: an action plan for 2008-11', published in December 2007. All these documents can be found on HM Treasury's financial inclusion pages at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/fin_inclusion_index.htm

Foreign Exchange

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect of recent changes in the value of sterling on the cost of the United Kingdom's contributions in euros to the European Union. [258369]

Ian Pearson: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 430W to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois).

Housing: Sales

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of houses sold in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 to date. [258558]

Angela Eagle: Based on data from HM Revenue and Customs, there were 1.63 million transactions of houses valued at £40,000 or more in 2007, and 927,000 in 2008. In January 2009 there were 56,000 transactions under the same definition, (seasonally adjusted).

Council Tax: Valuations

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* localities and *(b)* locality groups are used by the Valuation Office Agency to assist with council tax valuations in England. [258401]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency's (VOA's) council tax banding support tool makes use of localities and locality groups to help identify properties that are most closely comparable to a given subject property. These outputs are available to assist the VOA's caseworkers in making council tax banding judgements.

Inheritance Tax: Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households claimed inheritance tax loss on sale relief in the last 12 months; and what the thresholds and criteria are for claiming the relief. [258409]

Mr. Timms: Those liable for inheritance tax on the value of (a) qualifying investments (broadly quoted shares) and (b) land or buildings, which were part of the deceased's estate, and who sell the assets for a lower value than that originally returned, may claim, subject to certain conditions, that the sale price is the value to be adopted for inheritance tax purposes. The sales must take place within 12 months of the death for qualifying investments, and within four years of death for land and buildings. More details are available on HM Revenue and Customs' website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/cto/forms/iht35.pdf

and

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/cto/forms/iht38.pdf.

An estimated 1,700 estates made claims for loss on sale relief in respect of qualifying investments in year 2007-08, with a further 3,300 estates making claims between April 2008 and November 2008.

An estimated 3,000 estates made claims for loss on sale relief in respect of land and buildings in year 2007-08, with a further 3,000 estates making claims between April 2008 and November 2008.

Insurance: Construction

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received from the construction industry and its associated industries on reductions in credit insurance cover. [258695]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Interest Rates

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monthly interest rate was for the period *(a)* six months before and *(b)* immediately following the first quarter of negative growth in the recession of 1992; and what it was in the six months (i) before and (ii) after July 2008. [250732]

Ian Pearson: A comprehensive set of historical interest rate data is available online from the Bank of England's website at:

www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/index.htm.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward financial measures to assist local authorities in delivering their capital programmes in circumstances where anticipated finance from capital receipts is reduced owing to falls in property and asset values. [259600]

Angela Eagle: Local authorities are responsible for determining their own capital spending plans and associated financing. The introduction of the prudential borrowing regime and the ending of 'set aside' of capital receipts from 1 April 2004 has given local authorities greater flexibility and discretion to manage the financing of these plans. This, alongside bringing forward to 2009-10 capital investment from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), in respect of the fiscal stimulus, will ensure that local authorities are well placed to maintain capital expenditure plans during the economic downturn.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will discuss with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and *(b)* local government representatives measures to relax (i) capital financing and (ii) tendering rules for local government expenditure as measures to support the economy; and if he will make a statement. [259604]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury meets regularly with the Department for Communities and Local Government and representatives from local government to discuss a range of issues, including the impact of the economic downturn on localities.

Mass Media

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of his Department's contracts with press monitoring services was in each of the last five years. [251218]

Angela Eagle: For information on the last three years, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 28 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1981W, to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt).

Prior year information is not readily available and could not be provided within the disproportionate costs threshold.

Non-Domestic Rates: Small Businesses

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he and his officials have had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on the effect of the national non-domestic rate (NNDR) on the viability of small and medium-sized enterprises; what representations he has received on the *(a)* level and *(b)* future levels of NNDR; what recent estimate he made of the (i) cost to the Exchequer of and (ii) number of additional properties which would benefit from (A) not implementing the 2009-10 increase in NNDR and (B) extending the small business rate relief scheme to (1) properties under £20,000 rateable value outside London and (2) properties under £30,000 rateable value outside London and simultaneously amending the small business multiplier to (x) 40 pence, (y) 42 pence and (z) 44 pence; and if he will make a statement. [258725]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers and officials work closely with CLG and other relevant governmental Departments on national non-domestic rates (NNDR).

Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of such representations.

Freezing NNDR for all commercial properties for 2009-10 would cost the Exchequer almost £1 billion in business rates foregone.

No estimates have been made of the impact of amending small business rate relief (SBRR) or the small business multiplier to the levels set out in the question. The cost of such changes would be borne by other ratepayers.

Ocean View Properties

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate the Financial Services Authority has made of the number of individuals who may have lost money in the Ocean View Properties International Ltd. property case; and what steps are being taken to assist those individuals. [258398]

Mr. Timms: Ocean View Properties International Ltd. was not regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) because it did not carry on any FSA regulated business. It has therefore never been the direct subject of inquiry by the FSA.

There are firms connected with Ocean View Properties that were at one time authorized by the FSA. The FSA has cancelled their authorisations and is carrying on an investigation into those firms. It would not be appropriate to comment further at this time.

I express my sympathy to anyone who has lost money in this case, and would urge them to contact their local police force, to pass on any relevant information or evidence, if they have not already done so.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assumed hourly cost to departments of the work required from civil servants in preparing answers to questions is used to calculate whether a parliamentary Question would incur a disproportionate cost; and what changes to the assumed cost for the preparation of an answer there have been since 1997. [258378]

Angela Eagle: When applying the disproportionate cost threshold (DCT) Departments calculate cost using the actual marginal cost of staff time required to provide an answer.

Marginal cost is the direct cost of civil servants' time and excludes the fixed costs of the Department. A Department can choose to apply the DCT where this marginal cost is calculated as exceeding the threshold, currently set at £750.

Public Sector: Hospitality

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who holds records on the use of the Expotel hotel booking service for the public sector, as appointed to the OGCbuying.solutions framework; and which public sector bodies use this service. [258372]

Angela Eagle: OGCbuying.solutions hold details of usage of the framework by all customer Departments at summary level. Typical data held is non-personal information such as how many trips and the cost of trips within a given period.

Individual public sector Departments hold data on their use of the contract in more detail to enable them to manage spend in this area as well as comply with health and safety requirements and environmental considerations. Data held at a public sector departmental level is typically who has travelled, the method of travel and where an individual is staying.

Public Works Loan Board

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average interest rate paid by local authorities for loans for capital schemes from the Public Works Loans Board is. [258963]

Angela Eagle: At 31 March 2008, the average rate on all loans, fixed and variable, was 5.722 per cent.

Regional Economic Council

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times the regional economic council has met; and where each meeting was held. [258407]

Angela Eagle: The regional economic council has met twice. The first meeting was held 5 November 2009 in London. The second meeting, on 5 January 2009, was also held in London.

The third meeting will be held on 2 March 2009 and will be held in Reading.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the percentage level of staff turnover was for *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) staff and *(b)* HMRC staff working in contact centres in the last year for which information is available. [258412]

Mr. Timms: For the year ended 31 December 2008 the percentage level of staff turnover, based on the number of people who left the department, was for *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs 8.77 per cent. and *(b)* HMRC contact centres 15.76 per cent.

Revenue and Customs: Standards

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many tax credit *(a)* claims and *(b)* claimants were affected by technical difficulties at HM Revenue and Customs in 2005-06; what measures have been put in place to resolve such difficulties; and if he will make a statement; [258484]

(2) how many tax credit claims have been *(a)* affected by and *(b)* delayed as a result of (i) IT problems and (ii) other technical difficulties at HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor in each of the last five years; [258486]

(3) how many tax credit claims were unpaid for *(a)* over one year, *(b)* over two years, *(c)* over three years, *(d)* over four years and *(e)* five years or more as a result of (i) IT problems and (ii) other technical difficulties at HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor. [258487]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) works continuously with its IT provider to identify and resolve tax credits claims affected by technical difficulties.

Where there are IT problems or other technical difficulties, HMRC maintains affected tax credits claims by sending manual cash cheque payments to its customers.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what average length of time HM Revenue and Customs took to *(a)* process and *(b)* award a tax credit claim in the last 12 months; [258485]

(2) what procedures HM Revenue and Customs has in place to ensure the *(a)* accurate, *(b)* swift and *(c)* efficient payment of tax credits. [258488]

Mr. Timms: For information about processing times I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Northavon (Steve Webb) on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 535W.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) publish procedural guidance for staff handling tax credits claims on the department's website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/ntcmanual/index.htm

More generally, Section 2 of the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act 1921 requires the Comptroller and Auditor General to examine the accounts of HMRC to ascertain that adequate regulations and procedure have been framed to secure an effective check on the assessment, collection and proper allocation of revenue and that they are being duly carried out, and to report

the results to the House of Commons. His reports are published on the National Audit Office website at:

www.nao.org.uk/publications.aspx

Revenue and Customs: Working Hours

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff working at HM Revenue and Customs contact centres have *(a)* requested and *(b)* been granted flexible working hours. [258410]

Mr. Timms: To ensure that HM Revenue and Customs provides an appropriate service to its customers during its contact centre opening hours of 8am to 8pm, seven days a week, the Department's contact centres utilise over 50 different shift patterns. These provide a wide range of different working patterns for staff. The number of contact centres staff who have requested or been granted flexible working hours under the Work and Families Act 2006 is not available.

Sick Leave: Revenue and Customs

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average number of days lost to sickness in the latest year for which figures are available for *(a)* all HM Revenue and Customs staff and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs staff working in contact centres. [258644]

Mr. Timms: In the year to 31 December 2008, the average number of working days lost to sickness for the equivalent of each full-time member of staff, was for *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs 10.37 and for *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs Contact Centres 17.45.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the reasons for the level of take-up of stamp duty land tax relief for zero-carbon homes. [258404]

Ian Pearson: The Government have set a deliberately stretching target that all new homes must be zero carbon by 2016. The stamp duty land tax relief (SDLT) for zero carbon homes was introduced to help kick-start the market for new highly efficient technologies in homes, both for the fabric of the building and in the use of micro-generation, and sets a gold standard for green homes. The Government have committed to conducting an interim review by 2010 of the effectiveness of the relief in stimulating the production of zero carbon homes.

Taxation: Domicile

Colin Burgon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many days in each tax year individuals with taxable income from UK interests are required to spend outside the UK to qualify for non-resident status; when this figure was last reviewed; what plans he has to review it; and if he will make a statement. [259309]

Mr. Timms: An individual's residence status for tax purposes is not a matter of simply counting days in the UK. Individuals who can demonstrate that they have left the UK permanently or indefinitely, for example because they either work full-time abroad for at least a complete tax year or have left the UK for at least three years, will be treated as not resident and not ordinarily resident for income tax purposes from the day after the date of their departure. Once non-resident, individuals can then normally spend up to 182 days in the UK in any tax year and up to 90 days in a tax year on average, taken over a maximum of four tax years and still continue to be treated as not resident.

Individuals who normally live in the UK or who cannot prove that they have left the UK and are absent for shorter periods will continue to be resident in the UK, even if they spend less than 183 days in the UK in any tax year or less than 91 days on average.

Since summer 2008, officials from HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs have been consulting with a group of key external stakeholders (representing a wide variety of interests including low income groups) to explore the feasibility of putting the test for tax residence on a statutory basis.

Taxation: Foreigners

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the amount of revenue foregone by the Exchequer in exempting from capital gains tax income from sales of UK property by foreign nationals not domiciled in the UK. [258494]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available.

Taxation: Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue has been received by the Exchequer from property-related taxes in the last *(a)* 12 and *(b)* 24 months. [258402]

Mr. Timms: Revenue from taxes targeted at the transfer or use of land or buildings is provided in this reply. These are stamp duty land tax and business rates.

In 2007 the amount of stamp duty land tax collected was £10.4 billion and in 2008 the amount collected was £6.0 billion.

Published figures for business rates collected in Great Britain are available for financial years and were given for 2007-08 and 2008-09 in table B13 of the PBR report. Figures for the two constituent six-month periods of 2008-09 were also given in table B12.

Valuation Office

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 829W, on the Valuation Office: Northern Ireland and Property Services, if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each of the eight meetings. [258497]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 964W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 348W, on the Valuation Office, what each of the Valuation Office Agency's *(a)* regular management meetings and *(b)* project boards is. [258499]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency:

(a) Does not keep a central record of regular management meetings throughout its organisation. To assemble detailed information would involve disproportionate cost.

(b) Has project boards overseeing the following main activities:

Accommodation rationalisation
Centralisation of routine processing and administrative activities
Electronic capture of hard copy records
Installation of a geographical information system
Update of the information technology platforms ("technical refresh")
Wireless-enabled technology
Asset valuation software
Non-domestic rating revaluation 2010
Merger between the VOA and The Rent Service

Valuation Office: Databases

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by or on behalf of the Valuation Office Agency. [258399]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency owns and maintains a wide variety of databases to support its work.

Valuation Office: Procurement

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 829W, on the Valuation Office: procurement, what the financial threshold is above which a purchase order is required for representatives of the Valuation Office Agency to procure goods and services. [258272]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) operates a policy that requires purchase orders to be raised in nearly all cases. Exceptions to this are for local, one-off purchases or where the procurement is sourced through a specific dedicated portal.

Valuation Office: Rightmove

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to date has been of the contract between HM Revenue and Customs on behalf of the Valuation Office Agency and Rightmove.co.uk plc. [258400]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 22 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 118W. Expenditure in the year 2008-09 will be available in the Valuation Office Agency's annual report and accounts, when published.

VAT

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether value added tax (VAT) is charged on VAT-liable items in HM Treasury building *(a)* vending machines and *(b)* staff canteens; and whether retail prices on such VAT-liable items have been reduced since December 2008. [258374]

Angela Eagle: The value added tax element in retail prices in HM Treasury building vending machines and the staff canteen was reduced to 15 per cent. with effect from 1 December 2008.

Working Tax Credit

John Mason: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of shortened working hours as a result of the recession on claimants of working tax credits. [259218]

Mr. Timms: Tax credits are a flexible, responsive system of financial support that adjusts to people's circumstances. Shortened working hours that have the effect of reducing a household's income may lead to a higher tax credits award, provided that the household continues to meet the normal eligibility conditions for tax credits.

In December 2008, 412,000 households were benefiting from an increased tax credits award because of a fall in income compared to their previous year's income. To receive any additional support, households need only notify HMRC of their changed circumstances.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what account UK forces in Afghanistan have taken of the concerns about Afghan civilian casualties expressed by the Secretary General of the United Nations; and what steps are being taken to minimise such casualties. [256248]

Bill Rammell: We share the Secretary-General's concerns about civilian casualties, the vast majority of which are caused by the insurgency. We do everything we can to avoid civilian casualties but, despite our efforts to specifically target the insurgents, there are times when the ordinary people of Afghanistan are harmed by the conflict.

We are deeply saddened by any civilian deaths in Afghanistan. We particularly regret incidents where civilians are killed as a result of actions by international forces.

We continue to take incidents of civilian casualties very seriously. They present a real risk to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and international forces' presence and support in Afghanistan. ISAF has made strenuous efforts to reduce incidents. The UK welcomes the recent Tactical directive from the commander of ISAF which further tightens the rules of engagement in Afghanistan to cut civilian casualties. The new rules stress the need for proportionate use of force and for Afghan forces to take the lead in searching Afghan homes and religious sites unless a clear danger is identified.

Animals

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how many members of staff within his Department deal with animal-related matters as part of their overall remit. [256644]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally, and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Arms Trade: Treaties

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek to include the Arms Trade treaty process on the agenda for the forthcoming G20 summit in London. [255730]

Bill Rammell: The agenda for the London summit meeting is still under consideration with participants. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will continue to raise the Arms Trade treaty at appropriate opportunities in international meetings.

Asia: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* remit and *(b)* responsibilities of his Department's Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan are. [256956]

David Miliband: The Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan will focus on the cross-cutting issues facing both the UK and Afghan governments, such as countering extremism. His remit will include working with other key Government Departments engaged on Afghanistan and Pakistan, working closely with his US counterpart, ambassador Richard Holbrooke in developing international consensus and support for the Afghan and Pakistani governments, in conjunction with our ambassador in Kabul and high commissioner in Islamabad. The Special Representative will report to the Foreign Secretary.

Caribbean: Crime

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to tackle drug trafficking in the British Overseas Territories of *(a)* Anguilla, *(b)* Montserrat and *(c)* the Turks and Caicos Islands. [256524]

Gillian Merron: Through the Governors of the respective Territories we work closely with the local police forces to help them develop and implement strategies to counter drug trafficking. Where appropriate we have provided financial support for these strategies, for example by providing co-funding for three retired UK police officers to establish the Drugs and Crime Task Force in Anguilla. We also support initiatives for cross territory and wider regional collaboration.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to minimise the potential for money laundering to occur in the British Overseas Territories of *(a)* Anguilla, *(b)* Montserrat and *(c)* the Turks and Caicos Islands. [256525]

Gillian Merron: My officials are working with regulators, police investigators and prosecutors in the Overseas Territories (OT) and have drawn up action plans tailored to each of the OT, which include projects to strengthen regulatory systems, laws and expertise. They also take into account independent evaluations of anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing systems by the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF).

Departmental funding has been used to strengthen the Financial Crime Unit in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) and to update the proceeds of crime law. Similar projects are underway in Anguilla and Montserrat. In addition, the Department is part-funding the new head of the Anguilla Financial Intelligence Unit, which has brought about increases in the reporting and investigation of suspected financial crimes. Training for financial investigators from Anguilla and Montserrat has been arranged and external consultants are helping to boost supervisory practice in these Territories. We are also working with the authorities in TCI to help them to respond to the recommendations in the November 2008 CFATF mutual evaluation report. We are working with Anguilla and Montserrat to help them prepare for their CFATF evaluations later this year.

Central African Republic: Overseas Aid

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department plans to offer to the new government of national unity in the Central African Republic. [256846]

Gillian Merron: The UK welcomed the formation of a unity government in the Central African Republic (CAR) on 19 January 2009, following the outcome of the Inclusive Political Dialogue.

The UN Peace Building Commission will now assist national authorities in driving forward core peace building priorities, and ensuring that international attention remains focused. Linked to this, the Peace Building Fund—to which the UK is the largest contributor with £30 million over three years—is providing funding for projects in the areas of security sector reform, (including disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration), rule of law and good governance.

Alongside multinational efforts to support the new government and increase development in CAR, the UK is providing more than £2.2 million to support humanitarian activities in 2008-09. This money is being spent on bringing clean water, sanitation facilities, food, farming equipment and basic medicines and health care to those most in need, as well as providing protection to civilians affected by armed conflict.

Colonies: UN Resolutions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to monitor the implementation of UN General Assembly Resolution 63/110 on Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. [256827]

Gillian Merron: This is a twofold process: The UK carefully examines the UN Secretariat's reports to the General Assembly's Fourth Committee. The UK also continues to fulfil its obligations to the Overseas Territories under the UN Charter.

The UK's relationship with its Overseas Territories is a modern one based on partnership. The UK is committed to the future development and continued security of the Overseas Territories for as long as the Territories choose to retain their link to the UK. The UK has no intention of imposing independence against the will of the peoples concerned, whilst the established policy of successive Governments has been to give every help and encouragement to those Territories which wished to proceed to independence, where it is an option.

Conflict Resolution

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Conflict Resolution Mechanisms has received as part of his dialogue with *(a)* the United Nations, *(b)* the EU, *(c)* the African Union and *(d)* others, broken down by type of representations; and on which dates each such representation was received. [256828]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* The right hon. Jack McConnell MSP, the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Conflict Resolution Mechanisms is based in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He met officials from the European Council, European Commission and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation on 9-10 December 2008 in Brussels and from the United Nations on 15-16 December 2008 in New York. Mr. McConnell also met EU officials on 2-3 February 2009 in Bosnia. He plans to meet officials from the African Union shortly.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Asylum

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Kinshasa and Bas Congo; what guidance he has issued to the UK Border Agency on the safety of unsuccessful asylum seekers removed to the Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [255513]

Gillian Merron: We continue to monitor the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) closely. Though there have been recent occasions on which human rights standards have not been upheld in Kinshasa and Bas Congo, we are not aware of any systematic persecution by the DRC authorities there. Our guidance to the UK Border Agency on the return of failed asylum seekers to DRC from the UK sets this out. There continues to be no general reason why failed asylum seekers should not be returned to Kinshasa or Bas Congo, although each application must be treated on its own merits.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [256048]

Gillian Merron: I will place in the Library a copy of the display energy certificates and their associated advisory reports in respect of each qualifying property occupied by the Foreign and Commonwealth office and its agencies.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 371W, on departmental buildings; at what rate council tax is being paid in respect of the residential apartments in the composite hereditament of 1 Carlton Gardens. [257456]

Gillian Merron: Council tax is currently being paid at the City of Westminster's company property rate of 90 per cent., the rate chargeable for an empty furnished property. The charge for the financial year 2008-09 is £1,237.72.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 371W, on departmental buildings, whether his Department is seeking to *(a)* extend the lease or *(b)* terminate the lease in its negotiations with the Crown Estate. [257457]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is conducting negotiations with a view to extending the lease.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish a copy of his Department's website accessibility plan. [257217]

Caroline Flint: No, as there is not a departmental accessibility plan. However, the Foreign and Commonwealth Offices's accessibility statement is available at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/accessibility

Our accessibility plan is to address the priority issues raised in the accessibility report produced for our website by Bunnyfoot in March 2008. This report is an internal document and as such has not been published on our public website.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the maximum monthly allowance in addition to basic salary is for civilian employees of his Department working in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [254920]

Gillian Merron: UK civil servants employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in Iraq and Afghanistan receive a series of allowances.

Some of these allowances, principally cost of living allowance, are paid to civil servants serving in many countries overseas to compensate them for the actual extra costs of living and working overseas. These costs are based on indicators produced by Employment Conditions Abroad (ECA).

Other allowances, particularly the hardship element of Diplomatic Service Compensation Allowance (DSCA), are paid to staff in difficult and dangerous posts to compensate them for the security threat they face, the lack of basic facilities, risks to health, and frequently lengthy separation from their families. ECA indicators, and security advice, are used to calculate this allowance.

The current monthly rates of DSCA hardship allowance paid to staff at posts in Iraq and Afghanistan are:

	£
Kabul	1,510
Kandahar	1,569
Lashkar Gah	1,746
Irbil	1,635
Baghdad	2,306
Basra	2,306

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department were on sick leave for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days in each of the last five years. [256325]

Gillian Merron: The following table records the number of civil servants employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office whose periods of sick leave continued beyond 30, 50 and 100 days.

	30 days	*50 days*	*100 days*
2004	174	104	38
2005	130	75	33
2006	138	75	35
2007	152	99	42
2008	141	60	26

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many days sick leave on average each member of staff in his Department took in 2008. [256494]

Gillian Merron: The average number of sick days taken by UK-based Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff during 2008 was 3.6 days. We do not keep records centrally of sick leave taken by locally-engaged staff members. This information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department were recorded as having been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December in each of the last five years. [256630]

Gillian Merron: The following statistics record the number of Officers who were on sick leave for more than 12 months since 2004.

	Number
2004	8
2005	9
2006	10
2007	5
2008	5

Diplomatic Service

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times his Department has appointed a Special Representative to a particular region since 1997. [256984]

Gillian Merron: Special Representatives have been appointed by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, to the Great Lakes (1998), Sierra Leone (2002), Iraq (2003), South Caucasus (2003), Sudan (2003), Nepal (2003), Darfur (Peace Talks) 2006, Middle East (and Special Projects) 2007, Afghanistan and Pakistan (2009).

In addition, Special Representatives and Special Envoys are appointed by the Prime Minister.

EU Satellite Centre

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK citizens are employed by the European Union Satellite Centre in Torrejón, Spain. [257066]

Caroline Flint: There are currently six UK citizens employed by the European Union Satellite Centre in Torrejón, Spain.

Gao Zhisheng

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the arrest of Mr. Gao Zhisheng by the Chinese authorities; what representations he has made to his Chinese counterpart about Mr. Zhisheng's detention; and if he will make a statement. [257348]

Bill Rammell: We remain concerned at the case of Gao Zhisheng. We have received reports that he was taken from his parents' home in Shaanxi Province on 4 February 2009 and has not been seen since. We have consistently raised the case of Mr. Zhisheng with the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We raised it at the 2008 UK/China Human Rights Dialogue in Beijing as part of an individual case list. After co-ordination among EU member states, the EU presidency raised the case with the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 28 January 2009. We will continue to monitor his case and raise it at every appropriate opportunity.

Government Communications Headquarters: Manpower

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many employees of the Government Communications Headquarters are currently *(a)* seconded to and *(b)* otherwise deployed at the United States National Security Agency. [256836]

Gillian Merron: It is the longstanding policy of the Government not to comment on operational intelligence matters, including details of staff deployments.

Guantanamo Bay: Detainees

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether US officials have acceded to the request to return Mr. Shaker Aamer to the UK; and if he will make a statement. [256382]

David Miliband: We maintain a close dialogue with the US regarding Mr. Aamer's case and his welfare. The US government have not agreed to his release and return to the UK. We have made clear in recent contacts with the new administration that our request for his release and return stands should their position have changed.

Hazard Management Cayman Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much money his Department gave to Hazard Management Cayman Islands in 2008; and what sum has been budgeted for 2009. [256760]

Gillian Merron: None. Hazard Management Cayman Islands is a public authority which is funded by the Cayman Islands government.

International Organisations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much expenditure his Department incurred in paying subscriptions to each international organisation in 2007-08; what projection he has made of such costs for each organisation in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [256063]

David Miliband: The information requested is as follows:

Subscriptions to each international organisation in 2007-08

Subscription	£000
UN Regular Budget and Other UN Contributions	72,382
Council of Europe	10,620
NATO	20,962
OECD	12,826
Commonwealth Secretariat	3,435
OSCE	3,223
Western European Union/Others	2,215
Total	136,663

Source:
FCO Resource Accounts 2007-08

(a) Subscriptions to each international organisation in 2008-09

Subscription	£000
UN Regular Budget and Other UN Contributions	73,367
Council of Europe	23,930
NATO	20,870
OECD	14,790
Commonwealth Secretariat	4,343
OSCE	3,745
Western European Union/Others	2,980
Total	142,733

Source:
FCO Supplementary Estimates 2008-09, 27 January 2009

(b) Subscriptions to each international organisation in 2009-10

The projected costs for 2009-10 are around £146 million but are uncertain. In negotiating with international organisations as they set their budgets for 2009-10, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) will endeavour to limit budget increases to zero real growth. The fall in sterling will have an impact on subscriptions paid in US Dollars and Euros. The FCO shares the burden of exchange rate movements on international subscriptions with the Treasury under the arrangement whereby the Treasury fund 60 per cent. of any increase above a baseline of £102 million. Our foreign currency forward purchase contracts do include an element for our international subscription costs intended to help offset any further falls in sterling.

Iran: British Council

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Iran on the resumption of the activities of the British Council in that country. [256247]

Caroline Flint: We have been very clear with the Iranians that we consider this behaviour unacceptable, and that they should enable the British Council to resume its operations as soon as possible.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised this with the Iranian Speaker on 7 February 2009 when they met in the margins of the Munich Security Conference. We have also made representations at official level in London and Tehran.

Iraq: Homosexuality

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the treatment of gay and lesbian people in Iraq in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [256122]

Bill Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) have received some reports of violence committed against individuals because of their sexual orientation. These however do not appear to point towards any systemic or institutionalised abuse of the homosexual community in Iraq. Rather they indicate unconnected acts perpetuated by bigoted individuals. FCO officials remain in contact with vulnerable groups organisations such as the UK-based Iraqi Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans-Gender Group. We will continue to monitor this situation carefully.

Iraq: Mujahedin-e Khalq

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take at the United Nations in response to the Iraqi National Security Adviser, Muwafaq al-Rubaie's statement on 24 January 2009 that the government of Iraq intend to hand over to the Iranian government members of the People's Mujahedin of Iran; and if he will make a statement. [256769]

Bill Rammell: I should clarify that it was the US, not the UK, who had responsibility for the security and administration of the camp. The US informed us of its plans to hand responsibility for the camp to the Iraqi authorities from 1 January 2009. This has now taken place.

I should further clarify that the Iraqi government have not made any announcement stating they intend to forcibly hand over residents of Camp Ashraf to the Iranian government. National Security Adviser Al-Rubaie stated during his visit to Iran that "we have told the members of PMOI in Camp Ashraf that they have two options. Either they return home or choose a third country".

Prior to the handover, the US received assurances making clear the Iraqi authorities commitment to the humane treatment and continued well-being of the camp residents. We understand that in addition to this, the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights has also visited the camp and delivered these assurances to a representative body of the residents. We are naturally concerned that the rights of all those involved in the process are observed and that they continue to be treated humanely and their fundamental human rights be maintained.

Voluntary repatriations to Iran of those residents who wish to return will continue. But there is no evidence to suggest forced relocation of the residents in Iraq or elsewhere will take place.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Iraq to withdraw their reported plans to hand over to the Iranian government members of the People's Mujahedin of Iran; and if he will make a statement. [256770]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member for Southend West to the answer provided against PQ 256769. It is the Government's view that there is no intention on the part of the Iraqi government to forcibly return any residents of Camp Ashraf to Iran.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Iraq on the rights of members of the People's Mujahedin of Iran resident in Ashraf City, Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [256771]

Bill Rammell: The US received assurances from the Iraqi authorities making clear their commitment to the humane treatment and continued well-being of the camp residents. We understand that in addition to this the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights have also visited the camp and delivered these assurances to a representative body of the residents. We are naturally concerned that the rights of all those involved in the process are observed and that they continue to be treated humanely and their fundamental human rights be maintained. In this regard, we understand that as a result of their extensive contacts the US are satisfied that the Iraqi authorities are fully aware of their responsibilities with regard to Camp Ashraf and its residents.

Both the Iraqi authorities and the US had been involved in discussions with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq on the modalities of the hand over of responsibility for the camp. The Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights also played a key role in overseeing the transition. In addition we understand that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) discusses, on a confidential basis, all of the issues surrounding the camp with the People's Mujahedin Organisation of Iran and the Iraqi and US authorities. The ICRC follows developments at the camp closely and visit regularly.

The hon. Gentleman will also wish to note that, while residents of the camp were treated as 'protected persons', this was exercised at the good will of the US authorities in charge at the time and was not granted through any legal obligation under international law.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will ask the government of Iraq to remove all restrictions on supporters of the People's Mujahedin of Iran based in Ashraf City following the recent judgment of the European Court of Justice. [257284]

Bill Rammell: On 26 January 2009, taking into account the judgment by the Court of First Instance on 4 December 2008, the General Affairs and External Relations Council adopted a list which did not include the People's Mujahedin Organisation of Iran (MEK/PMOI). Mindful of this 4 December judgement annulling the July 2008 listing of the MEK/PMOI, the UK believes that EU member states must observe and respect the court's judgment in the current review of the EU list of terrorist organisations.

Residents of the camp are free to leave at any time if they demonstrate they have the appropriate travel documentation and finance to leave the camp and take up residence either in Iran or in a third country. Voluntary repatriations to Iran have previously taken place and, we understand, without the returnees concerned being ill treated. Such reparations will continue for those who wish to do this. There is no evidence to suggest forced relocation of the residents in Iraq or elsewhere will take place.

The US received assurances from the Iraqi authorities which make clear their commitment to the humane treatment and continued well-being of the camp residents. We understand that in addition to this the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights have also visited the camp and delivered these assurances to a representative body of the residents. We are naturally concerned that the rights of all those involved are observed and that camp residents continue to be treated humanely and their fundamental human rights be maintained.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek to put in place mechanisms to protect supporters of the People's Mujahedin of Iran based in Ashraf City. [257285]

Bill Rammell: I should clarify that it was the US, not the UK, who had responsibility for the security and administration of the camp. The US informed us of its plans to hand responsibility for the camp to the Iraqi authorities from 1 January 2009 and this has now taken place. Both the Iraqi authorities and the US had been involved in discussions with the UN High Commissioner

for Refugees and the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq on modalities. The Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights also played a key role in overseeing the transition. In addition we understand that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) discusses, on a confidential basis, all of the issues surrounding the camp with the People's Mujahedin Organisation of Iran (MEK/PMOI) and the Iraqi and US authorities. The ICRC follows developments at the camp closely and visits regularly.

The US received assurances from the Iraqi authorities before the handover took place making clear their commitment to the humane treatment and continued well-being of the camp residents. We understand that in addition to this the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights have also visited the camp and delivered these assurances to a representative body of the residents.

We are naturally concerned that the rights of all those residents involved are observed and that they continue to be treated humanely and their fundamental human rights be maintained. In this regard, we understand that as a result of their extensive contacts the US are satisfied that the Iraqi authorities are fully aware of their responsibilities with regard to Camp Ashraf and its residents.

On 26 January 2009, bearing in mind the judgment by the Court of First Instance on 4 December 2008, the General Affairs and External Relations Council adopted a list which did not include the MEK/PMOI organisation. The 4 December judgment annulled the July 2008 listing of the MEK/PMOI, the UK therefore believe that EU member states must observe and respect the court's judgment in the current review of the EU list of terrorist organisations.

Iraq: Politics and Government

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of *(a)* the resignation from the Iraqi government of its Minister for Women and *(b)* budgetary reductions of the Iraqi Ministry for Women on Iraq's ability to fulfil its responsibilities under UN Security Council Resolution 1325. [256652]

Bill Rammell: We were disappointed to hear news of the resignation of Mrs. Nawal al-Samaraie although there apparently remains considerable uncertainty about whether this resignation has been accepted by the Government of Iraq. We have always enjoyed excellent relations with Mrs. al-Samaraie and have offered our full support to the work of her ministry. Budgetary issues are clearly a matter for the government of Iraq but we understand that the Iraqi Ministry of Women's Affairs is a Ministry of State and does not have the same autonomy, or budget line, of a full Ministry under the Iraqi Government.

The UK shall continue to work with the Government of Iraq to ensure that the rights of women as provided within the Iraqi constitution are upheld. The Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights also has responsibility towards upholding women's rights as will the National Human Rights Commission which was established through legislation passed in November 2008.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the reasons for the recent resignation from the Iraqi government of its Minister of Women; and if he will make a statement. [256653]

Bill Rammell: We are aware of reports of the resignation of the Minister of State for Women's Affairs, Mrs. Nawal al-Samaraie, but have yet to see confirmation that her resignation has been accepted by the Government of Iraq. We are presently unaware of the reason for her resignation beyond that which was reported in the media. We have always enjoyed excellent relations with Mrs. al-Samaraie and so view this news with some concern. This is an internal matter for the Government of Iraq but we shall continue to monitor events closely.

Israel: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the evidential basis is for the assumption that Israel has nuclear weapons, as set out at page 14 of his Department's publication, Lifting the Nuclear Shadow: Creating the conditions for abolishing nuclear weapons. [258124]

Bill Rammell: Information in the public domain has led to a widely held assumption that Israel possesses nuclear weapons, though Israel has always refused to either confirm or deny this. The UK has consistently urged Israel to join the non proliferation treaty as a non-nuclear weapon state.

Israel: Press Freedom

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Israel to lift its restrictions on the activities of journalists from the al-Jazeera network. [256246]

Bill Rammell: We support a free media and have been concerned by Israeli restrictions on media organisation, as my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear in his statement on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 21.

Kenya: Piracy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on the activities of pirates operating from Kenya. [256588]

Gillian Merron: We are not aware of any pirates operating from Kenya. The focus of the international community has been on the threat of piracy operating from Somalia, including in waters off the coast of Kenya.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received allegations of the unauthorised use of ambulances for non-medical purposes by members of Hamas during Operation Cast Lead; and if he will make a statement. [258729]

Bill Rammell: We have not received substantiated reports of Hamas misuse of ambulances, but there have been widespread reports of unacceptable activity by Hamas members. We condemn any attack on innocent civilians. UN Security Council Resolution 1860, which was proposed by us, was emphatic in its condemnation of all violence and hostilities directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of suicide bomb attacks in Israel for which Hamas claimed responsibility between 1994 and 2006; and if he will make a statement. [256735]

Bill Rammell: According to the Israeli Foreign Ministry, between 1994 and 2006, there were 153 suicide attacks committed by Palestinians in Israel. We are unable to verify either the total number of attacks or the organisation responsible for individual attacks.

The UK has proscribed the military wing of Hamas as a terrorist group and repeatedly condemned attacks targeting civilians.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the briefing note on Operation Cast Lead produced jointly by his Department and the Home Office Research and Information Unit; which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals were consulted prior to drafting the briefing note; who drafted the briefing note; for what purpose it was produced; how many copies were circulated; to whom; at what cost to his Department; what contributions Ministers in his Department made to the briefing note; and if he will make a statement. [256736]

Bill Rammell: The Government worked hard to explain UK policy to interested groups throughout the conflict. In addition to public and parliamentary statements, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have met privately with numerous non governmental organisations, Muslim and Jewish community groups and parliamentarians. We have also written to many individuals and groups, including my letter to all MPs and Peers on 9 January 2009.

As part of this engagement, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials drew up summaries of our actions, policy, humanitarian efforts and key ministerial statements on areas of concern to audiences. These were distributed widely across Whitehall and to our embassies and high commissions around the world. Research, Information and Communications Unit (RICU) also disseminated them to their network. The factsheet evolved as the crisis progressed and continues to be updated regularly. I will place a copy of the latest factsheet in the Library of the House.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the government of Israel's estimate of the number of civilian Palestinian casualties during Operation Cast Lead; and if he will make a statement. [256737]

Bill Rammell: The Israeli authorities currently estimate that between 1100 and 1200 Palestinians were killed in Gaza. They estimate that 250 were civilians.

The UN, based on Palestinian Ministry of Health figures, reports that approximately 1,440 Palestinians have been killed since the conflict began, including 431 children and 114 women.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for UK policy of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territories; and if he will make a statement. [257374]

Bill Rammell: The Government agree with the conclusion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that the construction of the barrier along the chosen route, and its associated regime, is unlawful under international law.

The Government have consistently made this position clear and supported the UN General Assembly Resolution which acknowledged the ICJ advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the construction of the barrier in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. While the advisory opinions of the ICJ are not legally binding, and the UK is not obliged under international law to take such diplomatic action, we continue to lobby the Government of Israel to ensure that any Israeli barrier is routed within Green Line Israel.

Rowan Laxton

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take disciplinary action against Rowan Laxton in light of his reported comments concerning Jewish people and Israel; and if he will make a statement. [257340]

Gillian Merron: The staff member concerned has been suspended in accordance with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's misconduct procedure and will be subject to disciplinary proceedings. Police inquiries are continuing.

Somaliland: Foreign Relations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of Somaliland on that area's future status. [256580]

Gillian Merron: In December 2008, my noble Friend the Home Office Minister with responsibility for security and counter terrorism, Lord West of Spithead, met the Somaliland Foreign Affairs representative, Abdilahi Duale, during a visit to Ethiopia. In January 2008, the Minister with responsibility for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, held discussions in London with the Leader of Somaliland, Dahir Rayale Kahin. The then Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Pontypridd (Dr. Howells), met Dahir Rayale Kahin in the capital of Somaliland in June 2008.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met representatives of the Somaliland community in the UK when he visited Cardiff in October 2008.

The Government considers dialogue with Somaliland representatives to be an important part of our overall engagement with Somalia.

Sri Lanka: Arms Trade

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will introduce a ban on defence equipment sales to Sri Lanka in light of the military offensive by the Sri Lankan government against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam; and if he will make a statement. [257298]

Bill Rammell: All applications for export licences to Sri Lanka are assessed on a case by case basis against the National and EU Arms Export Licensing Criteria, taking into account the circumstances at the time. The Government believe that a robust and transparent UK licensing regime is the best way to control the UK's strategic exports to all destinations. It is our view that the current situation in Sri Lanka would not be improved by the introduction of an embargo on defence equipment.

Since the abrogation of the ceasefire in January 2008 the UK has not issued any licences, either for lethal goods or for other military goods that we judge would prolong or aggravate the internal conflict in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs by what means his Department assesses the security and humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka. [254626]

Bill Rammell: Much of the reporting on security and humanitarian issues is provided by our high commission in Colombo, which includes staff from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence. Our high commission also works with a number of national and international organisations on the ground. Given the nature of the conflict and limited access to the north of Sri Lanka, it is difficult to obtain reliable independent information of the current situation.

We remain seriously concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation and the impact on civilians.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of developments in the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka between 21 January and 29 January 2009. [254627]

Bill Rammell: The recent upsurge of fighting between the government of Sri Lanka and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelaam (LTTE) has worsened the situation for the over 200,000 internally displaced persons in northern Sri Lanka. There are increasing civilian casualties, including women and children. We are increasingly concerned about the ability of humanitarian agencies to deliver much needed supplies.

In a statement of 29 January 2009, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary expressed his extreme concern about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in northern Sri Lanka. He urged both parties to agree an immediate humanitarian ceasefire.

Thailand: Aviation

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the *(a)* progress of and *(b)* completion date of the inquiry in Thailand into the plane crash in Phuket in September 2007. [255609]

Bill Rammell: According to the Director, Aviation Safety Standards of the Civil Aviation Department in Bangkok, the investigations into the cause of the One Two Go airline crash at Phuket airport on 16 September 2007 are ongoing. It is expected that the report will not be finalised and made public until May 2009 at the earliest.

Our embassy in Bangkok is monitoring the progress of the investigation and we will alert the right hon. Member and the families as soon as the report is made public.

Tony Blair

Mr. Elwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 893W, on Tony Blair, how much has been paid from the public purse towards the running of the office of Tony Blair as Quartet Representative; what arrangements there are for accounting to Parliament for such expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [256782]

Bill Rammell: Our answer given on 2 February 2009 sets out the Government support to the office of the Quartet Representative. Standard arrangements exist for accounting this expenditure to Parliament.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Crime

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many incidents of violent crime there were in the Turks and Caicos Islands in each of the last five years. [256761]

Gillian Merron: The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force has provided the following statistics on incidents of violent crime in each of the last five years:

Incidents of violent crime

	Number
2008	530
2007	445
2006	444
2005	413
2004	311

Turks and Caicos Islands: Environment Protection

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what acreage of land in the Turks and Caicos Islands was designated an environmentally protected area in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [256759]

Gillian Merron: There are thirty-three protected areas in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), in four categories: national parks, nature reserves, sanctuaries and sites of historic interest. We understand from the TCI Department for Environment and Coastal Resources that in 2006 there was a combined total area of some 78,335 hectares. They do not have figures for 2007 and 2008.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Illegal Immigrants

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to tackle illegal immigration in the Turks and Caicos Islands. [256757]

Gillian Merron: The responsibility for immigration in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) is delegated to the local government, although we continue to work closely with the TCI government on this issue. We support a programme of co-operation at both official and ministerial level between the TCI government and the Government of Haiti, which we hope will soon be formalised by a memorandum of understanding.

The Department has funded a Regional Maritime Training Coordinator for the Caribbean Overseas Territories, and provided a small patrol craft for training purposes. These will supplement the TCI government's own efforts to stem the flow of illegal migrants, which have included the recent appointment of a change manager for the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force's marine branch.

Turks and Caicos Islands: National Income

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the per capita gross domestic product of the Turks and Caicos Islands was in each of the last five years. [256762]

Gillian Merron: (GDP) per capita calculations for the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) come from the TCI government's Department of Economic Planning and Statistics. We cannot confirm the accuracy of these figures and it is not unusual for estimates to be revised after they have been published.

Gross Domestic Product per capita (in current prices) for the last five years was:

	US$
2003	16,297
2004	17,661
2005	18,909
2006	21,742
2007[1]	23,768

[1] Preliminary

No estimates are yet available for 2008.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Prisons

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Turks and Caicos Islands government on the conditions in *(a)* police lock-ups in Providenciales and *(b)* the prison on Grand Turk. [256758]

Gillian Merron: The Governor has encouraged the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) Government to make available the necessary funding for the construction of a new police station in Providenciales, which will include purpose built lock-ups.

The Overseas Territories Prison Reform Coordinator, funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, has made recommendations to help alleviate the current overcrowding at the prison on Grand Turk, including the completion of a new female wing. These recommendations have been accepted by the TCI Government.

Venezuela: Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the attack on the Tiferet Israel Synagogue in Caracas on 30 January 2009; and if he will make a statement. [256821]

Gillian Merron: The attacks on Tiferet Israel Synagogue in Caracas are a significant concern. Reports we have received stated that the Synagogue was attacked by 15 to 20 armed men and women who ransacked and desecrated the building. They also broke into the administration area and stole computers containing databases.

Our ambassador in Caracas has written to the Synagogue's Rabbi and to the Leader of the Jewish community in Venezuela to express our sympathy and solidarity.

We note the arrest of 11 people accused of the crime. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and encourage all to reject anti-Semitism as it is incompatible with democratic values.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on levels of anti-Semitism in Venezuela; and if he will make a statement. [256822]

Gillian Merron: We are concerned by a number of reports of anti-Semitism in Venezuela in recent weeks, and welcome the meetings that have taken place between the Venezuelan government and the leaders of the Venezuelan Jewish community to discuss the situation.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer question number 246328, on Afghanistan, tabled on 17 December 2008. [257574]

Gillian Merron: This question was answered on 12 February 2009 *Official Report* column 2197W, following a delay due to an administrative error.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will answer question 248749, tabled on 15 January 2009, on secondment to support the Quartet Middle East Envoy. [258214]

Gillian Merron: This question was answered on 23 February 2009 *Official Report*, column 381W. The delay in responding was due to administrative error.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 2 March 2009

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Committees: Video Conferencing

Mr. Evans: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what assessment the Commission has made of the effectiveness of arrangements in place to facilitate the taking of oral evidence by select committees via video-conferencing. [259198]

Nick Harvey: Arrangements for video-conferencing by Select Committees are monitored by the Liaison Committee. The video-conferencing projection equipment in the Committee Rooms in Portcullis House is currently being updated to enhance the picture and sound quality of transmissions.

Houses of Parliament: VAT

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether valued added tax (VAT) is charged on VAT-liable items in each of the House restaurants, vending machines, bars and canteens; and whether retail prices on VAT-liable items have been reduced since December 2008. [258381]

Nick Harvey: VAT is payable on the sale of all restaurant and bar services and so all prices charged in the restaurants, bars and cafeterias in the House of Commons include VAT at the prevailing rate (currently 15 per cent.). Selling prices are rounded to the nearest 5 pence, and all prices were reduced in December 2008 if the impact of the VAT rate change was more than or equal to 5p.

VAT is also payable on food and drinks dispensed from vending machines. Prices were reviewed following the reduction in VAT in December 2008 but were unchanged due to the policy of rounding prices to the nearest 5p.

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the retail prices in the House of Commons gift shop for items which attract valued added tax were reduced following the December 2008 reduction in value added tax. [258382]

Nick Harvey: Prices in the House of Commons souvenir shops are set to the nearest 5p. The selling prices of all goods on which VAT is payable were reduced in December 2008 if the impact of the VAT rate change came to 5p or more.

Members: Email

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether hon. Members and their staff are *(a)* permitted and *(b)* able to install Pretty Good Privacy encryption software on their computers; and what support PICT provides to hon. Members' offices in this regard. [258379]

Nick Harvey: Members and their staff do have the rights necessary to install their own software on their parliamentary computers. Members are responsible for the licensing and maintenance of any software that they install and, as the conditions of supply provide, PICT reserves the right to remove any software that is found to interfere with the proper operation of the hardware concerned, or the parliamentary network. This applies to encryption software. However, extra caution is needed with this type of product since, by its nature, it can prevent access and therefore could severely limit PICT's ability to provide support after it has been installed.

PICT has recently completed an evaluation of encryption software and Pretty Good Privacy (PGP) was found to be incompatible with Parliament's current version of VPN (remote access) software. Therefore, this product is not recommended for users of that service. As part of the evaluation PICT has identified another product that can be deployed to Members' loaned machines by PICT at no cost to Members. The software can also be acquired by Members at their own cost, if they wish to have it installed on machines that they have purchased through PICT.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Chichester of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 546W, on trade unions, what the estimated cost to the public purse of the provision of facilities for the exclusive use of trade unions was in each of the last three years. [258659]

Nick Harvey: The estimated cost of the facilities was around £46,000 in each of the last three years.

Trade Unions: Political Levy

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 64W, on the political levy, if he will amend the staff handbook for House of Commons staff to inform them of their right to opt out of the political levies operated by those recognised trade unions which have a political fund. [258664]

Nick Harvey: Yes.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Legislation: Henry VIII Clauses

Mr. Maude: To ask the Leader of the House how many Henry VIII clauses were contained in primary legislation enacted in Session 2007-08. [258694]

Chris Bryant: Henry VIII clauses, which confer on Ministers the power to amend the statute itself by delegated legislation, or to amend other statutes, are included in legislation for a variety of reasons.

In some cases, such as section 6 of the Smoke Detectors Act 1991, they confer power to make significant and wide-ranging amendments to the parent Act. In other cases they may be used to make incidental and consequential amendments to existing Acts.

The Government do not routinely collect or hold information about the number of Henry VIII provisions so the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Members: ICT

Mr. Evans: To ask the Leader of the House if she will bring forward proposals to encourage hon. Members to use interactive digital technology to communicate with their constituents. [259036]

Ms Harman: It is up to individual hon. Members how best to engage with their constituents, using interactive digital technology as well as other means. Hon. Members may use the Communication Allowance to meet the cost of designing and running a website which is intended to inform constituents of their work as a Member, to consult with constituents or local groups, or to provide contact information.

I would be interested to hear of any specific examples of good practice in this area.

Statutory Instruments

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Leader of the House how many statutory instruments subject to the *(a)* negative and *(b)* affirmative procedure have been laid before the House in each year since 1990. [260074]

Chris Bryant: The information is only readily available on a sessional basis and is published each year in the Sessional Returns. The following table shows the number of statutory instruments laid before the House in each Session from 1990-91 to 2007-08.

Session	*Affirmative instruments*	*Negative instruments*
1990-91	201	1,072
1991-92	95	611
1992-93	277	1,723
1993-94	174	1,226
1994-95	188	1,316
1995-96	199	1,309
1996-97	151	903
1997-98	225	1,591
1998-99	178	1,266
1999-2000	180	1,241
2000-01	123	717
2001-02	262	1,468
2002-03	233	1,158
2003-04	207	1,038
2004-05	126	660
2005-06	271	1,583
2006-07	223	1,135
2007-08	257	1,049

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Leader of the House how many statutory instruments subject to the *(a)* negative and *(b)* affirmative procedure have been debated in delegated legislation committees and their predecessor committees in each year since 1990. [260075]

Chris Bryant: The information, which is published each year in the Sessional Returns, is set out in the following table.

The total number of affirmative instruments considered in committee each Session will differ from the total number laid in that Session for a number of reasons: some instruments are considered on the Floor of the House or in a Grand Committee; some items which are not laid as instruments may be agreed by the House to be treated as such; instruments may be considered in the Session after the one in which they were laid; and instruments may be withdrawn before they are considered.

Information about the procedure to which an instrument was subject was not compiled before 1995-96.

Session	*Affirmative*	*Negative*	*Other*	*Total*
1990-91	—	—	—	139
1991-92	—	—	—	60
1992-93	—	—	—	199
1993-94	—	—	—	69
1994-95	—	—	—	126
1995-96	113	29	—	142
1996-97	94	14	—	108
1997-98	168	11	0	179
1998-99	149	28	0	177
1999-2000	156	16	2	174
2000-01	116	6	0	122
2001-02	217	41	0	258
2002-03	200	40	0	240
2003-04	169	16	0	185
2004-05	[1]109	8	0	117
2005-06	[2]241	[3]29	0	270
2006-07	[4]186	[5]15	0	201
2007-08	[6]188	24	0	212

[1] Of which, one was not laid as an instrument but was agreed by the House to be treated as such.
[2] Of which, nine were not laid as instruments but were agreed by the House to be treated as such.
[3] Of which, two were not laid as instruments but were agreed by the House to be treated as such.
[4] Of which, four were not laid as instruments but were agreed by the House to be treated as such.
[5] Of which, three were not laid as instruments but were agreed by the House to be treated as such.
[6] Of which, one was not laid as an instrument but was agreed by the House to be treated as such.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Hillsborough Castle

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what events he plans to host at Hillsborough Castle in 2009; and at what estimated cost. [257260]

Mr. Woodward: Each year I host events (including the annual Royal Garden Party) at Hillsborough to acknowledge the significant contribution a wide range of people make to life in Northern Ireland and beyond. These as usual include representatives from the voluntary

and business sectors, the police and armed forces. Each year the Northern Ireland Office publishes a list of receptions held and the overall costs of those events.

WALES

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many public consultations his Department has carried out in the last 12 months; for how long each consultation was open; how many responses were received to each consultation; and what the cost was of conducting each consultation. [259730]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff in his Department were recorded as having been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December in each of the last five years. [257761]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Records for sickness absence are only available from April 2004.

The Wales Office is a small Department with less than 60 staff and therefore has had a very small number of staff on long term sick. In line with Cabinet Office guidance, we are unable to answer this question figuratively. This is in order to protect the privacy of individuals.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proposals he has to link schemes with environmental benefits to the single farm payment. [253899]

Jane Kennedy: The existing link between Single Payment Scheme (SPS) and environmental standards is provided by the requirements set under cross compliance. These standards are also a condition of entry to environmental stewardship which rewards farmers for additional positive management of the farmed environment under the rural development programme in England.

The Common Agriculture Policy 'Health Check' decision in November 2008 abolished the set-aside mechanism from January 2009. The UK supported this action on the condition that adequate measures were put in place to mitigate adverse environmental consequences. We were successful in achieving a new legal basis which allows member states to use cross compliance for this purpose.

Within this context, the Secretary of State asked Sir Don Curry to bring together key stakeholders to consider the impact of the loss of set-aside including investigating mitigation. Sir Don reported last July, since when we have been considering the details of how mitigation might be put into practice. We expect to be in a position to consult on possible mitigation measures shortly.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which UK producer organisations have been funded from EU budget line 05 02 08 03 in 2008; and how much has been awarded to each. [256100]

Jane Kennedy: Details of which UK producer organisations have been funded from EU budget line 05 02 08 03, and how much they have been awarded, are provided in the following table:

UK producer organisation	£
Abb Marketing Ltd.	111,911.52
Abbey View Producer Organisation Ltd.	250,500.00
Anglian Pea Growers Ltd.	186,579.83
Angus Growers Ltd.	708,335.73
ASA Peas Marketing Ltd.	-6,773.17
Aylsham Growers Ltd.	33,657.60
Berry Growers Ltd.	16,991.23
Britannia Salads P.O Ltd.	68,252.14
Checkers '83 Ltd.	2,354.69
Cottage Mushrooms Ltd.	246,679.16
East of Scotland Growers Ltd.	268,286.95
Fen Peas Ltd.	43,136.23
Fieldfresh Ltd.	13,032.64
Foxash Growers Ltd.	404,837.79
Fresh Growers Ltd.	406,147.31
Fruition PO Ltd.	1,186,619.38
Fruitlink (Wisbech) Ltd.	150,754.34
Glass Field & Pack Ltd.	401,944.94
Global Salads Ltd.	8,286.88
Green Produce P O Ltd.	430,988.72
Greenshoots Ltd.	728,926.74
Greenvale Fruit Packers Ltd.	21,239.08
Growco Producer Organisation	124,503.39
Growvale Ltd.	111,620.28
G's Growers Ltd.	2,908,857.66
Holbeach Marsh Co-Operative Ltd.	90,194.21
Humber Growers Ltd.	95,662.72
Humber Pea Growers Ltd.	1,504.43
KG Growers Ltd.	3,170,052.01
Linfresh Foods Ltd.	57,237.22
Mid Kent Growers Ltd.	346,507.57
Mockbeggar Ltd.	526,332.55
Northern Mushrooms Ltd.	789,768.98
Northway Mushrooms Ltd.	365,598.48
Ormskirk Growers Ltd.	37,121.04
Plantsman Ardleigh Storage Ltd.	34,677.33
Red Star Growers Ltd.	148,101.52
S G T Ltd.	239,719.08
Scottish Borders Produce Ltd.	54,460.70
Sherwood Produce Ltd.	341,310.93
Snaith Salad Growers Ltd.	51,174.80
South Devon Organic Producers Ltd.	71,088.33
South Eastern Produce Ltd.	230,056.72
Springhill Farms (Pershore) Ltd.	380,977.30
Stemgold Peas Ltd.	56,066.87
Suffolk Produce Ltd.	187,665.47
Swaythorpe Growers Ltd.	76,309.13
The Asplins Producer Organisation Ltd.	667,941.55
The Berryworld Producer Organisation Ltd.	1,943,996.51
The Greenpea Company Ltd.	435,486.95
The Organic Mushroom Company Ltd.	395,869.17

UK producer organisation	*£*
United Mushroom Producers Organisation Ltd.	175,662.90
Waveney Mushrooms Ltd.	148,941.28
Well-Pict European Growers Ltd.	-3,705.29
West Fen Peas Ltd.	33,562.52
Wight Salads (Producer Organisation) Ltd.	371,748.65
Wrangle Growers Ltd.	98,928.47
Wye Fruit Ltd.	153,996.64
Total	20,601,687.80

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expenditure is funded under EU budget line 05 02 08 10, Free Distribution of Fruits and Vegetables; which UK bodies received support under this line in 2008; and whether disbursements have been made from this budget line to *(a)* political bodies and *(b)* trades unions. [256137]

Jane Kennedy: There has been no expenditure funded under EU budget line 05 02 08 10 in 2008.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much late payment compensation has been paid under the Single Farm Payment scheme since its establishment; and what guidance his Department provides to farmers on the procedure for claiming such compensation. [259453]

Jane Kennedy: £3.6 million late compensation has been paid under the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) since its establishment to end January 2009.

This has been in the form of interest payments made to farmers who have received their full SPS payment after the 30 June closing date of the regulatory payment window for the 2005, 2006 and 2007 scheme years. The payments have been made under conditions set out by the Secretary of State, which are published on the Rural Payments Agency's (RPA) website.

For the three scheme years to date, interest is paid at the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) plus 1 per cent., calculated from 1 July, subject to a minimum interest payment level of £50.

It is not necessary for farmers to claim interest as RPA makes interest payments once each final payment is made to the farmer for that scheme year, including payments made where entitlement adjustments have been completed.

Batteries: Waste Disposal

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effects on the environment of the disposal of batteries. [259329]

Jane Kennedy: Disposing of portable batteries and accumulators can have a detrimental impact on the environment and on public and animal health. Some batteries contain hazardous substances such as cadmium, mercury and lead. Batteries disposed of incorrectly can lead to such heavy metals leaking into the ground, causing soil and water pollution and endangering wildlife

Further impacts may arise indirectly from the disposal of batteries, as they contain a range of metals that can be re-used. Disposing of such materials in landfill means that more resources have to be used to mine new metals.

The UK is currently transposing the EU Directive on Batteries and Accumulators, which aims to reduce the negative environmental impact of waste portable batteries. This includes regulations that ban chemicals such as mercury and cadmium (above trace levels) in new batteries. In addition, the UK is working to implement the directive's requirements that we collect and recycle 25 per cent. of portable batteries by 2012 and 45 per cent. by 2016, which will dramatically reduce the amount going to landfill.

Compost

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many in-vessel composting sites have been licensed by the Environment Agency in each region of England. [258196]

Jane Kennedy: The following table indicates the number of in-vessel and windrow composting sites that are licensed in each Environment Agency region to date. Prior to standard permits being introduced, the Environment Agency's permit recording system did not distinguish between in-vessel and windrow composting and it would therefore incur disproportionate cost to collate figures for in-vessel alone.

	Number
Anglian	51
Midlands	40
North East	21
North West	22
Southern	26
South West	18
Thames	29
Wales	10

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* public health and *(b)* environmental effects of fortnightly waste collections; and if he will make a statement. [257065]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* In order to help local authorities make informed decisions on waste management, DEFRA funded an independent research study (carried out by Enviros Consulting and Cranfield University) which looked into the environmental and health impacts of waste management, looking in particular at municipal solid waste. The report was published in 2004 and is available on the DEFRA website at this address:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/research/health/

Food

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the value of food *(a)* spoiled and *(b)* disposed of in each of the last six years. [257430]

Jane Kennedy: Data are not available for the value of food spoiled and disposed of in each of the last six years.

However, WRAP undertook research in 2007 to quantify the amounts and types of household food waste produced in the UK.

According to research conducted in 2007, the estimated total annual cost of household food waste (avoidable and unavoidable) is £14.4 billion per year. The estimated annual cost of avoidable household food waste is £10.2 billion.

Foot and Mouth Disease

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what legal costs were incurred by his Department in relation to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in *(a)* 2001 and *(b)* 2007. [257429]

Jane Kennedy: The resources needed to obtain the information in relation to the legal cost incurred by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, following the Foot and Mouth Disease Outbreak in 2001, would be disproportionate and over the £750 threshold.

The legal cost incurred by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, so far, following the Foot and Mouth Disease Outbreak 2007 is £27,030.05.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* lowest, *(b)* highest, *(c)* median and *(d)* mean monetary value of compensation claims awarded following the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in 2007 was. [257435]

Jane Kennedy: The monetary value of compensation awarded as a result of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in 2007 is as follows:

	£
Lowest	75
Highest	94,500
Median	41,714
Mean	21,453

The compensation payable in such circumstances is set out in section 31(c) and in schedule 3, paragraph 3(5) of the Animal Health Act 1981. These provide that Government must pay compensation at the value of the animals immediately before they became infected or were killed. Each animal was assessed by an independent valuer or official veterinarian prior to being culled and this valuation formed the basis of the compensation paid to the owner. Some businesses will have received more than one award.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Aid Scheme

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's policy is on encouraging applications by growers to be recognised as producer organisations for the purposes of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Aid Scheme. [252580]

Jane Kennedy: The rural payments agency (RPA) publish comprehensive guidance about the scheme on their website, including information for prospective applicants. DEFRA, in conjunction with the devolved administrations and with the industry itself, has drawn up a national strategy in order to provide detailed advice that producer organisations (POs) can adopt with the aim of developing their businesses and gaining funding under the scheme. One of its aims is that this advice will encourage more growers to seek recognition under the scheme, either as new POs or as new members of existing ones. More generally, it is one of DEFRA's aims to encourage greater collaboration across the food chain. We have commissioned English Farming and Food Partnerships to undertake work to promote awareness and interest in the scheme with a view to encouraging greater uptake.

Fuels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has made an assessment of the potential use of used cooking oil as a secondary fuel for use in static generator engines. [258232]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has made funding available to enable the Environment Agency to develop an end-of-waste protocol for waste cooking oil. Waste cooking oil which is treated to the standards set out in the protocol is accepted by the Agency to have been fully recovered and to have ceased to be waste. However this protocol only applies to biodiesel for use in automotive engines.

Landfill

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his estimate is of the amount of food waste that goes to landfill each year. [258004]

Jane Kennedy: The DEFRA-funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) does not have data for the total amount of food waste that goes to landfill every year.

However, WRAP undertook research in 2007 to quantify the amounts and types of household food waste produced in the UK. According to its report, "The Food We Waste", UK households waste 6.7 million tonnes of food every year: around one third of the 21.7 million tonnes we purchase.

Meat: Imports

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what legislation governs levels of hormones in meat imported into the UK. [257801]

Jane Kennedy: EU Council Directive 96/23 lays down measures to monitor certain substances and residues in animals and animal products. In terms of import controls this is implemented in England through the Products of Animal Origin Regulations (Third Country Imports) (England) 2006. The devolved Authorities have their versions of the Products of Animal Origin Regulations.

Metals: Recycling

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of (*a*) the number of metal recycling sites affected by proposals to remove their exemptions from full environmental permitting, (*b*) the number of such sites which will (i) incur additional costs and (ii) risk closure under the proposals and (*c*) the cost to each site of obtaining the necessary planning approvals for their operations under the proposals. [257395]

Jane Kennedy: In England and Wales there are currently 1,893 sites operating under the existing exemption from environmental permitting which applies to the recovery of scrap metal or the dismantling of motor vehicles.

Under the proposed amendments to the exemptions from environmental permitting which the Department put out for consultation last year, and using best available information, it is estimated that about one third of scrap metal sites which are currently exempt might need to apply for an environmental permit. No decisions have yet been taken on the outcome of the consultation process, and until the exemption thresholds are finalised, it is not possible to determine precisely how many scrap metal sites would require an environmental permit and associated planning approval in the future. Any additional costs incurred by such sites would vary, depending on the particular circumstances of each site.

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Environment Agency takes to inspect businesses engaged in scrap metal (*a*) recovery and (*b*) treatment for compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007; what steps it takes to prosecute businesses which do not comply with the regulations; and what its budget for such enforcement activity for 2008-09 is. [257396]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency's inspection regime for those scrap metal sites which require an environmental permit is determined by an Operator Pollution Risk Appraisal (OPRA), which assesses the environmental risks and hazards posed by and associated with an activity and how well they are being managed. Those scrap metal sites which qualify for an exemption from the need for an environmental permit are inspected on an annual basis.

Between April and December 2008, 97 scrap metal and end of life vehicles sites were subject to intervention by the Environment Agency including enforcement. This included shutting 78 sites down and bringing 19 sites into compliance. Sites which represent the highest environmental risk are dealt with as a matter of priority. During 2008, the Environment Agency carried out 14 prosecutions against operators treating, keeping, or storing waste illegally or breaching permit conditions involving metals and end of life vehicles only.

The Environment Agency works in partnership with the major trade associations, police forces, Home Office, DVLA, DEFRA and BERR in tackling waste crime. The agency spends about £15 million a year tackling illegal waste activity, which includes fly tipping and illegal wastes sites. It is not possible to say how much of this spend relates to scrap metal sites.

Pigmeat

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what guidance is given under the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative to purchasers of pork in the public sector on procurement of pork products bearing the quality standard mark; [255347]

(2) when he last reviewed Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative guidance on pork purchases. [255348]

Jane Kennedy: The Department continues to update and improve the guidance on pork purchases provided under the PSFPI. On 19 January 2009 we published and disseminated a notice alerting public sector bodies to the EU ban on sow stalls from 2013 and its implications for the procurement of pork and pig meat products. This can be viewed on the PSFPI website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/awareness.htm

Work is in progress to develop a model specification for the procurement of pork and bacon which will provide additional guidance on the appropriate use of quality standards for the procurement of pork products.

Recycling: Local Government

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which 10 local authorities had the (*a*) highest and (*b*) lowest rate of (i) materials recycled, (ii) waste sent to landfill and (iii) production of energy from waste in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [254805]

Jane Kennedy: The requested information is available on DEFRA's website.

Renewable Energy: Waste

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has (*a*) commissioned and (*b*) evaluated to compare the different processes used in the extraction of energy from waste; and if he will make a statement. [256052]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has commissioned the following research projects which compare different processes used in the extraction of energy from waste:

Optimising inputs and outputs from anaerobic digestion processes (WR0212, carried out by the University of Southampton)

Carbon balances and energy impacts of the management of UK waste streams (WR0602, carried out by ERM)

Emissions from waste management facilities: frameworks for assessment of data quality and research needs (WR0608, carried out by ERM)

Impact of energy from waste and recycling policy on UK GHG emissions (WR0609, carried out by ERM)

The optimisation and impacts of expanding biogas production (AC0406, led by Rothamsted Research (North Wyke site) in collaboration with the University of Exeter and AEA Technology) The project has not been completed, but has produced a report entitled "The optimisation and impacts of expanding biogas production", which is published. The final report will also be published.

Of the aforementioned, two projects are complete (WR0602, WR0609); of which WR0602 has been evaluated through a peer review.

Project reports from the completed projects have been published on the DEFRA website and reports from the ongoing projects will be published in due course.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of short-term projects set up in Afghanistan to aid reconstruction. [258639]

Mr. Michael Foster: The information requested could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Central African Republic: Overseas Aid

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding has been provided by his Department to the Central African Republic in each of the last three years; and what funding is planned in each of the next three financial years. [255308]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Details on the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral expenditure and imputed share of multilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) are contained in the DFID publication 'Statistics on International Development'. This publication is available from in the Library and online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Relevant figures are produced in the table.

The Central African Republic does not have an individual allocation for funding over the next three years, as it is part of a wider regional programme. Allocations are made according to needs, and it is at this stage too early to sub-divide the main allocation.

DFID expenditure in the Central African Republic, 2005-06 to 2007-08

£000

	DFID bilateral expenditure	*DFID imputed multilateral shares*
2005-06		2,320
2006-06	2,197	12,535
2007-08	1,134	5,816

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff were employed by his Department's Internal Audit Department in each financial year since 1997-98. [258017]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's (DFID) Internal Audit Department (IAD) employed the following numbers of staff from 2004-05 onwards:

	Number
2004-05	16
2005-06	17
2006-07	18
2007-08	15
2008-09 (to date)	17

IAD also supplements its in-house resources through using external consultants to deliver or support certain internal audit assignments.

Staff numbers are not available by Department within DFID for financial years prior to 2004-05 when a new human resources database was introduced.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make it his policy for his Department to sign the Information Commissioner's Personal Information Promise. [258945]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Government welcomed the Promise as a commendable initiative to raise awareness of the importance of effective data protection safeguards, particularly for those organisations with no similar commitments already in place.

The Government take data protection very seriously. Following the Cabinet Office Review of Data Handling Procedures in Government, Departments have implemented a raft of measures to improve data security.

The Ministry of Justice is considering actively with the ICO how the Promise might add additional value to those measures we have already signed up to. These include the Information Charters, the recommendations of the Data Handling Review and the Thomas/Walport Review and, of course, our legal obligations under the Data Protection Act and other legislation and regulations.

Zimbabwe: Cholera

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received on the operation of the UNICEF programme for distribution of potable water to the cholera-affected areas of Zimbabwe. [258289]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) is working closely with UNICEF and the World Health Organisation to ensure potable water reaches those in need. Our support includes: help to establish a cholera command and control centre (to co-ordinate the response); distribution of cholera response kits; provision of potable water in affected areas; and essential medicines and other vital support to health systems.

Distribution of potable water has been arranged in three ways: by fixing infrastructure and bringing in chemicals; through drilling of local boreholes; and ultimately by trucking in daily supplies where immediate needs can only be met this way. Indications are that where such measures have been instigated they have made a significant contribution to reducing the worst effects of the cholera outbreak.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bed-and-Breakfast Accommodation: Young People

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many children under 16 years are living in bed-and-breakfast accommodation; and what steps are being taken to reduce that number. [258158]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Information on the number of dependent children (and expected children) in bed-and-breakfast style temporary accommodation (i.e. bed-and-breakfast hotels and other privately managed shared facility annexes) is reported quarterly by local authorities as at the last day of each quarter. This figure includes all children under 16 years old, and dependent children aged 16 to 18. On the 30 September 2008, there were an estimated 1,570 dependent children in bed-and-breakfast style temporary accommodation.

We have taken action to tackle the worst aspects of temporary accommodation use—families with children who were placed in cramped bed-and-breakfast accommodation for long periods of time. The effect of the Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (England) Order 2003, which came into force on 1 April 2004, is that local authorities are no longer able to discharge their homelessness duty to secure suitable accommodation by placing households that include children or a pregnant woman in bed-and-breakfast accommodation except as a last resort and then for no longer than six weeks.

Furthermore, in 2005, we announced a target of reducing the number of households in temporary accommodation under the homelessness legislation. Following 12 consecutive quarters of decreases, the figure had fallen to 72,130 by the end of September 2008, and around 40 per cent. of local authorities have already met the target to halve the number of households in temporary accommodation by 2010.

We have provided over £200 million of homelessness funding to local authorities and the voluntary sector, to help them carry out this work.

Community Relations: Religion

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the Local Authority Guidance on including humanists and non-religious people in local authority religion and belief equality work produced by the Community Development Foundation. [259637]

Mr. Khan: Although some of the Community Development Foundation's published resources mention non-religious groups in the cohesion or equality context, it has not produced any publication specifically on the inclusion of humanists and non-religious people in local authority religion and belief equality work.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy for her Department to sign the Information Commissioner's Personal Information Promise. [258949]

Mr. Khan: The Government welcome the Promise as a commendable initiative to raise awareness of the importance of effective data protection safeguards, particularly for those organisations with no similar commitments already in place.

The Government take data protection very seriously. Following the Cabinet Office Review of Data Handling Procedures in Government, Departments have implemented a raft of measures to improve data security.

The Ministry of Justice is considering actively with the ICO how the Promise might add additional value to those measures Departments have already signed up to. These include the Information Charters, the recommendations of the Data Handling Review and the Thomas/Walport Review and, of course, our legal obligations under the Data Protection Act and other legislation and regulations.

Eco-Towns

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has spent on *(a)* publicity, *(b)* public consultation and *(c)* legal costs on eco-town policy since 23 July 2007, identifying separately in each case expenditure on (i) consultants, (ii) support for non-governmental organisations and (iii) consultation materials and exhibitions. [259164]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 108W. This sets out details of spending on the eco-towns programme, including publicity, public consultation and consultant costs.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will estimate the amount of time spent by officials in her Department on the eco-town project since the publication of the eco-town prospectus on 23 July 2007; and how many officials in her Department are currently working on the project. [259165]

Margaret Beckett: In common with the normal practice of the Department, we do not keep a record of time spent on specific policies and projects, so it is not possible to provide an estimate of official time spent on the eco-towns project since 23 July 2007. Currently nine officials are part of the eco-towns team, but there are also a number of other officials across the Department that contribute to the project, including those working in the areas of planning and climate change.

Eco-towns: Middle Quinton

Mr. Maples: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will publish the PricewaterhouseCoopers interim financial viability study of the proposed Middle Quinton eco-town. [257080]

Margaret Beckett: The viability study prepared for us by PricewaterhouseCoopers on the eco-town proposal for Middle Quinton will be published shortly, alongside studies for other eco-town proposals.

Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisations other than faith-based groups received grants under Round *(a)* one and *(b)* two of the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund programme; and how much each such organisation received. [259653]

Mr. Khan: The following table shows the non-faith based groups that received funding in the two rounds of the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund programme. These groups all received funding to assist them with work to build relationships with and between faith communities.

Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund: Funded non-faith based organisations

Organisation	*Amount awarded (£)*
Round 1	
African Support and Project Centre (ASPC)	4,900.00
Asian Virsa	5,000.00
Aylesbury Centre for Therapy (ACT) — The Lorrimore	4,940.00
Birmingham Ex-Offenders Service Team (BEST)	5,000.00
Blackburn with Darwen Education Development Trust	5,000.00
Bluestreak Arts	5,000.00
Broxtowe Community Celebration Group (BCCG)	4,740.00
BTWSC	5,000.00
Caravan-e-Adab	3,000.00
Centre for Bangladeshi Community Studies (CBCS)	36,120.00
Chaturangan	5,000.00
Craven Voluntary Action	4,050.00
Credits 4 You — (C4U)	4,845.00
Darwen Central Community Association	4,350.00
Faith in the Future Ltd.	4,530.00
Flash Musicals	5,000.00
Foleshill Women's Training	5,000.00
Freightliners Farm Ltd.	25,569.00
Friends of Herd Farm	5,000.00
Global Arts Kingston	4,200.00
Harrow Association of Voluntary Service	16,143.00
Hewa Bora Community Development (HB-CODE)	2,568.77
Hyndburn Cultural Association	33,354.00
Hyndburn Women's Forum	4,595.00
Indo-British Association (North)	5,000.00
Inside Track Regeneration Ltd.	5,000.00
Kala Sangam	15,000.00
Kalapremi (UK)	4,785.00
Keighley Asian Women and Children's Centre	25,933.00
Lincoln Area Regeneration Group (LARG)	3,397.00
Living History North East	30,000.00
London Tigers	5,000.00
Merton Voluntary Services Council	1,450.00
Milton Community Partnership (MCP)	4,000.00
Newcastle Bangladesh Association	4,000.00
Newham Voluntary Sector Consortium	27,300.00
Nomad Cultural Forum	5,000.00
NuMu (New Music)	4,975.00
One to One Children's Fund	35,200.00
Q-News Media	20,000.00
Rise Phoenix	25,000.00
Rochdale Inner Area Sports For All Group	2,000.00
Rumworth Youth Support Group	5,000.00
Sandycroft Centre	4,996.00
Savile Town Young Women's Network	4,840.00
Sceptre International Trust	4,830.00
Southern Brooks Community Partnership	5,000.00
SPLASH (South Poplar and Limehouse Action for Secure Housing)	35,000.00
St. Hilda's East Community Centre (Faiths United)	21,827.00
The Lancashire Partnership Against Crime	4,400.00
Tinsley Parents and Children's Consortium	4,834.00
Voluntary Action Leicester	4,950.00
Weston Spirit	2,500.00
Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum (WAMCF)	30,000.00
YASY (Youth Association South Yorkshire)	5,000.00
Round 2	
AAINA Asian Women's Group	11,500.00
Aik Saath	12,981.00
Al-Haqq Supplementary School	5,000.00
Asian Virsa	3,500.00
ATL (Yorkshire) Ltd.	15,000.00
Awaz Utaoh	28,250.00
Barnet Voluntary Service Council	3,600.00
BUCA (Burkina Community Association)	5,000.00
Citizenship Foundation	24,608.00
De Montfort Students' Union	18,900.00
Echo of Afrika (EOA)	4,343.58
Ethnic Minorities Advocacy Group (EMAG)	2,300.00
Face	2,100.00
Finsbury Park Homeless Families Project	5,000.00
Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minority Support Group	5,000.00

Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund: Funded non-faith based organisations

Organisation	*Amount awarded (£)*
Global Generation	15,322.00
Greater London Domestic Violence Project (part of London Action Trust)	21,660.00
Halesowen Asian Elderly Association	2,000.00
Hanley Crouch Community Association	4,917.00
Henna Asian Women's Group	5,000.00
Hewabora Community Development (HB-CODE)	4,230.00
Indian Union, Oxford	5,000.00
Lambeth Congolese Community (LACOCO)	5,000.00
Leicester Rajkot Twinning Association	3,850.00
Minorities of Europe ("MoE")	16,000.00
NCBI Leicestershire (National Coalition Building Institute)	5,000.00
OFFER (Open Forum for Economic Regeneration)	21,396.00
One World Week	28,625.00
PLIAS Resettlement	4,550.00
Pulling Together—Young Asian Women's Group	4,185.00
Race Equality Action Lewisham	19,970.00
RAIS Academy	4,500.00
Religions for Peace (UK)	29,930.00
Robin Hood Millennium Green Trust (RHMGT)	4,990.00
Rotherham Ethnic Minority Alliance (REMA)	17,250.00
South Craven Community Action	26,181.00
St. John's Wood Adventure Playground	4,650.00
Tameside Third Sector Coalition (T3SC)	29,680.00
The Art House	4,990.00
The National Youth Agency	29,480.00
The Open Centre	20,320.00
The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Trust	25,000.00
Three Faiths Forum	30,000.00
Torbay Voluntary Service	2,000.00
Toynbee Hall	17,287.00
Tyneside Cinema	29,980.00
Victoria Centre	15,000.00
Voice of Aston	15,275.00
Warwick District Faiths Forum (WDFF)	5,000.00
Women Connect First	12,000.00
Youth Association South Yorkshire (known as YASY)	20,000.00

Fire Services: Medals

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration her Department has given to provision of funding for the award of fire brigade long service medals; and if she will make a statement. [258824]

Mr. Khan: The Department already provides full funding for the award of Fire Brigade long service and good conduct medals through the Office of the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser, located within Communities and Local Government.

Government Offices for the Regions: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant property recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by the Government Offices for the Regions at *(a)* the Belgrave Centre, *(b)* the Westbrook Centre, *(c)* Riverwalk House, *(d)* 2 Rivergate, *(e)* Mast House and *(f)* Paradise Circus 77 is in 2008-09. [258537]

Mr. Khan: The property business rates for vacant space for the requested buildings as recorded on e-PIMS is as follows:

	£
Belgrave Centre	14,550
Westbrook Centre	14,985
Riverwalk House	125,509
Rivergate	25,447
Mast House	16,761
Paradise Circus	72,815

Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which banks and building societies are participating in the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme. [258675]

Margaret Beckett: The eight largest lenders covering 70 per cent. of the mortgage market—HBOS, Nationwide, Abbey, Lloyds TSB, Northern Rock, Barclays, RBS, HSBC—have agreed in principle to support the new scheme. We are now working with a wider group of lenders to finalise the scheme implementation plans and agree the draft Master Guarantee. All lenders will be invited to sign-up to the scheme in due course. RBS have confirmed that they will actively participate in the scheme once details are finalised.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme to begin. [258676]

Margaret Beckett: We expect the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme to be open for business with the first lenders in April now that the Banking Act, which is the legislative vehicle we have used to enable us to do this, has gained Royal Assent. The draft Master Guarantee is currently with lenders.

Lobbying

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1697-98W, on Lord Truscott, what information was given to Lord Taylor by her Department following his request for information on Newark as a growth point and related planning cases. [259460]

Mr. Khan: Baroness Andrews wrote to Lord Taylor in July 2008, giving him a factual update on recent planning proposals and growth point funding for Newark on

Trent. All the information was in the public domain. She also informed him that the Government office for the east midlands had been asked to comment on an "Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report" for a proposed urban extension to the south of Newark, but had declined to comment—as to have done otherwise might have been seen to have prejudiced the Secretary of State's quasi-judicial role in the event that an application is referred to her for a decision in the future.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeowners are currently in receipt of assistance under the Homeowner Mortgage Protection Scheme. [256188]

Margaret Beckett: On 3 December 2008, the Prime Minister announced additional support for homeowners facing financial difficulties through a new homeowners mortgage support scheme.

It became clear that legislative change was required. This was secured on 12 February when the Banking Bill received Royal Assent.

I wrote to lenders detailing the proposed key elements of the scheme in December. This letter is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/homeownersmortgagesupport

We are now working urgently with lenders and debt advisers to confirm the final design and implementation details, and to open the scheme for borrowers in spring 2009.

Ordnance Survey: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by Ordnance Survey is in 2008-09. [258536]

Mr. Khan: Ordnance Survey has had no vacant property qualifying for empty property business rates during 2008-09. Ordnance Survey has some space within one building which has been vacant since 2007, and for which it is actively seeking a tenant. £21,111.72 has been paid in unified business rates on this space during 2008-09.

Peter Housden

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to pages 22-3 of her Department's Resource Accounts 2007-08, for what reason Mr. Peter Housden receives an interest-free housing loan; and for how many years he has received such a loan from her Department and its predecessor. [259578]

Mr. Khan: The loan was provided in 2002 when Mr. Housden worked for the DFES as part of a relocation package from Nottingham to London—the loan transferred to Communities and Local Government when Mr. Housden was appointed as permanent secretary on 24 October 2005. Packages of this kind are commonplace in many major organisations and are a key part of recruiting the very best candidates. The loan is counted as taxable income and is being paid back over a 10 year period. Rules governing loans are detailed in the Civil Service Code.

Refuges: Domestic Violence

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the findings of the report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, Map of Gaps: The Postcode Lottery of Violence Against Women Support Services, on the provision of refuges by local authorities for victims of domestic violence. [257409]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have taken note of the report and continue to recognise the important role refuges can play in helping the victims of domestic abuse. We also recognise that there is a range of support for those victims; some will be accommodated in refuges, but sanctuary schemes and mainstream local authority accommodation may be an option for others, while some victims will pursue independent solutions with help and advice from support schemes as necessary.

However it is for individual local authorities to identify any gaps in service provision and put in place appropriate solutions to address this. We would expect local authorities to build services based on the needs of their communities, taking account of locally available data sources.

The Department have recently commissioned new research that will identify the current housing options available to households at risk of domestic violence, and to assess whether this provision meets current need. It will involve establishing the extent and type of temporary and settled accommodation available for households at risk of domestic violence in England, including the provision of housing related support services delivered to both temporary and settled accommodation, and to households' own homes.

In 2003 the Government announced major investment in refuge provision in England in 2003-06. A total of £34 million capital was allocated and 511 units of accommodation were refurbished or newly built. More recently the Hostels Capital Improvement Programme (2005-07) funded six new and refurbished refuges at a cost of £4 million.

CLG provides essential revenue support for victims of domestic violence through the Supporting People Programme.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make an assessment of the *(a)* geographical distribution, *(b)* quality and *(c)* effectiveness of (i) refuges for victims of domestic violence and (ii) services for victims of rape in England; and if she will make a statement. [259603]

Mr. Khan: There is a range of support for survivors of domestic abuse. The homelessness legislation provides a safety net for survivors and some will be accommodated in refuges, but Sanctuary Schemes and mainstream local authority accommodation may be an option for

others, while some survivors will pursue independent solutions with help and advice from support schemes as necessary.

The Department has recently commissioned new research that will identify the current housing options available to households at risk of domestic abuse, and to assess whether this provision meets current need across England. It will involve establishing the extent and type of temporary and settled accommodation (including refuges) available for households who have experienced or are at risk of domestic abuse in England, including the provision of housing related support services.

The Quality Assessment Framework (QAF) was introduced in 2003 and sets out the standards expected in the delivery of housing-related support services, including domestic abuse refuges (funded through the Supporting People programme). Its purpose is to drive up quality standards across the sector and to ensure that services evolve to meet the changing needs and aspirations of clients.

The QAF has been one of the major successes of the Supporting People programme. The majority of administering authorities continue to use the QAF today and there is also evidence that other areas across authorities, such as adult social care, are also adopting the QAF as the standard tool to measure the quality of services being delivered.

A national Supporting People Outcomes Framework was launched in summer 2007. The framework monitors the outcomes delivered by housing-related support services, including domestic abuse refuges, across England for a wide range of client groups.

The Government are rolling out sexual assault referral centres (SARCs) and independent sexual violence advisers (ISVAs) across the country to support victims of rape. There are currently 27 SARCs and distribution is recorded by the Home Office. The Home Secretary has made a commitment to have one in each police force area by 2011. A method of assessing quality and effectiveness is currently being developed by the Department of Health. There are currently 36 ISVAs and there is a Government commitment to ensure all victims have access to an ISVA by 2011. Distribution of ISVAs is recorded by the Home Office and quality and effectiveness is currently assessed by regional Government offices.

Central Government do not collect information in respect of voluntary sector services for victims of rape.

Sheffield House: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant property recorded on the e-PIMS database of *(a)* Sheffield House, *(b)* Hempstead House and *(c)* the Community Development Foundation is in 2008-09. [258538]

Mr. Khan: The cost in business rates of the 1st floor Sheffield house being vacant during 2008-09 was £17,209.50. The estimated cost of business rates for the ground floor of Hempstead house being vacant was £14,823.

The Community Development Foundation property referred to is not vacant.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date he plans to inform Parliament of the findings and implications of his Department's periodic review of Afghanistan strategy for 2008; and what form he expects this presentation to take. [256065]

David Miliband: Officials are preparing to publish shortly a paper outlining progress made in Afghanistan to date and the challenges we face going forward on the basis of the stocktake completed in December 2008. Parliament will be informed as soon the paper is ready. A copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the appointment of a new High Representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [253960]

David Miliband: This issue was discussed at the 26 January 2009 and 23 February 2009 at the General Affairs and External Relations Council in Brussels. Officials have also discussed the appointment with Peace Implementation Council partners.

The international community needs to find a credible successor to Miroslav Lajcak who can continue to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina in moving away from ethnic divisions towards a better future for all its citizens.

China: Family Planning

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the government of China on trends in China's population since July 2008; and if he will make a statement. [259013]

Caroline Flint: No discussions have taken place between the UK and the Chinese government on trends in China's population since July 2008.

Conflict Resolution

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which dates the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Conflict Resolution Mechanisms has visited *(a)* the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and *(b)* 10 Downing Street; and what the purpose was of each visit. [256829]

Bill Rammell: *[holding answer 12 February 2009]*: The right hon. Jack McConnell MSP, the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Conflict Resolution Mechanisms is based in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He met officials from the European Council, European Commission and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation on 9-10 December 2008 in Brussels and from the UN on 15-16 December 2008 in New York. Mr McConnell also met EU officials on 2-3 February 2009 in Bosnia. He plans to meet officials from the African Union shortly.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the government of *(a)* the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and *(b)* Rwanda regarding the joint military operation involving their two countries in the East of the DRC; and if he will make a statement. [255053]

Gillian Merron: British officials have met senior representatives of the governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda recently to discuss the ongoing military operations in eastern DRC. We have made clear our support for improved co-operation between the governments, and urged greater involvement by the UN in planning military action to ensure civilian protection is in place and human rights are upheld. The presence of the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR) militia is one of the fundamental causes of the instability in DRC. We welcome the commitment of the governments of DRC and Rwanda to addressing this.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to help strengthen the MONUC force in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [257352]

Caroline Flint: We fully support UN efforts to strengthen its peacekeeping Mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC). The UK was a co-sponsor of UN Security Council Resolution 1843, which allowed MONUC's strength to be increased by over 3,000.

Since the adoption of that Resolution, we have lobbied potential troop contributing countries and led calls for the reinforcement to take place as soon as possible. The UK has identified ways in which it could lend support to MONUC, including through secondment of a small number of appropriately skilled individuals to fill key vacant posts on the MONUC staff, including the post of Deputy Force Commander.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails received by his Department had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244705]

Caroline Flint: Only correspondence received by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministerial Support Unit (MSU) is logged centrally. To ask every department or overseas post within the FCO how many letters and e-mails had not been responded to by a particular date would incur a disproportionate cost.

MSU records are maintained on a rolling basis so it is not possible to identify how many pieces of correspondence had not been responded to as of 15 December 2008. Furthermore, we do not differentiate between types of correspondence so are unable to break down our response into the number of letters or e-mails we receive. However, I can confirm that, in-line with Cabinet Office guidance, of the 10,334 letters received from hon. Members in 2008, 87 per cent. were answered within 20 working days and of the 73,048 letters received from members of the public, 91 per cent. were answered within 20 working days.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how long on average it took his Department to send a substantive response to correspondence from members of the public in the latest period for which figures are available. [255589]

Caroline Flint: Only correspondence received by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) ministerial support unit (MSU) is logged centrally. To ask every Department or overseas post within the FCO how long on average it takes to issue a substantive response to correspondence from members of the public would incur a disproportionate cost.

MSU records do not allow us to identify the average length of time taken to substantively reply to correspondence from members of the public. However, I can confirm that of the 73,048 letters received from members of the public, 91 per cent. were answered within 20 working days.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of staff are employed to deal with requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in his Department. [255498]

Caroline Flint: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has 10 staff in its information rights team who are responsible for managing freedom of information and subject access requests under the Freedom of Information and Data Protection Acts respectively. However, a large number of staff in the FCO play a role in answering freedom of information requests and to find out exactly how many would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in the last three years. [243736]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally, and to provide it would incur a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to advise staff of pension options available to them in relation to added years or additional voluntary contributions. [253273]

Caroline Flint: Our aim is that members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme receive an annual benefit statement showing the pension built up to date, and also a projection of their pension on retirement if they

continue in service to scheme pension age. The benefit statement prompts the member to consider boosting their pension and provides details of the civil service pensions website where staff can obtain further information, including options for making additional voluntary contributions and a calculator to work out costs for added pension (previously added years).

For technical reasons 2009 will be the first year we issue benefits statements to all scheme members.

New entrants are informed of pension options in the employment offer and are provided with a pension information pack.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which of the public appointments for which his Department is responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restriction, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records his Department keeps in respect of such appointments. [254239]

Caroline Flint: Information on the public appointments for which the Department is responsible is published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/what-we-do/building-strong-relationships-ol/stakeholder-groups/non-dept-public-bodies/

Vacancies may be advertised on the Cabinet Office Public Appointments website at:

www.publicappointments.gov.uk

The process for making a public appointment, including guidance on political activity and eligibility criteria, follows the Cabinet Office publication "Making and Managing Public Appointments". For appointments regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the appointments process also complies with the "Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies". Copies are in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 75W, on departmental public expenditure, what his Department's forecast *(a)* net euro and *(b)* net US dollar exposure for the financial years (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09 was; and what revisions were made to those forecasts in light of foreign exchange movements. [243846]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) forecasted net euro and net US dollar exposure as follows:

(i) The FCO's net euro and US dollar exposure in 2007-08 was:

(a) Euro: €274 million

(b) US dollar: $917 million.

During this year all foreign currency requirements were met through making separate "spot" deals for each individual invoice, subscription payment or funds transfer to cover running costs at overseas posts. Variations from budget estimates caused by exchange rate fluctuations were compensated by the Treasury's Overseas Price Movements mechanism, and no central forecast of foreign currency requirements was made.

(ii) The forecast net euro and US dollar exposure for 2008-09 was:

(a) Euro: €180 million

(b) US dollars: $767 million.

This comprised our commitments for subscriptions to international organisations and UN peacekeeping missions and overseas posts' estimates of the sums required for their running and other costs given at the beginning of the financial year.

Following approval from HM Treasury to forward purchase this exposure, contracts were placed with the Bank of England for the period July 2008 to March 2009. We agreed these would be limited to 80 per cent. of the total, in recognition of the possibilities that estimates might not be completely accurate, and/or that due to the weakness of sterling, the full amounts might not be affordable.

In total, the following amounts were forward purchased for the period July 2008 to March 2009:

(a) Euro: €102 million

(b) US dollars: $559 million.

In the light of exchange rate movements, the budgets for 2008-09 needed to be revised as follows:

(a) HM Treasury were asked for an additional £5 million towards International Subscriptions.

(b) We identified that across all currencies a further £90 million would be needed by budget holders from within the FCO's own resources in order to maintain the purchasing power for overseas posts and pay additional peacekeeping costs.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of foreign exchange movements on subscriptions to international organisations paid through his Department's budget. [243941]

David Miliband: The information requested is as follows:

Subscriptions to each international organisation in 2007-08

Subscription	*£000*
UN regular budget and other UN contributions	72,382
Council of Europe	19,620
North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)	20,962
Organisation for economic cooperation and development (OECD)	12,826
Commonwealth secretariat	3,435
Organisation for security cooperation in Europe (OSCE)	3,223
Western European union/others	2,215
Total	34,663

Source:
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Resource Accounts 2007-08.

(a) Subscriptions to each international organisation in 2008-09

Subscription	*£000*
UN regular budget and other UN contributions	73,507
Council of Europe	23,938
NATO	20,870
OECD	14,290
Commonwealth secretariat	4,343
OSCE	3,745

(a) Subscriptions to each international organisation in 2008-09

Subscription	£000
Western European Union/others	2,040
Total	142,733

Source:
FCO Supplementary Estimates 2008-09, 27 January 2009

(b) Subscriptions to each international organisation in 2009-10

The projected costs for 2009-10 are around £146 millions but are uncertain. In negotiating with international organisations as they set their budgets for 2009-10, the FCO will endeavour to limit budget increases to zero real growth. The fall in the value of the Sterling will have an impact on subscriptions paid in US Dollars and Euros. The FCO shares the burden of exchange rate movements on international subscriptions with the Treasury under the arrangement whereby HM Treasury funds 60 per cent. of any increase above a baseline of £102 million. Our foreign currency forward purchase contracts do include an element for our international subscription costs intended to help offset any further falls in the value of the Sterling.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total cost to his Department was of subscriptions to international organisations in 2007-08; what the cost was with regard to each international institution; and what the total cost is projected to be in 2008-09. [243942]

David Miliband: The information requested is as follows:

Subscriptions to each international organisation in 2007-08

Subscription	£000
UN regular budget and other UN contributions	72,382
Council of Europe	19,620
North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)	20,962
Organisation for economic cooperation and development (OECD)	12,826
Commonwealth secretariat	3,435
Organisation for security and cooperation in Europe (OSCE)	3,223
Western European Union/others	2,215
Total	134,663

Source:
Foreign and Commonwealth Office Resource Accounts 2007-08

(a) Subscriptions to each international organisation in 2008-09

Subscription	£000
UN regular budget and other UN contributions	73,507
Council of Europe	23,938
NATO	20,870
OECD	14,290
Commonwealth secretariat	4,343
OSCE	3,745
Western European Union/others	2,040
Total	142,733

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effect on its budget and activities in 2009-10 of the Treasury's decision to withdraw support for the overseas price mechanism. [258208]

David Miliband: We continue to operate the Overseas Price Mechanism internally to maintain the purchasing power of our overseas posts' local budgets. The decline in the value of the sterling created a potential funding pressure of £60 million in the 2008-09 financial year (as of December 2008). At current exchange rates we expect an additional pressure of up to £30 million to continue our activities at current levels in 2009-10. This does not include the pressure on international subscriptions and peacekeeping. The impact of this shortfall has been minimised through delayed activity, by making additional efficiency savings, and implementing a strategy of forward purchasing of foreign exchange.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the Cultural Audit commissioned by his Department. [258207]

David Miliband: A copy of the Cultural Audit will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* service providers under contract to his Department made of (i) 0844 and 0845 telephone numbers and (ii) revenue-sharing telephone numbers for calls from members of the public; for which services such numbers are used; what prefixes are used for revenue-sharing numbers; how much revenue has accrued from revenue-sharing numbers in each of the last five years; what consideration his Department has given to introducing 03-prefixed telephone numbers for calls to all such services; and if he will make a statement. [247342]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has a Travel Advice line (0845 850 28290). The line offers an alternative method for accessing the same travel advice available on the FCO website. In the last six months, 2,642,989 people accessed FCO Travel Advice from the website, 52,251 used the Travel Advice phone line. Calls are charged at the standard rate from a British Telecom line (up to 5p/m) and the FCO receives no financial benefit from the arrangement. We are committed to providing the best possible service to British nationals seeking advice on living and travelling abroad and as part of this ongoing process the introduction of an 03 number will be considered as part of this year's Review of Consular Services.

UKVisas became part of the UK Border Agency International on 1 April 2008. Until that time, UKVisas was part of the FCO. UKVisas did maintain a live 0870 public inquiry line, but this service is not now operational and is unlikely to be used in the future.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the Answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1794W, what the *(a)* duration and *(b)* cost was of the training he received; and which organisations supplied the training. [245793]

Caroline Flint: Since June 2007, £6,700 has been spent on training for my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on the presentation of foreign policy issues, and £85 on IT training.

Diplomatic Service

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many embassy and consular staff of each grade work in posts in *(a)* Germany, *(b)* France, *(c)* Russia, *(d)* China, *(e)* India, *(f)* Brazil and *(g)* the US. [255374]

Gillian Merron: The total number of UK civil servants currently serving at posts in these countries are as follows:

	Number
Germany	34
France	45
Russia	68
China	157
India	129
Brazil	29
United States	149

We are unable, for data protection reasons, to break the figures down by grade.

European Parliament

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times he has visited the European Parliament on official business in the last 12 months. [259538]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has visited the EU Parliament on official business once in the last 12 months, on 8 October 2008.

Falkland Islands: Air Routes

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the economic effect on the Falkland Islands of recent increases in the cost of fares on the Falkland Islands airbridge; and if he will make a statement. [257811]

Caroline Flint: The South Atlantic Air-bridge contributes to the social and economic development of the South Atlantic Overseas Territories through providing a link to Britain and the outside world, contributing to tourism, the movement of freight, and facilitating business opportunities. The Ministry of Defence has not raised the cost of fares on the South Atlantic Air-bridge since August 2008, which was in response to the global increase in the price of oil.

Gaza: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports from UNRWA Commissioner-General Karen Abu-Zayd that Israel has stopped UN staff based in Gaza from using the diplomatic pouch; and if he will make a statement. [244763]

Bill Rammell: The UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) informs us that it has suspended the diplomatic bag in and out of Gaza since mid-November 2008 after incidents in early November when officials carrying the bag were turned back from Gaza. UNRWA is following up with the Israeli authorities and has not requested our assistance.

Group of Twenty: London Summit

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many unique visitors the website www.londonsummit.gov.uk has received. [258931]

Caroline Flint: The London Summit website received 74,922 unique visitors between 29 January 2009, the day the site went live, and 23 February 2009, the day before this response was prepared.

Guantanamo Bay: Detainees

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates the US authorities acceded to his request to return Guantanamo Bay detainee Mr. Binyam Mohamed to the UK; and what form the communication of this decision took. [256380]

David Miliband: Over the last 18 months we have worked long and hard to secure Mr. Binyam Mohamed's release from Guantanamo Bay and return to the UK. After Military Commission charges against Mr. Mohamed were dropped in October 2008, we held a series of positive discussions with the US on the principle of his return.

President Obama's Executive Order of 22 January 2009 required a case-by-case assessment of all those detained at Guantanamo Bay. The new US Administration agreed to our request that Mr. Mohamed's case should be treated as a priority in this process. We concluded a written transfer arrangement for Mr. Mohamed's release and return on 20 February 2009, leading to his return to the UK on 23 February 2009.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date Mr. Binyam Mohamed is expected to return to the UK. [256448]

David Miliband: Mr. Binyam Mohamed returned to the UK on 23 February 2009 following his release from Guantanamo Bay.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the policy of the Government is in respect of the cases of *(a)* Shaker Aamer, *(b)* Ahmed Belbacha and *(c)* Farhi Saeed bin Mohammed currently detained at Guantanamo Bay. [259026]

Bill Rammell: In order to support efforts to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, the UK has sought the release and return of five individuals who had been legally resident in the UK prior to their detention.

As a result of our representations, Mr. Abdennour Sameur, Mr. Jamil el Banna, Mr. Omar Deghayes and Mr. Binyam Mohamed have been returned to the UK.

The US have so far declined to agree Mr. Shaker Aamer's return but we have made clear that our request for his release and return stands, should their position change.

We are not seeking the release and return to the UK of Mr. Ahmed Belbacha, who we do not believe was here lawfully, or Mr. Farhi Saeed bin Mohammed, who we have no record of being in the UK.

Hezbollah and Hamas

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what official contacts there have been in the last four weeks between the Government and *(a)* Hezbollah and *(b)* Hamas. [254721]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* On 9 January 2009, our ambassador in Beirut attended a meeting of British parliamentarians with the Lebanese Foreign Affairs Committee. Representatives of all main political parties in Lebanon were present, including one MP from Hezbollah's political wing. During this meeting, our ambassador stressed the importance of all sides respecting the terms of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 which established the terms of the cessation of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah in August 2006.

We do not believe it is productive to talk to Hamas directly. The Arab League has mandated Egypt to communicate with Hamas. We are in regular contact with both the Arab League and Egypt. Turkey, Syria, Qatar and others are also speaking to Hamas. The UK strongly supports intra-Palestinian reconciliation behind President Abbas which is the key for peace, stability and development.

Homecoming Scotland

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department *(a)* has given and *(b)* plans to give to the Homecoming Scotland 2009 initiative. [257762]

Gillian Merron: Following a request from my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr. Murphy), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has taken the following steps:

Details of the initiative were published automatically on all FCO English language post websites (approx 150 countries).

We asked Scotland's 10 priority-country FCO websites to create a 'feature box' on their homepage. An example is on

http://ukincanada.fco.gov.uk/en

Further website publicity for this initiative will be provided during the course of the year.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the arrest and charge of seven members of the Baha'i leadership in Iran on 11 February 2009; and if he will make a statement. [258481]

Caroline Flint: We have received several worrying reports confirming that the seven leading members of the Iranian Baha'i community have been charged with spying for Israel, "insulting religious sanctities" and "propaganda against the Islamic Republic" – charges which could carry the death penalty. We are concerned about the conditions under which they are being detained and that they have been systematically refused access to their lawyer. Reports suggest that the seven individuals are due to face trial in the coming weeks.

We are monitoring the situation closely and have called for Iran to allow independent observation of the judicial proceedings and to reconsider the charges brought against these individuals.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Iranian authorities to allow independent observers to be present at any trial of the seven members of the Baha'i leadership in Iran charged on 11 February 2009. [258482]

Caroline Flint: We have called repeatedly for the Iranian government to release the seven leading members of the Iranian Baha'i community. Having been held for so long without due process, we are concerned that they may not receive a fair trial now that they have been formally charged.

My hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Bill Rammell, issued a statement on 16 February 2009, which was backed by an EU statement on 17 February 2009, expressing our concern and calling for the Iranian government to ensure that their trial is fair and to allow independent observation of the judicial proceedings. The statement may be found at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/

We urge Iran to respect and protect its religious minorities and free all prisoners held due to their faith or religious practice.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which members of the pre-March 2003 Iraqi government have been detained by coalition forces or the Iraqi government since that time; for what period each was detained; whether each is still detained; and when charges were brought against each such detainee. [257964]

Bill Rammell: The following table shows the details requested by my hon. Friend:

Name	*Position*	*Date captured*	*Date charged*	*Case*
Ali Hassan Al Majid Abdul Khafor	Revolutionary Command Council	23 September 2003	March 2006	Anfal case. Convicted. Sentenced to death.

Name	*Position*	*Date captured*	*Date charged*	*Case*
			May 2007	1991 case. Convicted. Sentenced to death
Abd Hamid Mahmoud Al Nassiri	National Security Advisor Presidential Secretary	24 September 2003	May 2007	1991 case. Convicted. Sentenced to 15 years.
Tariq Aziz	Deputy Prime Minister	25 September 2003	April 2008	Merchants case, verdict pending.
Sulayman Ulwan Ibrahim Al Huryamis Al Nasiri	Deputy Director for Special Security, Personal Secretary for Uday Hussein	7 February 2005	May 2007	1991 case. Convicted
Mezher Norman Waheb Al Duri	Director of Iraqi Intelligence Service	18 March 2004	—	Pending release
Muzahim Sab Hassan Al Tikriti	Commander, Iraqi Air Force	25 September 2003	—	1991, Marsh Arabs
Jamal Mustafa Abdallah Sultan Al-Tikriti	Assistant to Minister of Tribal Affairs, Secretary to Presidential Secretary	25 September 2003	—	Marsh Arabs
Oklah Abd Sikr	In charge of Misan's Ba'ath party organization, Member Security Committee in Misan	25 September 2003	February 2009	Friday Prayers. Verdict pending
Latif Nasif Jassim	Director Ba'ath Party's Military Bureau	25 September 2003	February 2009	Friday Prayers. Verdict pending.
Mohammed Zmam Abdul Razak	Minister of Interior		February 2009	Friday Prayers. Verdict pending.
Watban Ibrahim Al Hassan	Minister of Interior/ Presidential Advisor	25 September 2003	April 2008	Merchants. Verdict pending.
Hikmat Muzban Ibrahim Al Azawi	Finance Minister/Deputy Prime Minister	26 September 2003	—	Religious Parties
Muhammad Mahdi Al-Salih	Minister of Trade	25 September 2003	—	Kuwait, wasting national wealth, ethnic cleansing, Marsh Arabs
Zuhayr Talib Abd Al Salih	Director of Military Intelligence	25 September 2003	—	1991, Marsh Arabs
Waleed Hamed Tawfeek Al Tikriti	Brigade Commander for Republican Guards	29 April 2003	May 2007	1991 case. Convicted. Sentenced, 15 years.
Amir Muhammad Al Ubaydi	Oil Minister/Presidential Advisor	25 September 2003	—	Marsh Arabs, wasting national wealth
Sameer Abdul Aziz Al Najm	Oil Minister/Presidential Advisor	25 September 2003	—	1991, Marsh Arabs, Friday Prayers
Lu'ay Khayrallah	Closest companion of Uday Hussein	25 September 2003	—	Marsh Arabs
Furat Abdul Rasman Obayds Al Ani	Director of Saddam's State Establishment	25 September 2003	—	Pending release
Kamal Mustafa Abdallah Sultan Al-Tikriti	Assistant to Minister of Tribal Affairs, Secretary to Presidential Secretary	25 September 2003	—	1991
Aziz Salih Al Noman	Ba'ath Party Official, Multiple government offices	25 September 2003	May 2007	1991 case. Convicted. Sentenced
Ayyad Futuyyih Al Rawi	Republican Guard Commander	25 September 2003	May 2007	1991 case. Convicted. Sentenced
Hamid Raja Sahiah Al Tikriti	Commander Iraqi Air Force	Unknown	—	Marsh Arabs
Taher Tawfiq Al Ani	Governor of Mosul, Multiple government positions	25 September 2003	—	Anfal—Acquitted Marsh Arabs
Ibrahim Ahmad Abd Al Sattar	Chief of Staff for Iraqi Armed Forces	25 September 2003	May 2007	1991 case. Convicted. Sentenced, Life
Muneem Kadhum Hussein Al Samaria	Bomb Maker	26 September 2003	—	1991, Marsh Arabs
Saif Al-Dein A Mashhadani	General Secretary of the Presidential Diwan	25 September 2003	February 2009	Friday Prayers. Verdict pending.
Abid Hamid Mahmud Al Tikriti	President's Personal Secretary, Multiple Government Positions	24 September 2003	May 2007	1991 case. Convicted. Sentenced 15 years
Muzban Khidir Hadi	Revolutionary Command Council member	24 September 2003	April 2008	Merchants case, verdict pending.
Barzan Abdul Ghafoor Sulaiman Majid Al Tikriti	Commander Special Republican Guard	24 September 2003	—	Marsh Arabs
Mahmud Dhiyab Al-Ahmadi	Minister of Interior, Minister of Irrigation, Minister of Housing	25 September 2003	—	Marsh Arabs
Khamis Sirhan Bashir	Ba'ath Party Regional Chairman	3 February 2004	—	Pending Release
Moshen Khudr Abbas Al Khafaji	Ba'ath Party Official	10 February 2004	—	Religious Parties
Mohammed Zimam Adb Al Razzaq A Sadun	Minister of Interior	18 February 2004	February 2009	Friday Prayers. Verdict pending.

Name	*Position*	*Date captured*	*Date charged*	*Case*
Hani Abdel Latif Tolfah Al Tikriti	Deputy Director of SSO	21 June 2004	—	1991
Saad Salbih Ahmad	Special Republican Guard	21 June 2004	January 2009	Fayli Kurds. Verdict pending
Suhayl Mohammed Juma Al Duri	High Ranking SSO Officer	10 September 2004	—	Release Pending
Q'aed Hussein Hucsit Al Awadi	Senior Ba'ath Party Official	25 September 2003	—	Marsh Arabs. Assassination of Independent Figures
Hussein Rashid Mohamed Al Tikriti	Commander, Republican Guard	25 September 2003	March 2006	Anfal case. Convicted. Sentenced. death
Sultan Hashim Ahmad Al Jabburi Al Taie	Minister of Defense	25 September 2003	March 2006	Anfal case. Convicted. Sentenced. death
Haitham Abdel Hamad	Director, Counter Intelligence	21 August 2003	—	Released
Abdul Hameed Salman	Iraqi Intelligence Service	7 February 2005	January 2009	Fayli Kurds. Verdict pending
Abdul Kareem Hakim Nfoos Al Majeed Al Tikriti	Commander, Republican Guard	7 February 2005	—	1991
Asaad Mohamed Hasan Al Harke	Deputy Leader of Al-Islam	4 January 2004	—	Transferred to Kurdish Court
Salman Duaud Sallumi Al Azawi	Political Orientation Officer	8 January 1995	—	Released
Jassam Al Jabburi Awad	Director, General Security	18 January 2005	—	Deceased
Khalil Khadir Mohamed Al Salhat	Intelligence Service	26 September 2003	—	Deceased
Farooq Abdullah Yehya Hejazi	Intelligence Officer	25 September 2003	—	Marsh Arabs. Secular Parties
Mahmud Fazi Al Hazza	Military Commander	25 September 2003	February 2009	Friday Prayers. Verdict pending
Hazan Izbah Thalji Al Ubaydi	Director, Iraqi Intelligence	25 September 2003	—	Marsh Arabs
Sa'adon Shakir Mohammed Ahmed Al	Member, Revolutionary Command Council	25 September 2003	January 2009	Fayli Kurds. Verdict pending
Hamid Yusef Hammadi	Presidential Secretary	24 January 2006	—	Marsh Arabs
Ghalib Umar Maudi Al Duri	Iraqi Intelligence Service	25 September 2003	—	Marsh Arabs.
Fadil Sulfaij Mohamed	Iraqi Intelligence Service	26 September 2003	January 2009	Fayli Kurds. Verdict pending
Mohamed Faraj Bilal Al Samarra	Official, National Monitoring Service	24 September 2003	—	Marsh Arabs
Ma'ad Ibrahim Al Duri	Director, Foreign Intelligence	25 September 2003	—	Kuwait
Abd Hasan Al Majid	Deputy Director, General Security	25 September 2003	—	1991
Mohamed Khudyar Sabah	Director of M14 Operations	24 September 2003	—	Marsh Arabs
Shihib Ahmad Hamada Ibrahim Al Abassi	Suicide Bomber Program Leader	26 September 2003	—	Marsh Arabs
Ahmad Hussein Khudayir Al Samarra	Deputy Minister of Military Intelligence	25 September 2003	April 2008	Merchants case. verdict pending
Hashim Hassan Al Majid	Governor of Babil and Kirkuk	24 September 2003	—	Marsh Arabs. Ethnic Cleansing
Abdul Hussein Mohamed	Ba'ath Party General Secretary	25 September 2003	—	Marsh Arabs
Fadhil Abbas Ibrihim Al Ameri	Commander, Al Mutaba's Prison	25 September 2003	January 2009	Fayli Kurds. Verdict pending
Issam Rashid Hwaish	Director, Central Bank of Iraq	24 September 2003	April 2008	Merchants case. verdict pending
Numan Hasan Sultaman	Iraqi Intelligence Service	22 December 2003	January 2009	Fayli Kurds. Verdict pending
Hamid Ismail Al Ruba'a	Republican Guard Official	29 October 2004	—	Released
Muzhir Taha Ahamad A Jabbori	Director, Iraqi Intelligence	31 December 2005	—	Marsh Arabs
Saaedi Toama Jouburi	Minister of Defense	29 October 2004	May 2007	1991 case. Convicted. Sentenced. 6-15 years
Latif Mahal Hamud Salbani	Ba'ath Party Official	18 March 2004	May 2007	1991 case. Acquitted. Still held in Marsh Arabs case
Sabir Aba Al Aziz Husayn Al Duri	Director, Military Intelligence	25 September 2003	May 2007	1991 case. Convicted. Sentenced. 6-15 years
			March 2006	Anfal case. Convicted. Sentenced. death
Ayad Taha Shihab Al Douri	Station Chief, Iraqi Embassy in Turkey	25 September 2003	May 2007	1991 case. Acquitted
			January 2009	Fayli Kurds. Verdict pending
Abdul Ghani Abdul Ghafur	Ba'ath Party Secretary	25 September 2003	May 2007	1991 case. Convicted. Sentenced. death
Farhan Mutlaq Saleh Al Jaburi	Commander, Military Intelligence	25 September 2003	March 2006	Anfal case. Convicted. Sentence: life
Qais Abdul Razzak Al Athami	Governor of Kirkuk	25 September 2003	May 2007	1991 case. Convicted. Sentenced. 15 years

Name	Position	Date captured	Date charged	Case
Sufyan Maher Hasan Al Tikriti	Commander Republican Guard	25 July 2004	May 2007	1991 case. Acquitted.

Isle of Man: EU Grants and Loans

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding the Isle of Man has received from the European Union in each of the last five years. [244050]

Caroline Flint: Neither the Foreign and Commonwealth Office nor the Ministry of Justice, the UK Department responsible for the UK's relationship with the Crown Dependencies, has knowledge of any funding received by the Isle of Man from the European Union in the last five years.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what occasions he has condemned (*a*) suicide and (*b*) other terrorist attacks in Israel; if he will place in the Library a copy of each such statement; and if he will make a statement. [242696]

Bill Rammell: We have consistently made clear that rocket attacks directed against Israeli civilians are utterly unacceptable. We led the work on UN Security Council Resolution 1860 which "condemns all violence and hostilities directed at civilians and all acts of terrorism".

This has been our longstanding policy and over the last year we issued statements addressing both rocket attacks and suicide attacks.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said on 2 March 2008 "I condemn the rocket attacks against Israel", and on 4 February 2009 "I utterly condemn this morning's suicide attack in Dimona".

Further statements can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website.

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/statements/

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of whether any of the weaponry or component parts thereof being used by the Israeli Defence Forces in Gaza has been manufactured in the UK or exported by a UK-registered company. [247806]

Bill Rammell: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said in his statement to the House on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 21:

"No arms exports are granted where there is a clear risk that those arms could be used for internal repression or external aggression, and that is surveyed very closely. Also, we have no evidence of any of the exports that he has pointed to being used in this operation." [*Official Report*, 12 January 2009; vol. 486, c.29.]

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the oral statement of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 21-38, on Gaza, what consideration he has given to referring the allegations made on the conduct of both sides to the International Criminal Court. [247882]

Bill Rammell: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary told the House on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 504:

"allegations must be closely and speedily investigated. Obviously, the three key parties to that investigation are the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Government of Israel, and we are in touch with all of them." [*Official Report*, 19 January 2009; vol. 486, c.504.]

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the report of the Strategic Foresight Group on the Cost of Conflict in the Middle East. [257510]

Bill Rammell: The report of the Strategic Foresight Group on the Cost of Conflict in the Middle East highlights many of the negative consequences of the conflict. The Government share these concerns and continue to believe that a just and lasting peace is in the interests of all parties. We will continue to work to achieve such a peace.

Overseas Trade: Prices

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on support for the overseas price mechanism before the decision to withdraw support was taken. [256962]

David Miliband: There were extensive discussions between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and HM Treasury at Ministerial and official level in the lead-up to the announcement of the Comprehensive Spending Review. They naturally covered the overseas price mechanism among other issues.

Sri Lanka: EU Action

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcome was of the Prime Minister's discussion with his EU counterparts on proposals to call for a ceasefire in Sri Lanka. [259006]

Caroline Flint: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 739W. In a statement of 23 February 2009, EU Foreign Ministers called for an immediate ceasefire. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary issued a joint statement with the US Secretary of State on 3 February 2009, calling for a temporary no-fire period. Copies of both statements will be placed in the Library of the House.

The UK remains committed to working with the Government of Sri Lanka and international partners to secure a lasting solution to the conflict in Sri Lanka.

Torture

Sir Malcolm Rifkind: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what factors his Department takes into account when making decisions on requests formally to espouse a legal claim of torture. [253314]

Caroline Flint: Where the Government consider that another Government is responsible under international law for an injury to a UK national, it may in certain circumstances take over and formally espouse a claim against that Government. Before that stage is reached the claimants should have made all possible effort to secure settlement of the claim through local or other legal remedies, if such remedies exist.

Any individual request would be considered on a case by case basis. On receipt of such a request, the Government would consider what factors may be relevant at that time.

Uganda: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in peace talks with the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) in Northern Uganda, including talks with those who have recently defected from the LRA. [257351]

Caroline Flint: The Juba peace talks between the Government of Uganda and the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) resulted in a negotiated Final Peace Agreement (FPA) initialled and agreed by the Government of Uganda and LRA negotiating teams. The agreement was originally due for signature in early April 2008 by President Museveni of Uganda and Joseph Kony, the leader of the LRA, in Juba, Southern Sudan. Mr. Kony refused to attend the signing ceremony on that occasion and failed to honour further commitments to sign the agreement at a later date. The Government of Uganda in co-operation with the Governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Southern Sudan subsequently initiated military action against the LRA on 14 December 2008.

The FPA includes provision for reconciliation and the reintegration into Ugandan society of LRA defectors. The Government of Uganda has publicly stated that it is committed to honouring those commitments even in the absence of a signed FPA.

USA: Russia

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for the Government's foreign policy of changes in US foreign policy towards Russia. [258696]

Caroline Flint: The Government welcome the Obama Administration's readiness to make progress with Russia on non-proliferation and disarmament and other issues of importance, including Iran, security in Afghanistan and international economic reform.

The US Administration's approach of engaging with Russia on key issues of mutual interest mirrors that of the UK. The Government will be working closely with the US Administration in this area.

Wang Bingzhang

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on *(a)* the detention of Dr Wang Bingzhang by the Chinese authorities and *(b)* the physical condition of Dr Wang Bingzhang; what representations he has made to his Chinese counterpart on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [258642]

Caroline Flint: We have received reports that Dr. Wang Bingzhang is being held in Shaoguan Prison in Guangdong Province. There have been serious concerns about his health, and he is known to have gone on hunger strike in 2006. There are also reports that he has been punished for perceived bad behaviour.

Wang's case was last raised on an EU-China case list in October 2005.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to answer Question 242200, tabled on 5 December 2008, on Georgia. [258146]

David Miliband: This question was answered on 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2202W. The delay in answering was due to administrative error.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to answer Question 246281, tabled on 17 December 2008, on the reorganisation of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. [258212]

David Miliband: This question was answered on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 373W. I apologise for the delay in replying.

Zimbabwe: Human Rights

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [258563]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* We continue to have serious concerns about the human rights situation in Zimbabwe, not least the on-going detention of political prisoners, credible reports of torture in custody and continuing suppression of peaceful protests.

The international community has agreed clear conditions for substantive re-engagement with Zimbabwe, including respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Initial indications of the new Government's commitment to respect for human rights and the rule of law include the release of political detainees. We will continue to monitor the situation on the ground closely.

Zimbabwe: Political Prisoners

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of political prisoners detained in Zimbabwe. [257817]

David Miliband: We understand there are roughly 30 to 40 political detainees in Zimbabwe. As I said in my press release of 11 February 2009, the release of all political detainees, and the rule of law more broadly, will be one of the conditions for sustained development support for the new Government.

The press release may be found at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/

JUSTICE

Anti-Semitism: Children

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females have been (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of verbally abusing Jewish children travelling to and from school in the last year for which figures are available. [259058]

Maria Eagle: Data held centrally by the Ministry of Justice on court proceedings do not include information about the circumstances behind each case beyond the description provided in the statute under which prosecutions are brought.

Civil Servants: Pay

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many bonus payments were made to *(a)* senior civil servants and *(b)* other staff in the (i) HM Courts Service, (ii) HM Prison Service, (iii) National Offender Management Service and (iv) Youth Justice Board in the last 12 months. [257744]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is as follows:

(i) *HM Courts Service*

Across the MoJ, end year non-consolidated performance payments are paid to high performing members of the senior civil service (SCS) to reflect their individual contribution during the previous performance year. During the last 12 months, 35 members of the SCS in HMCS were paid non-consolidated performance pay for performance during the 2007-08 performance year.

Payments of non-consolidated performance pay to staff below the SCS may be either "end of year" payments or "in year" payments.

"End of year" payments of non-consolidated performance pay are made as part of the annual pay award to staff who have performed at a level beyond that which would normally be expected throughout the performance year. 1,676 staff in HMCS (including Ministry of Justice HQ and the Tribunals Service) received end of year non-consolidated performance payments in the last 12 months. Payments were made in August 2008 at the time of the implementation of the 2008 pay award for performance during the 2007-08 performance year.

"In year" payments of non-consolidated performance pay are one-off payments to staff who have made an exceptional contribution on specific occasions. It is not possible to provide details of these payments made to staff in HMCS in the last 12 months, as distinct from those working in other parts of the Ministry of Justice, other than at a disproportionate cost. However, during the financial year 2007-08, 5,327 staff in HMCS (including MoJ HQ and the Tribunals Service) received "in year" non-consolidated performance pay.

(ii) *HM Prison Service*

Since 1 April 2008 Her Majesty's Prison Service and the National Probation Service have been part of the National Offender Management Service.

Details of the number of awards of non-consolidated performance pay to staff in HM Prison Service is available for the calendar year 2008. This is the most up-to-date data available without incurring disproportionate cost. During 2008, 29 members of the SCS received non-consolidated performance pay. In grades below the SCS 6,587 staff received non-consolidated performance pay during this period.

In the National Probation Service during the last 12 months, payments of non-consolidated performance pay were made to the chief executives of the six Probation Trusts. These exceptional payments were made to recognise work involved from April 2007 to April 2008 in preparation for trust status.

(iii) *National Offender Management Service*

The National Offender Management Service was established as an agency on 1 April 2008. The NOMS agency consists of HM Prison Service and the National Probation Service. The information contained in (ii) above covers both parts of the NOMS Agency.

(iv) *Youth Justice Board*

In the 12 months to the 31st January 2009, the Youth Justice Board paid one member of the SCS non-consolidated performance pay. Thirty-five members of staff received "in year" non-consolidated performance pay. Twenty-one members of staff received "end of year" non-consolidated performance pay.

Coroners and Justice Bill 2008-09

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department will take if the Sentencing Council for England and Wales advises that there are insufficient resources to allow for the full implementation of an aspect of legislation, as provided for under the terms of clause 110 of the Coroners and Justice Bill, following the enactment of subsequent legislation. [257281]

Maria Eagle: The provisions in the Coroners and Justice Bill propose that a sentencing council will have a duty to monitor the impact of sentencing guidelines and to make assessments of the impact of Government proposals referred to it by the Lord Chancellor on prison, probation and youth justice services.

The proposed duties of the council in clauses 110 and 114 of the Bill are to make an assessment of the impact of guidelines or legislation, not to advise whether it is affordable. While it is proposed that the council will provide the Government with impact assessments it also proposed that it will remain the case that the Government alone are responsible for the way in which money voted by Parliament is spent and for making arrangements for the commencement of legislative provisions.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to undertake a privacy impact assessment of the provisions on information sharing orders contained in the Coroners and Justice Bill. [258385]

Mr. Straw: The proposed information sharing clauses in the Coroners and Justice Bill would provide the power to make information sharing orders, providing certain conditions are met. The power in the Bill does not, in itself, allow personal information to be shared. Therefore, we do not plan to carry out a privacy impact assessment on the proposals in the Bill; rather such assessments will be a mandatory requirement for all orders proposed under the power in the Bill.

Crime: Economic Situation

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has any plans to provide additional resources to *(a)* the police, *(b)* the courts, *(c)* the probation service and *(d)* prisons as a consequence of any changes to the level of crime during 2010 and 2011 resulting from the recession. [258568]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor's reply on 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1166W. There are no plans to increase the Department's budget, which was agreed in the comprehensive spending review 2007. Forecasts of demand for services have been taken into account when agreeing allocations to business groups for 2009-10, and there are no plans to provide additional resources for this year. Forecasts of demand will again be taken into account when agreeing financial allocations to departmental business groups for 2010-11, but these have not yet been agreed. The Department has set up a Performance and Efficiency programme to deliver ways of working more efficiently in order to deliver our objectives from within existing budgets. Police funding is the responsibility of the Home Office and not the Ministry of Justice.

Crime: Victims

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps his Department has taken to improve the services provided to victims of crime. [258855]

Maria Eagle: The Government have a comprehensive strategy to help victims of crime access appropriate services. We recently appointed a victims champion who will listen to the views of victims and the community and make recommendations on how to improve the system.

Since introducing a statutory code of practice for victims of crime which established minimum rights for victims, we continue to embed best practice across the CJS agencies. This includes working with local criminal justice boards to ensure they have comprehensive victim and witness strategies that make a difference on the ground.

We recognise the importance of working with third-sector organisations to deliver direct services for victims. We recently provided additional funding for the national organisation Victim Support to introduce an improved business process, so that victims can be contacted more quickly, have their needs assessed and offered a wider range of practical services than was previously available.

The Government have invested further resources into specialist services for victims. This includes sexual assault referral centres, independent domestic violence and sexual violence advisors and national and local specialist third-sector organisations. We have also made legal changes that will impact on certain victims: for example we ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against the Trafficking in Human Beings creating minimum protection rights.

The recently published Youth Crime Action Plan sets out how we will improve support for young victims of crime. The plan has been developed jointly between the OCJR, Ministry of Justice, the Department for Children Schools and Families and the Home Office.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority's major reform programme completely overhauled the case working processes. This included the introduction of geographically based teams; a new in-house telephone support service and the development of a new case working model placing greater emphasis on applicant support and focussing resources at the front end of the case working process.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving departmental buildings in each year since the Department's inception; how much has been spent on wallpaper in that time; and what plans there are for further spending on departmental decoration. [248803]

Maria Eagle: The total expenditure for the provision of maintenance, decoration and additional costs to the Ministry of Justice HQ estate for period May 2007 to November 2008 is £4,099,439. There are no current plans for future spend on departmental decoration for the next two years on the HQ estate.

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many items of furniture *(a)* were purchased and *(b)* remained in use following the refurbishment of 102 Petty France. [252834]

Mr. Straw: Phase 1 of the London Accommodation Programme (LAP) rationalised a number of MOJ buildings:

Selborne House (1,209 staff)

Abbey Orchard Street (353 staff)[1]

Steel House (221 staff)

together with a further six London locations, affecting an additional 330 staff. This has resulted in 2,113 staff moving into the refurbished 102 Petty France.

[1] Abbey Orchard Street was released fully furnished to Legal Services Commission

The original design capacity of the refurbished 102 Petty France was for 2,275 desks. Through the introduction of flexible workspace arrangements—moving from a 1:1 to an 80 per cent. average desk allocation and utilising 1600mm workstations—by August 2009, 102 Petty France will be able to accommodate approximately 3,300 staff. This will enable MoJ to reduce further the number of buildings it occupies. The projected savings from this estate rationalisation are approximately £10 million per year.

An early review of existing furniture in the affected offices identified three broad categories:

suitable for re-use within 102 Petty France;

suitable for re-use within MoJ and other Government departments;

furniture at the end of life and/or requiring refurbishment.

Damaged or unsuitable furniture has been disposed of via Greenworks—a not-for-profit enterprise—who will refurbish and distribute to charities, schools or small businesses.

This "cascade" policy has *resulted in a zero landfill* outcome. The units are summarised in the following table:

Furniture group	*Purchased*	*Re-used*	*Greenworks*
Workstations	1,955	665	656
Task Chairs	1,955	925	720
Meeting rooms	732	328	360
Pedestals	0	334	308
Business Storage	1,200	481	327
Miscellaneous	522	147	199
Total	6,364	2,880	2,570

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on cut flowers in each of the last three years. [256175]

Maria Eagle: The purchase of cut flowers has now ceased across the estate. Upon retender of the FM contract, the provision of cut flowers was seen as an area for immediate cost reduction and duly ceased in August 2008.

The total expenditure for the cut flowers across the Ministry of Justice HQ estate (formerly Department of Constitutional Affairs) between fiscal years 2006 to 2009 is shown in the following table:

	£
2006-07	13,685.15
2007-08	13,304.73
2008-09	6,113.55

Government Departments: Privacy

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 871W, on Government Departments: privacy, how many privacy impact assessments for Government projects have been commissioned. [258662]

Mr. Straw: No central records are kept of the number of privacy impact assessments (PIAs) commissioned by Government Departments. The Data Handling Review mandated that all Government Departments carry out PIAs on new policies affecting privacy; there is no obligation to report these to MoJ.

Judges: Public Appointments

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* black persons, *(b)* Asian persons, *(c)* women and *(d)* men were appointed as judges in 2008. [256677]

Mr. Straw: There were 309 salaried judges and fee-paid judges appointed to courts and tribunals in England and Wales in 2008. Of these, 117 (37.8 per cent.) were women and 192 (62.1 per cent.) were men. We do not hold the ethnic breakdown in the form requested, but 28 (9 per cent.) appointees described their ethnicity as other than white, with 17 (5.5 per cent.) appointees not responding.

Offenders: Housing

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what period *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public will have to make representations to agents acting for the National Offender Management Serviceprior to any purchase of property for subsequent use as housing under accommodation and support services for bail and home detention curfew provision. [259843]

Mr. Hanson: It is my practice to write to the appropriate hon. Member when this service is made available in his or her constituency. Planning permission is not required and there is no formal period for representations. For the most part the houses used for this service are leased, not purchased, by the contractor. The houses are the private rented homes of those living in them and it is not appropriate to consult local residents or the wider public. People bailed by the courts or released from prison return to live in the community without hon. Members or the public having any input as to where they may reside. It would be inappropriate and inequitable to identify as defendants or offenders those living at an address rented through ClearSprings when others on bail and home detention curfew living at private addresses are not subject to such identification. The contractor does consult the police, local authority and probation about the location of properties and they are provided with the opportunity to provide comments.

Hon. Members may write to the contractor at any time and I am always ready to consider representations from hon. Members before or after houses for this service are established in a constituency. The National Offender Management Service, regional offender managers and directors of offender management determine where the contractor is asked to source property. The requirement is defined in terms of towns and boroughs, not by constituency.

Members of the public are of course free to write at any time to the contractor, to the Ministry of Justice or to myself.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of offenders on the end of custody licence schemes have not completed their rehabilitation while in prison. [257638]

Mr. Straw: Rehabilitation may be a long and complex process and it is not always possible to determine when it is complete. Rehabilitation may continue to be provided on release from prison; this may be in the form of supervision by Probation Services according to sentence length, and/or assistance with accommodation, employment, resettlement, programmes, treatment or

other support. This is risk and needs-assessed on an individual basis and in accordance with the sentence plan.

In custody, of the prisoners who participated in offending behaviour programmes in 2007-08, 0.03 per cent. failed to complete due to release and during the same period 5 per cent. of prisoners failed to complete drug treatment programmes due to release. The percentage of these who were released on ECL cannot be disaggregated without disproportionate cost as each prisoner record would have to be checked individually.

Prisoners required to undertake a treatment programme as a condition of their supervision licence are excluded from release on ECL unless arrangements can be made for the programme to be followed in the community.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review the regulations relating to donating to political parties in order to encourage smaller donations from a wider number of individuals. [259035]

Mr. Wills: There are no such plans. The Government believe it is for political parties to decide how to conduct their fundraising activities within the legislative framework. One potential option to change the legislative framework would be to introduce a cap on the level of permissible donations, and an associated increase in the amount of public funding available to parties. This option was put to the major political parties following the review conducted by Sir Hayden Phillips in 2007. However, the inter-party talks that followed that review did not result in agreement to proceed with the wider package of reforms that Sir Hayden recommended to the party funding legislation.

The Government's White Paper, "Party finance and expenditure in the United Kingdom" (CM7329) considered the issues of donation caps and public funding in considerable detail. The Government believe that any arrangements for increased public funding and associated cap on donations would need to be considered carefully as part of a wider public debate. There would need to be clear support from both the public and political parties before such steps could be taken. It is not clear that such a broad consensus of support currently exists. However, the Government stands ready to continue that debate.

Prisoners Release: Reoffenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many mandatory life sentence prisoners released on licence in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available have reoffended, broken down by offences committed. [258190]

Mr. Hanson: The only centrally held data on prisoners who reoffend while on licence are in respect of those offenders who are recalled to prison for reoffending. This information is available only from 2003 onwards.

Our records show that for the period from 1 January 2003 until 17 February 2009, there were 758 releases recorded of mandatory life sentenced prisoners, of which 48 (6.3 per cent.) were recalled and subsequently found guilty of a further offence or offences.

In addition, we have recorded a further 17 who were released prior to 2003, were recalled over the same period and subsequently found guilty of a further offence or offences.

This gives a total of 65 mandatory life licences recalled and convicted for further offences from 1 January 2003 to 17 February 2009.

The offences committed while on licence are listed as follows in order of recall.

Date of release	*Date of recall*	*Further offence*
2003	2003	Supplying drugs
2001	2003	Affray
2003	2003	Common assault
2000	2003	Grievous bodily harm
2000	2004	Burglary
2003	2004	Obtaining property by deception
2003	2004	Robbery
2001	2004	Murder
1999	2004	Possession of Firearm
2002	2004	Suspicion of Murder
2004	2004	GBH
2003	2004	Wounding
2003	2005	Robbery
2003	2005	Sexual activity with a minor
2004	2005	Aggravated bodily harm x2
2004	2005	Assault
2004	2005	Driving while disqualified
2004	2005	Theft
2000	2005	Assault occasioning ABH
2004	2005	Burglary
2004	2005	Assault
2005	2005	Rape
2001	2005	Indecent exposure
2004	2005	Public order
2004	2005	Aggravated taking a vehicle without consent/driving under the influence of alcohol
2001	2005	Assault
2004	2005	Public order
2004	2005	Attempted murder/conspiracy to rob/possession of firearm
1998	2005	Common assault
2003	2006	Aggravated taking without consent
2005	2006	Indecent assault x2/rape x2
2005	2006	Threatening behaviour
2005	2006	Incitement to rape x2/abduction
2004	2006	Threats to kill
2003	2006	Going equipped to steal
2004	–	Criminal damage
2006	2006	Possession of firearms/drugs
2006	2006	Burglary/common assault
2005	2006	Threats to kill/criminal damage
2003	2006	Making threats
2004	2006	Section 18: wounding
2005	2006	Driving: excess alcohol
1998	2006	Assault
2003	2006	Criminal assault: criminal damage
2003	2006	Evasion of excise duty
2005	2006	Murder
1997	2006	Threats to kill
2005	2006	Criminal damage
2003	2006	Threatened taxi driver with knife

Date of release	*Date of recall*	*Further offence*
1999	2006	Indecent exposure
1997	2006	Common assault
2004	2007	Drink-driving
2006	2007	Common assault
2001	2007	Driving without insurance/reckless driving
2003	2007	Driving without insurance
2002	2007	Assault
2005	2007	Kidnapping
1998	2007	Benefit fraud
2003	2008	Possession of a bladed article
2005	2008	Burglary
2004	2008	Assault
2008	2008	Possession of a weapon
2006	2008	False imprisonment/theft
2007	2008	Section 39: assault/threats to kill
2007	2008	Common assault

These figures come from a manual National Offender Management Service database and, as with any such recording system, are subject to errors relating to data provided and recorded.

Probation Officers: Manpower

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of trainee probation officers who qualified in 2008 and thereafter applied to join the Probation Service have not subsequently been employed by the Probation Service; and for what reason each was not employed. [258674]

Mr. Hanson: Of the 472 who qualified in 2008, 436 were offered employment as probation officers. Of the ones not offered employment: two left the service of their own volition; 18 were employed as PSOs (pending PO vacancies); three were unsuccessful at the internal interview for employment and 11 were deemed appointable but not offered employment because there were insufficient PO or PSO posts available.

Tobacco: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of guidelines on sentencing for offences relating to the smuggling and supply of illegal and counterfeit tobacco. [256865]

Maria Eagle: I understand that the independent Sentencing Guidelines Council will issue a draft guideline on fraud for consultation shortly. This is expected to cover the offence of fraudulent evasion or attempt at evasion of any duty chargeable on goods, including tobacco. The Government will respond in due course.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Theatres: Young People

9. **Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made in implementing his Department's scheme to provide young people with greater access to theatres; and if he will make a statement. [259235]

16. **Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress his Department has made in its scheme offering young people access to theatre. [259243]

Barbara Follett: Arts Council England officially launched A Night Less Ordinary on 10 February. The scheme will provide approximately 618,000 free theatre tickets to under 26-year-olds over a two year period. Over 200 venues are involved in the scheme. My Department is supporting this initiative, which will help theatres fill their seats while building the audience of the future.

UK Film Industry

10. **Mr. Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the recent performance of the UK film industry. [259236]

Barbara Follett: The United Kingdom's film industry is, I am glad to say, performing very well indeed, box office take was £100 million in January and the three most successful releases last year were British made.

In addition, British films have had unprecedented success in this year's awards season and I would like to congratulate all the British winners at the Oscars, the Baftas and the golden globes—especially Danny Boyle and all those involved with "Slumdog Millionaire"; and Kate Winslet. A mention also to Simon Chinn who got best documentary feature for "Man on Wire" (which received substantial funding from the UK film council).

But, that said, film production fell in the UK during 2008 but we are working closely with the UK film council to ensure better results in 2009.

Free Swimming Schemes

11. **Mr. Plaskitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many local authorities are planning to take part in both the under 16-year-old and over 60-year-old free swimming initiatives. [259237]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Of the 354 eligible local authorities, 208 are planning to take part in both the under 16-year-old and over 60-year-old elements of the Government's Free Swimming Programme.

Cricket

13. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the England and Wales Cricket Board on the future of cricket in this country; and if he will make a statement. [259239]

Andy Burnham: I regularly meet the England and Wales Cricket Board to discuss current issues and the future of the sport in this country.

The increased popularity of cricket in England and Wales combined with the strength of the domestic and international game will ensure that cricket in this country has a strong future.

Sport: Young People

14. **Liz Blackman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many young people participated in regular sport *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* in the latest period for which figures are available. [259240]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The percentage of pupils aged five to 16 that have participated in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport a week has increased from 62 per cent. to 90 per cent. between 2003-04 and 2007-08. Comparable data are not available prior to 2003-04.

Audio Description

15. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to publicise the availability of audio description via a single button on set-top boxes in advance of the digital switchover in south Wales. [259241]

Andy Burnham: Information about the benefits of audio description and easy-to-use remote controls is contained in material that is sent to all people eligible for the Help Scheme.

Horse Racing

19. **Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the current economic downturn on the future of horse racing; and if he will make a statement. [259246]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government recognise the important contribution of horse racing to national and local economies and my Department is working closely with the British Horseracing Association and others to monitor the impact of the economic downturn on the industry.

It is too early to make any assessment of economic trends in relation to horse racing, but we will continue to monitor the situation as we will do for other sectors for which my Department is responsible.

Publishing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the recommendations contained in the interim "Digital Britain" report on the publishing industry; and if he will make a statement. [259238]

Andy Burnham: The Government recognise the importance of a vibrant publishing sector which contributes not only to the cultural and educational needs of our society but also with a turnover in excess of £18 billion, makes a significant contribution to the economy. It is a core part of the creative industries sector and a significant export earner.

The importance of publishing is reflected in the objectives laid out in the interim report of the Digital Britain initiative.

Gloucester City AFC

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will visit Gloucester City AFC to discuss the relocation of its ground. [259244]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have no plans to visit Gloucester City Football Club however I commend my hon. Friend for his continued efforts on behalf of the club and for his recent success in securing an adjournment debate on this subject.

The Department is aware of this issue and I understand Gloucester City Football Club has been working with the Football Association, Gloucester city council and county council to find a permanent home ground for the club.

Understandably there is a desire for a site to be found in the Gloucester area, not least to preserve local support, so I strongly advise the club to continue its discussions with the city and county councils as they are in the best position to assist in arriving at a positive outcome.

Local Television News

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his policy is on the future provision of local television news; and if he will make a statement. [259245]

Andy Burnham: Ofcom is creating more opportunities for local TV in the UK by releasing geographically targeted interleaved spectrum for auction. Ofcom has also commissioned analysis of the economic sustainability of different types of local television services. It will be important in considering local TV services to do so in the context of a sustainable local media ecology, also including print, radio, the internet and other relevant media.

Arts: Government Assistance

Hilary Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made towards meeting each of the objectives of the creative economy programme. [258503]

Andy Burnham: Working with our partners in other Government Departments and public and private sector organisations, DCMS' Creative Economy Programme has made good progress on realising the ambitions of Creative Britain in the year since publication. Covering talent, supporting creative business and clusters, Intellectual Property and innovation, the 26 commitments in Creative Britain seek to increase the contribution of the 13 creative sectors to the UK economy. Of the 26 commitments, 18 are now either well under way or completed.

I am arranging for copies of a document providing a specific update on each of the 26 commitments to be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

Hilary Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what financial support his Department is making available to small and medium-sized enterprises in the creative industries which are in difficulties during the economic slowdown. [258504]

Andy Burnham: The Government are providing real help now to small and medium based enterprises which are in difficulties during the economic slowdown, including those within the creative industries.

Information on the support and advice available to all small and medium based enterprises can be accessed via the portal on the Business Link website:

www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp

Support available includes free health checks for businesses, help with accessing finance, and advice on a range of business issues, including cash flow and training.

Much of the real help on offer is part of solutions for business - the Government's streamlined portfolio of publicly-funded business support products and services, delivered via Business Link, which provides comprehensive assistance to help companies start, grow and succeed.

In February 2008 the Government published "Creative Britain: New Talents for the New Economy" which set out 26 commitments to support the creative industries. One of the commitments of Creative Britain has been to look at how Business Link works with the creative industries. It will also produce a framework for evaluation of future work with creative industries, allowing individual business links to monitor their performance which should lead to an improvement of the support given to creative industries businesses by business links. This report will be completed by the end of April.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy for his Department to sign the Information Commissioner's Personal Information Promise. [258946]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government welcomed the promise as a commendable initiative to raise awareness of the importance of effective data protection safeguards, particularly for those organisations with no similar commitments already in place.

The Government take data protection very seriously. Following the Cabinet Office Review of Data Handling Procedures in Government, Departments have implemented a raft of measures to improve data security.

The Ministry of Justice is considering actively with the Information Commissioner's Office how the promise might add additional value to those measures we have already signed up to. These include the information charters, the recommendations of the data handling review and the Thomas/Walport Review and, of course, our legal obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998 and other legislation and regulations.

Departmental Regulation

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his latest estimate is of the cost to UK businesses of regulation within the responsibility of his Department. [258983]

Andy Burnham: The current estimate of the administrative burden of regulation which is the responsibility of DCMS, as measured by the Standard Cost Model, is £187.5 million. This figure represents a reduction of 45 per cent. against the baseline of legislation in place in May 2005. Further information on these costs and action to make further savings can be found in the Department's latest simplification plan, published in December 2008:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/Simplification_Plan_2008.pdf

Digital Broadcasting

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the overlap between the 2 per cent. of households that cannot receive digital satellite services and the estimated 1.5 per cent. who will not have to be provided with a digital terrestrial signal after switchover; and if he will make a statement. [258455]

Andy Burnham: There has been no formal assessment of this overlap. However, research to estimate digital satellite coverage was carried out by Ofcom's predecessor, the Independent Television Commission, in 1999.

This research arrived at the 98 per cent. coverage figure which found that the main contributory factor which resulted in 2 per cent. of households being unable to receive any satellite signals was man-made obstructions in built-up areas. For terrestrial transmission, the opposite situation to satellite applies, with transmitters located so as to serve population centres. The locations not covered by these transmitters are largely in remote, sparsely populated areas. This means that the overlap between the 2 per cent. for satellite and 1.5 per cent. for terrestrial digital TV should be very small.

Digital Broadcasting: Disadvantaged

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what research his Department has undertaken into the UK digital divide since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [257078]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

Since 2001 the Government have commissioned a number of research reports on the UK digital divide through various UK Government Departments.

A copy of the full list will be placed in the Library.

Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by his Department is in 2008-09. [258528]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has one vacant property, Oceanic House, recorded on the e-PIMS database. This has been vacant throughout 2008-09. Oceanic House is a listed building and is exempt from business rates while it is empty.

Gambling Commission: Pay

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Gambling Commission spent on bonuses for its staff in each of the last three years. [258509]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Gambling Commission have advised that the following amounts have been paid to Gambling Commission employees in bonuses in each of the last three years. Bonus payments relate to performance in the period from 1 October to 30 September each year and are paid in November of that year.

Financial year	£
2006-07	[1]56,071
2007-08	94,360
2008-09	97,433

[1] The bonus payments in 2006-07 relate to the year preceding September 2006 when the Gambling Commission was still recruiting its full complement of staff.

Heathrow Airport: Tourism

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the implications of the Government's proposals to develop Heathrow Airport on tourism to the UK. [259242]

Barbara Follett: No specific assessment has been carried out. However, the response from the tourism travel sector to the decision by the Department for Transport to approve the development of a third runway for Heathrow airport has been broadly positive.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the £1,650,000 transferred to his Department from the Department for International Development in respect of projects connected to the London 2012 Olympics will be spent on. [258098]

Andy Burnham: The transfer of £1.65 million from the Department for International Development formed part of the DFID funding commitment for the International Inspiration programme.

The International Inspiration programme has received the formal backing of the International Olympic Committee and funding commitments were announced in November 2008.

Recreation: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much public open space there is in *(a)* each principal seaside town and *(b)* each (i) ward and (ii) lower layer super output area in each seaside town. [257460]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not held centrally.

Swimming Pools

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many public swimming pools have closed in each of the last five years. [259279]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England have advised they collect data on the number of public swimming pool openings and closures in England. Sport England did not keep figures on public swimming pool closures prior to 2004 and figures for 2008 are still being compiled. The number of public swimming pool openings and closures for which figures are available is as follows:

	Pools opened	*Pools closed*
2004	117	13
2005	93	60
2006	87	58
2007	57	33

TRANSPORT

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 930W, on apprentices, what progress his Department has made towards meeting its share of the Government's commitment to employ over 1,000 apprentices in central Government departments and agencies in 2008-09; and how many apprentices his Department now employs. [256258]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, my hon. Friend the Member for Portsmouth North (Sarah McCarthy-Fry) on Tuesday 24 February, *Official Report*, column 740-41W.

The Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency have since registered a further 91 modern apprenticeships giving a Department for Transport total of 175 apprenticeships for the period 2008-09.

Aviation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of his meetings with *(a)* BAA on 15 October 2008, *(b)* British Airways on 20 October 2008 and *(c)* Virgin on 23 October 2008; and if he will make a statement; [259113]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of his officials' meetings with *(a)* BAA on 26 August 2008, *(b)* BAA on 3 September 2008, *(c)* BAA on 18 September 2008, *(d)* BAA on 3 October 2008, *(e)* the Confederation of British Industry on 23 October 2008, *(f)* BAA on 6 November 2008, *(g)* the Airport Operators Association on 7 November 2008, *(h)* BAA on 14 November 2008 and *(i)* BAA on 24 November 2008; and if he will make a statement; [259114]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of his predecessor's meetings with *(a)* BAA on 23 July 2008 and *(b)* BAA on 4 September 2008; and if he will make a statement. [259115]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 26 February 2009]:* It is not the normal practice of the Government to release details of meetings with private individuals or companies.

Bus Services: Concessions

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* elderly and *(b)* disabled people in England affected by the withdrawal of (i) companion passes for those

accompanying (A) deafblind and (B) other disabled people and (ii) peak travel entitlement since the introduction of the national concessionary bus fares scheme. [258265]

Paul Clark: The Government do not hold figures for the number of authorities offering companion passes and peak travel entitlement as they are not part of the statutory minimum entitlement. Consequently the Government also do not hold figures for the number of elderly and disabled people affected by the withdrawal of such concessions by local authorities.

Companion passes and peak travel entitlement are offered to eligible concessionaires at the discretion of individual local authorities based on their judgment of local needs and circumstances and their overall financial priorities. The introduction of the national concessionary travel scheme has not affected the flexibility of local authorities to offer such discretionary concessions.

Conwy Valley Railway Line

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the standard of maintenance of the Conwy Valley Line against the Route Availability 07 standards provided for by Network Rail. [258837]

Paul Clark: This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to her question:

Iain Coucher,
Chief Executive,
Network Rail,
Kings Place,
90 York Way,
London, N1 9AG.

Departmental Leave

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1384W, on departmental leave, why four out of the seven bargaining units in his Department do not grant disability leave to staff; and what assessment has been made of the compatibility of this practice with his Department's disability equality duties. [258197]

Mr. Hoon: Those bargaining units without a specific disability leave policy always give consideration to staff requests for time off for disability related medical appointments and rehabilitation. This is done on a case by case basis. Provision is also available to line managers to permit absence during working hours for rehabilitation, assessment or treatment.

Consideration is also given to making reasonable adjustments for staff with a disability such as reduced hours or change of working patterns where appropriate to enable them to attend the workplace in line with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in his Department or its predecessors were on sick leave for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days in each of the last five years. [256335]

Mr. Hoon: The numbers of Department for Transport staff on sick leave within the above parameters are:

Number

Working days	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
(a) over 30 days	527	574	592	614
(b) over 50 days	480	585	613	528
(c) over 100 days	313	328	390	274

Note:
Figures for 2004 were incomplete and have not been included.

The Department is committed to managing sick absence effectively and continues to look at initiatives to help reduce absence levels. The process includes clear guidance for managers to follow, early intervention by Occupational Health and conducting return to work interviews with staff. The Department is part of a Government-wide network that meets to discuss issues around attendance management and share best practice.

Heathrow Airport: Air Pollution

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date his Department's air quality technical group delivered its air quality modelling on the project for sustainable development of Heathrow for review and internal clearance within his Department; and on what date internal clearance was granted. [259633]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 27 February 2009]:* Emerging results of air quality modelling were delivered over a period of time and reported to the Department's Heathrow Project Board. It was already clear by July 2007 that the air quality limits were likely to be met in the third runway scenarios. Final results, including for the mixed mode scenarios, were reflected in successive drafts of the consultation document reviewed by the board up to its conclusion in October 2007.

High Speed Two

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the company High Speed Two was incorporated; what type of company it is; when its *(a)* memorandum of association and *(b)* articles of association were drawn up; and what provisions of company law govern its operation. [258967]

Paul Clark: High Speed Two (HS2) Limited was incorporated on 14 January 2009. It is a private company limited by guarantee and its operation is governed by the normal provisions of company law set out in the Companies Acts. Copies of the Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association have been placed in the Library of the House.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 359-60, on transport infrastructure, what further steps he has taken to establish High Speed Two; and which individuals he *(a)* has approached and *(b)* plans to approach to seek their involvement in the company. [259404]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 27 February 2009]:* Britain's transport infrastructure: High Speed Two, published in January 2009, stated that High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd. would draw on resources from Network Rail and the Department for Transport. The process for recruitment of these resources is a matter for the company.

Limousines

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many stretch limousines the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has registered in each year since 1997. [259347]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Although the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency records details of vehicles being registered it does not have available a statistical breakdown of the numbers of stretch limousines being registered.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many stretch limousines have been registered following import from the United States in each year since 1997. [259348]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Although the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency records details of vehicles being registered it does not have available a statistical breakdown of the numbers of stretch limousines being registered following import from the United States.

M1: Bedfordshire

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the scheme to widen the M1 between junctions 10 and 13; and if he will make a statement. [258306][1]

Paul Clark: In January 2009 the Department for Transport published "Britain's Transport Infrastructure, Motorways and Major Trunk Roads" which summarises the results of assessments of hard shoulder (HSR) running as an alternative to widening on a number of sections of the motorway network including the M1 between junctions 10 and 13. This document is available in the Libraries of the House.

This work has concluded that hard shoulder running can deliver improvements more quickly than motorway widening, provides a better value for money solution and gives benefits in terms of safety and reliability. Additional capacity can be delivered at a lower cost than a more conventional road widening scheme with fewer environmental impacts. We have successfully and safely giving us confidence that we can do the same elsewhere on the network.

In the light of these findings, the January document confirmed that we plan to commence works on the implementation of hard shoulder running on the M1 between junctions 10 and 13 in the next financial year. The Highways Agency will be providing more detailed information on the scheme in spring 2009.

1. *[Official Report, 11 March 2009, Vol. 489, c. 9-10MC.]*

Railways: Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding the Government has provided to the rail industry in each of the last 12 years. [259590]

Paul Clark: Details of historic Government spending on the railway is published annually by the Office Of Rail Regulation in their publication, National Rail Trends. Copies are available in the Library of the House or online at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Rescue Services: Hope Cove

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what arrangements the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has made to provide rescue services in the operating area previously covered by the Hope Cove lifeboat; what plans he has to make payments to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution for the provision of such services; and if he will make a statement: [259340]

(2) what provisions will be made before 10am and after 6pm during spring and summer months to provide rescue services in the operating area previously covered by the Hope Cove lifeboat; and whether he plans to upgrade the services provided by the Bantham rubber duck boat. [259341][1]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A consultation about the search and rescue provision for the southern part of the south-west peninsula is being prepared.

Until that process is complete the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's boat at Hope Cove will be able to operate under necessary safety restrictions from 1 April 2009 until 31 October 2009.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) has recently indicated a willingness to provide a beach life-guarding service specifically at Hope Cove, in addition to maintaining the existing provision at the nearby Bantham beach.

Provision and funding of beach safety services is generally a matter for the local authority.

The Department does not recognise the relevance of the acronym RIVU in this context.

Rolling Stock

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the new rail rolling stock recently announced by his Department will be suitable for use on routes north of Edinburgh which are served by the East Coast Main Line franchise. [258442]

Paul Clark: It is intended that Bi-Mode Super Express trains will operate north of Edinburgh to Glasgow, Aberdeen and Inverness.

Transport: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps are being taken to increase the co-ordination of activity between the Highways Agency and *(a)* the Mersey Partnership, *(b)* Merseytravel and *(c)* local authorities in order to deliver greater integration and cost-efficiency. [259478]

1. *[Official Report, 12 March 2009, Vol. 489, c. 12MC.]*

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency is working closely with its partners in Merseyside, including The Mersey Partnership, Merseytravel, and the five local authorities, to produce a Multi Area Agreement. This will deliver efficiency savings and better integrate the respective transport networks within Merseyside. Sharing technologies will be a key area, as well as collaboration on schemes in the Regional Funding Allocation.

Vehicle Number Plates

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* remit and *(b)* timetable is for the informal consultation on regulations to legalise the display of national flags on number plates; and if he will make a statement. [258853]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency issued an informal consultation to 28 interested stakeholders on Wednesday 28 January and asked for comments to be received by Monday 2 March 2009. The consultation outlined the proposal to amend regulations to allow the display of national flags on number plates in Great Britain while excluding Northern Ireland at this time. All consultees were invited to express views on any aspect of the proposal.

OLYMPICS

Legacy: South-west

4. **Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the legacy effects of the London 2012 Olympics on the south-west. [259259]

Tessa Jowell: The south-west stands to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the London 2012 games.

The National Sailing Academy at Weymouth and Portland will host the Olympic and Paralympic sailing events in 2012. In terms of legacy it is already providing a state-of-the-art facility for elite training, competition and local community use.

We are also seeing progress in other areas—40 businesses registered in the south west have already won work with the ODA; there are also 61 facilities from the area included in the official London 2012 Pre-Games Training Camp Guide.

Apprenticeships and Training

5. **Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* training opportunities the Olympic Delivery Authority plans to make available on the Olympic park. [259260]

Tessa Jowell: The Prime Minister announced last month that 250 additional apprenticeships would be created on the Olympic Park and Village. This is in addition to the existing commitment for 2,000 trainee, apprenticeships and work placements over the life of the project (of which 100 will be apprenticeships).

This increase will be achieved partly by requiring companies bidding for new contracts worth a total of £500 million to provide apprentices as 3 per cent. of their workforce—three times the south east regional average for the industry—to win them.

This demonstrates the extent to which Government remain committed to retaining jobs and skills in important industries, and our continued investment in training and skills so important for the future of the UK.

Ticketing Policy

6. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what ticketing policy has been established for the London 2012 Olympic games; and if she will make a statement. [259261]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee is responsible for the ticketing strategy for the London 2012 games. A plan is currently being developed and information about tickets will be made public in 2010. Tickets will go on sale in 2011.

Training Facilities: Scotland

7. **Ms Katy Clark:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what progress has been made on the provision of training facilities in Scotland for athletes in the London 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [259262]

Tessa Jowell: Scotland has 30 designated training facilities in the London 2012 pre-games training camp guide all offering Olympic sports training, 11 of which can host Paralympic sports.

Scotland has recently appointed a training camps co-ordinator for the 2012 games to promote Scotland's sporting offer to National Olympic Committees and National Paralympic Committees competing in London 2012.

Legacy: Equestrian Sports

8. **Mr. Gray:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what plans she has for a legacy for equestrian sports from the London 2012 Olympics. [259263]

Tessa Jowell: The equestrian events at Greenwich will promote the sport to a new inner city audience, raising its profile both nationally and internationally.

The London Organising Committee also hope to relocate equipment from the competition around the UK.

Using the inspiration of the 2012 games the British Equestrian Federation launched the Hoof programme in December 2007, which aims to increase participation and awareness in equestrianism.

CLM Delivery Partners

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much was paid to CLM Delivery Partners in each of the last three years. [258343]

Tessa Jowell: Payments made by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) to its Delivery Partner CLM are published in the ODA annual report. For the last two years the figures were as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	18.1
2007-08	87.6

The ODA has contracted CLM to undertake the procurement delivery and programme management of the venues, infrastructure, logistics facilities and other developments in the Olympic Park and selected non-Olympic Park venues. It also undertakes an overall programme reporting role.

Payments are linked to delivery performance against time, cost and quality. The level of payments reflects the fact that, with CLM's help, delivery of the ODA programme is currently on time and within budget.

Figures for 2008-09 will be published in the annual report this summer.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she has taken to hold discussions with local authorities on how their areas can benefit from the London 2012 Olympics. [244176]

Tessa Jowell: I meet regularly with the Chair of the Local Government Association (LGA) and my officials work closely with the LGA. In December I addressed the LGA conference on the Olympics. I regularly attend meetings with the London Councils and meet the five London host borough representatives and on regional visits I meet with local authorities. For example, I visited Norwich in December 2008 and Doncaster in January 2009.

There are also a number of London 2012 schemes that I actively encourage local authorities to get involved in, for example:

The latest round of the Beacon scheme has had an Olympic legacy theme included in it to encourage communities to be more active in promoting best practice on London 2012 themes. I will be announcing the winners at the awards ceremony on the 3 March.

The Inspire Mark was launched in June 2008 to promote non-commercial projects and programmes inspired by the Olympic and Paralympic games. The Mark has already been awarded to seven local authority projects.

I have met with leaders and chief executives of nine London boroughs over the last 12 months to discuss their plans for 2012.

The Local Government Association is represented on the Nations and Regions Group which was set up to ensure that the benefits from London 2012 are UK-wide.

Further to these discussions local authorities are engaged with the Nations and Regions Group, which was set up to ensure that the benefits from London 2012 are UK-wide.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anti-Terrorism Control Orders

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of (*a*) the independent reviewer pursuant to section 14 (3) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005, (*b*) the control order review group, (*c*) the permanent team dedicated to control orders, (*d*) the special advocates, (*e*) supervision arrangements made under control orders and (*f*) the legal proceedings relating to oversight of the control order regime in the last 12 months. [258364]

Mr. Coaker: In the last 12 months—1 February 2008 to 31 January 2009—expenditure on control orders under the requested headings has been as follows:

(*a*) £7,650 on the independent reviewer of the operation of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005, the Lord Carlile of Berriew, pursuant to section 14(3) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005;

(*c*) £681,543 on the permanent team dedicated to control orders in the Home Office. This figure includes pay, allowances, pension and national insurance contributions;

(*d*) £249,727 on the Special Advocates. This figure relates to charges made by the Special Advocate Support Office for their time and disbursements relating to control orders; and

(*f*) £2,157,230 on the legal proceedings relating to the judicial scrutiny and oversight of all control order cases.

The cost of providing a figure for the cost of supervision arrangements made under control orders and the cost of the quarterly Control Order Review Group (CORG) could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Asylum: Finance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time an asylum seeker remained on (*a*) section 4 and (*b*) section 95 support was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [255869]

Jacqui Smith: The way that the UK Border Agency records data on support under section 95 and section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 does not enable the collation of the average length of time individuals spend on either of these forms of support without an examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Asylum: HIV Infection

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that mechanisms for returning failed asylum seekers to their countries, with particular reference to the facilities in immigration removal centres, take account of the needs of HIV-positive people. [256340]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency examines with great care each individual case before detention and removal. They take into account all individual circumstances including, where appropriate, any serious medical conditions or other compassionate circumstances. Consideration is given to fitness to travel and whether the necessary medical treatment is available in the country to which the individual is being returned.

All UK border agency immigration removal centres have a healthcare team and medical practitioner who are responsible for the care of the physical and mental heath of all those detained, including failed asylum seekers. Detainees who are known to be HIV positive at the point of detention or who are diagnosed as being HIV positive while in detention will receive the appropriate medical care and treatment during their detention.

Removals are then carried out in accordance with Home Office policy and guidelines, and with every care and consideration to the dignity and health of the individual. Individuals diagnosed as suffering from a particular medical condition which requires ongoing treatment, including HIV, will be accompanied by a suitable medical escort.

Crime: Prosecutions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there have been for each criminal offence created by legislation since 1997. [254502]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

There is no central system that routinely records the number of prosecutions for new offences created across Whitehall. To obtain the requested information, an investigation will be necessary in order to separately identify and list data for all new offences.

This information is being collated and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as it is available. A copy will be placed in the House Library.

Crime: Statistics

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what offences are included in the other miscellaneous offences category in Table 2 in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 01/09, Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update to September 2008. [253045]

Jacqui Smith: The offences included within 'other miscellaneous offences' are as follows:

Absconding from lawful custody;
Adulteration of food;
Aiding suicide;
Bail offences;
Betting, gaming and lotteries;
Bigamy;
Blackmail;
Concealment of birth;
Customs and Revenue offences;
Dangerous driving;
Disclosure, Obstruction, False or Misleading Statements etc.;
Firearms Acts offences;
Going equipped for stealing, etc.;
Health and Safety offences;
Immigration Act offences;
Kidnapping;
Knives Act 1997 offences, relating to the unlawful marketing of knives;
Libel;
Obscene publications etc.;
Other notifiable offences;
Other offences against the State or public order;
Perjury;
Perverting the course of justice;
Planning laws;
Possession of firearms offences, relating to gun certification offences;
Protection from eviction;
Public health offences;
Riot;
Trade descriptions etc.;
Treason;
Treason felony;
Violent disorder.

Data relating to these individual offence codes are published in the annual bulletins on crime.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which offences fall within the recorded crime category of less serious wounding. [253047]

Jacqui Smith: The classification "less serious wounding" ceased to exist on 1 April 2008. All offences that were previously listed under this classification have since moved to other classifications.

For example, offences of "inflicting grievous bodily harm without intent" (new code 8F, covered by section 20 of the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act) are now a contributory part of a new most serious violence against the person category.

The offences that were included in Home Office classification 8A "less serious wounding", before abolition on 1 April 2008, are as following:

Wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm, with or without weapon.
Offences against the Person Act 1861 Sec 20.
Administering poison with intent to injure or annoy.
Offences against the Person Act 1861 Sec 24.
Drivers injuring persons by furious driving.
Offences against the Person Act 1861 Sec 35.
Assault on person preserving wreck.
Offences against the Person Act 1861 Sec 37.
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm.
Offences against the Person Act 1861 Sec 47.
Assault with intent to resist apprehension.
Offences against the Person Act 1861 Sec 38.
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1).
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person.
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3).
Excise, infibulate, aid, abet, counsel.
Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 Sec 1(1), 2, 3 & 5.

It is not possible to separately identify the number of offences recorded under each piece of legislation.

Drugs: Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of possession of *(a)* cannabis, *(b)* cocaine, *(c)* heroin, *(d)* ecstasy, *(e)* ketamine and *(f)* LSD have been recorded by police in each of the last 10 years. [253046]

Jacqui Smith: Recorded offences of possession of cannabis have been collected separately since 2004-05 and the figures are given in the following table. Possession of other drug types are included in the Home Office classification 'Possession of controlled drugs (excluding cannabis)' but the drug type cannot be separately identified.

Recent rises in recorded possession of cannabis offences are largely associated with the increased police use of powers to issue warnings for cannabis possession, these powers first becoming nationally available from 1 April 2004.

Possession of cannabis offences recorded by the police in England and Wales

	Number of offences
2004-05	88,263
2005-06	119,917
2006-07	130,395
2007-08	158,086

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applicants from Pakistan have had their applications refused in each of the last three years; how many have appealed against the refusal; how many such appeals have succeeded; how many decisions have been withdrawn prior to determination of the appeal; and if she will make a statement. [254147]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Pakistan

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Visas refused	70,253	83,753	78,473
Appeals received	35,777	48,667	48,130
Appeals allowed	12,316	12,161	16,644

Note:
These data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.
Source:
Central Reference System.

We are unable to readily separate applications where a decision has been revoked following receipt of an appeal from those where a decision has been revoked following an Asylum and Immigration Tribunal determination. This information could be provided only by checking individual applications and therefore at disproportionate cost.

Human Trafficking: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training police officers in Essex have received on human trafficking; and if she will make a statement. [254783]

Mr. Alan Campbell: All police forces in England and Wales have sent officers to the training courses devised and delivered by the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) and this work has been reinforced by the distribution of awareness-raising material sent electronically to all police officers. The UKHTC in conjunction with the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) are also in the process of rolling out training modules on human trafficking to be included in mainstream police courses. All of this work involves an element of training specifically on the convention.

The knowledge of police officers on human trafficking has been further reinforced as part of the successful nationwide Operations Pentameter 1 and 2, the latter of which additionally involved a trial of the national referral mechanism, a central component of the convention and which will be introduced from 1 April 2009.

Identity Cards

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which groups of people she plans to allow to use a third party address on a national identity card. [251681]

Meg Hillier: The cardholder's address will not be shown on the face of an identity card and so anyone who wishes to assert their identity will be able to show their identity card without needing at the same time to reveal their address.

Under the Provisions of the Identity Cards Act, individuals applying for an identity card will need to provide the address of their place of residence. Further definition under secondary legislation will provide that people who have no fixed abode, such as homeless people, may agree a suitable place of abode to be recorded as their place of residence. Each case will depend on the individual circumstances.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long she expects the evaluation of the identity card pilot scheme to take. [258104]

Meg Hillier: It is intended to phase in identity cards at Manchester and London City airports to employees requiring airside access from autumn 2009. The first 18 months from the start of the scheme will be treated as an evaluation period for the airside workers scheme.

Immigration: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals who were last recorded as resident in Peterborough constituency and whose application for indefinite leave to remain had not been allowed have been removed from the UK in each quarter since 1 January 2007; and if she will make a statement. [249282]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information is not stored in the format requested and could be obtained only by examination of individual case records and therefore at disproportionate cost.

National Identity Register

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 158W, on the National Identity Register: data protection, what information beyond confirming the validity of data may be provided for the purpose of prevention and detection of crime; and what additional information may be made available for that purpose. [260338]

Meg Hillier: The identity information held on the National Identity Register, as listed in section 3 and schedule 1 of the Identity Cards Act 2006, may be provided to the security and intelligence services, police and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and Government Departments where specified in secondary legislation

for the purposes, including the prevention and detection of crime, prescribed in section 17 of the Identity Cards Act 2006.

Offensive Weapons: Crime Prevention

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hospitals with accident and emergency departments in the 10 police force areas that make up the Tackling Knives Action Programme are sharing information with the police under the programme; and what information is being shared by them. [253978]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 4 February 2009]:* As at 30 January, police forces report that 37 hospitals in the 10 Tackling Knives Action programme areas (Metropolitan, Greater Manchester, West Midlands, Merseyside, Lancashire, West Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, South Wales, Essex, and Thames Valley) are routinely sharing anonymised information relating to victims presenting at accident and emergency departments with injuries caused by violence. One additional hospital in a second tier TKAP area (South Yorkshire, Bedfordshire and Northumbria) is also sharing information. A total of 38 hospitals.

Police: Inspections

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations have a power of inspection in respect of police forces. [254848]

Jacqui Smith: The main organisations which exercise powers of inspection in police forces are:

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary;

Audit Commission (including District Audit);

Independent Police Complaints Commission;

Independent Custody Visitors.

Work Permits: Africa

Hilary Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were issued for *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses from each country in Africa in each of the last 15 years. [259662]

Mr. Woolas: The following tables show the number of work permit applications approved for doctors and nurses from each country in Africa in the last nine years. Data are not available before 1 January 2000.

Number of individual work permit applications approved for doctors and nurses from each country in Africa for the last nine years

	2000			2001			2002		
Nationality	*Doctor*	*Nurse*	*Total*	*Doctor*	*Nurse*	*Total*	*Doctor*	*Nurse*	*Total*
Algeria	0	[..]	[..]	[..]	[..]	5	0	5	5
Angola	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[..]	[..]
Botswana	0	35	35	0	115	115	5	110	115
Burundi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cameroon	0	20	20	[..]	30	30	[..]	50	50
Central African Republic	0	0	0	0	[..]	[..]	0	0	0
Congo	0	5	5	0	[..]	[..]	[..]	5	5
Egypt	20	[..]	20	100	5	105	115	5	120
Ethiopia	0	[..]	[..]	0	[..]	[..]	0	5	5
Gambia	0	15	15	0	15	15	[..]	35	40
Ghana	5	310	315	10	530	540	10	635	645
Guinea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ivory Coast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[..]	[..]
Kenya	[..]	115	115	5	275	280	[..]	395	400
Lesotho	0	[..]	[..]	0	10	10	0	20	20
Liberia	0	[..]	[..]	0	0	0	[..]	[..]	[..]
Libya	20	[..]	20	35	5	40	55	[..]	55
Malawi	0	40	40	0	95	95	[..]	115	115
Mauritania	0	[..]	[..]	0	[..]	[..]	0	0	0
Mauritius	5	200	200	5	320	320	5	375	380
Morocco	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mozambique	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Namibia	0	5	5	0	30	30	0	30	30
Niger	0	[..]	[..]	0	[..]	[..]	0	0	0
Nigeria	30	925	955	55	1,165	1,220	65	1,720	1,785
Rwanda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seychelles	0	20	20	0	25	25	0	35	35
Sierra Leone	0	65	65	5	60	65	5	105	110
Somalia	0	0	0	0	[..]	[..]	[..]	5	5
South Africa	95	1,755	1,845	370	2,750	3,120	1,005	3,410	4,415
Sudan	15	5	20	20	5	25	35	5	35
Swaziland	0	10	10	[..]	15	15	[..]	25	25
Tanzania	[..]	15	15	5	30	30	0	35	35
Togo	0	[..]	[..]	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tunisia	0	0	0	0	[..]	[..]	0	0	0

Number of individual work permit applications approved for doctors and nurses from each country in Africa for the last nine years

	2000			2001			2002		
Nationality	*Doctor*	*Nurse*	*Total*	*Doctor*	*Nurse*	*Total*	*Doctor*	*Nurse*	*Total*
Uganda	[1]—	25	25	0	35	35	[1]—	50	50
Zaire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zambia	[1]—	150	155	[1]—	345	350	[1]—	430	430
Zimbabwe	[1]—	1,165	1,165	5	1,915	1,925	15	2,700	2,715
Total	190	4,890	5,080	620	7,785	8,405	1,330	10,315	11,640

	2003			2004			2005		
Nationality	*Doctor*	*Nurse*	*Total*	*Doctor*	*Nurse*	*Total*	*Doctor*	*Nurse*	*Total*
Algeria	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	[1]—	[1]—
Angola	0	0	0	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0
Botswana	5	105	110	0	125	125	0	140	140
Burundi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[1]—	[1]—
Cameroon	[1]—	40	40	5	55	60	5	40	45
Central African Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congo	[1]—	5	5	[1]—	5	5	0	5	5
Egypt	115	0	115	120	5	125	85	[1]—	85
Ethiopia	0	5	5	[1]—	5	5	0	[1]—	[1]—
Gambia	0	25	25	0	35	35	0	35	35
Ghana	20	770	790	20	745	765	20	650	670
Guinea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[1]—	[1]—
Ivory Coast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[1]—	[1]—
Kenya	15	385	395	20	390	410	10	255	265
Lesotho	0	35	35	[1]—	60	65	0	80	80
Liberia	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Libya	60	0	60	45	[1]—	50	50	[1]—	55
Malawi	[1]—	120	125	5	115	120	[1]—	125	125
Mauritania	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mauritius	5	430	435	15	460	475	5	350	350
Morocco	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mozambique	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Namibia	[1]—	35	35	0	40	40	0	25	25
Niger	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nigeria	80	1,335	1,410	95	1,340	1,435	100	1,160	1,260
Rwanda	0	0	0	0	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Seychelles	0	25	25	0	30	30	0	25	25
Sierra Leone	[1]—	100	100	[1]—	85	85	[1]—	70	75
Somalia	0	5	5	0	5	5	[1]—	5	5
South Africa	755	3,365	4,120	565	2,895	3,455	300	2,010	2,310
Sudan	45	5	50	45	5	50	35	[1]—	35
Swaziland	[1]—	75	75	0	120	120	0	100	100
Tanzania	[1]—	35	35	5	45	50	[1]—	45	45
Togo	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	0	[1]—	[1]—
Tunisia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[1]—	[1]—
Uganda	5	75	75	5	80	90	5	70	80
Zaire	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	[1]—	0	[1]—
Zambia	[1]—	430	430	5	380	385	5	350	355
Zimbabwe	20	2,735	2,755	30	2,985	3,015	25	2,330	2,355
Total	1,135	10,135	11,270	980	10,020	11,000	655	7,885	8,540

	2006			2007			2008			
Nationality	*Doctor*	*Nurse*	*Total*	*Doctor*	*Nurse*	*Total*	*Doctor*	*Nurse*	*Total*	*Total*
Algeria	[1]—	0	[1]—	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Angola	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[1]—
Botswana	5	70	75	[1]—	35	35	[1]—	40	40	700
Burundi	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	5
Cameroon	5	30	35	[1]—	20	20	[1]—	35	40	345
Central African Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[1]—
Congo	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	5	30
Egypt	85	0	85	40	0	40	75	[1]—	75	775
Ethiopia	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	[1]—	0	0	0	25
Gambia	0	25	25	0	10	10	0	10	10	205

Nationality	2006 Doctor	2006 Nurse	2006 Total	2007 Doctor	2007 Nurse	2007 Total	2008 Doctor	2008 Nurse	2008 Total	Total
Ghana	20	290	310	5	200	210	15	220	230	4,475
Guinea	0	[1]	[1]	0	0	0	0	0	0	[1]
Ivory Coast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[1]
Kenya	20	145	165	5	95	95	5	115	115	2,245
Lesotho	[1]	50	50	5	25	25	[1]	40	40	320
Liberia	[1]	0	[1]	0	0	0	0	[1]	[1]	10
Libya	30	0	30	10	0	10	10	0	10	325
Malawi	5	70	75	[1]	40	40	[1]	50	50	790
Mauritania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Mauritius	10	175	190	0	145	145	[1]	150	155	2,655
Morocco	0	[1]	[1]	0	0	0	0	0	0	[1]
Mozambique	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[1]	[1]	[1]
Namibia	[1]	15	15	0	10	10	0	15	15	210
Niger	0	[1]	[1]	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Nigeria	125	680	730	25	390	415	35	490	525	9,740
Rwanda	0	[1]	[1]	0	[1]	[1]	0	[1]	[1]	10
Seychelles	0	15	15	0	10	10	0	5	5	195
Sierra Leone	5	45	50	0	20	20	0	15	15	585
Somalia	[1]	5	5	0	[1]	[1]	0	[1]	[1]	35
South Africa	265	1,135	1,400	175	545	720	170	410	580	21,970
Sudan	30	0	30	20	0	20	30	0	30	290
Swaziland	0	70	70	0	25	25	0	20	20	460
Tanzania	10	25	35	[1]	20	20	[1]	10	15	285
Togo	0	0	0	0	[1]	[1]	0	[1]	[1]	5
Tunisia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Uganda	5	30	35	[1]	30	30	[1]	30	35	455
Zaire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[1]	[1]	5
Zambia	5	195	200	[1]	135	135	0	130	130	2,575
Zimbabwe	20	1,610	1,625	10	1,095	1,105	10	1,175	1,185	17,845
Total	655	4,610	5,265	305	2,850	3,155	350	2,980	3,330	67,685

[1] Indicates 1 or 2

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.
3. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Caveats:

The figures do not equate to the number of individual nationals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

Work Permits: Guyana

Hilary Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were issued for *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses from Guyana in each of the last 15 years. [259458]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of work permit applications approved for doctors and nurses from Guyana in the last nine years.

Number of individual work permit applications approved for doctors and nurses from Guyana for the last nine years

	Doctor	Nurse	Total
2000	0	35	35
2001	0	80	80
2002	0	120	120
2003	[1]	160	165
2004	[1]	295	295
2005	[1]	225	225
2006	0	180	180
2007	0	85	85
2008	0	70	70
Total	5	1,255	1,260

[1] Indicates one or two.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.
3. The occupational categories used are not ONS standard occupational classifications (SOC).
4. The figures quoted are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Caveats:

The figures do not equate to the number of individual nationals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of the use of the NHS Pathways system by North East Ambulance Service on those patients who required an ambulance as part of their care; [259174]

(2) what the total was of the trial of the NHS Pathways system used by the North East Ambulance Service in the last two years. [259178]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department commissioned a research evaluation of the accuracy and safety of NHS Pathways by a group of researchers from three universities. The research looked at all types of patients assessed by NHS Pathways, including those who needed an ambulance. A copy of the evaluation, "An evaluation of the accuracy and safety of NHS Pathways", has been placed in the Library. Information is not available centrally on the cost of the trial of the NHS Pathways system by North East Ambulance Service as these costs were met locally.

Blood Transfusions: CJD

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the National CJD Surveillance Unit informed his Department of evidence of infection of a patient with a bleeding disorder with vCJD transmitted by a transfusion; and if he will make a statement. [258723]

Dawn Primarolo: The information on the finding of abnormal prion protein associated with variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) in a spleen sample taken from a haemophilia patient at post mortem, was presented to the Department by National CJD Surveillance Unit on 6 January 2009. Before the finding was made public on 17 February, it was important to find out information about the patient's possible routes of exposure to abnormal prion protein associated with vCJD. The Health Protection Agency and the UK Haemophilia Centre Doctors' Organisation worked to prepare accurate information packs and letters for haemophilia centre doctors and their patients.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the potential financial liability to the NHS arising from claims from patients with bleeding disorders infected with vCJD from NHS transfusions; and if he will make a statement. [258724]

Dawn Primarolo: No such estimate has been made. The vCJD Trust is available to pay compensation to patients with clinical variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) and their families and carers. No patients with bleeding disorders have been diagnosed with clinical vCJD.

Breast Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much on average was spent on treating a breast cancer patient by each primary care trust in each strategic health authority in each of the last five years. [259394]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows an estimate of the gross expenditure on cancers and tumours by the national health service in England for all cancer and tumour types for the last four available financial years. This information was first collected in 2003-04 and is not available for any previous years.

The table also shows gross expenditure on breast cancer for 2006-07, the first year that those data was collected at sub-category level.

Estimated gross expenditure on cancer and tumours (all types) and on breast cancers and tumours from 2003-04 to 2006-07

£

Financial year	*Gross expenditure on cancers and tumours—all types*	*Gross expenditure on breast cancers and tumours*
2003-04	3,385,750,000	n/a
2004-05	3,773,203,000	n/a
2005-06	4,302,656,000	n/a
2006-07	4,352,460,000	403,807,000

Source:
Department of Health Resource Accounts.

A table showing the gross expenditure on breast cancers and tumours for 2006-07 by each primary care trust has been placed in the Library

Dental Services

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of adults in (*a*) North Wiltshire constituency, (*b*) Wiltshire and (*c*) England received treatment from a dentist under the NHS in each of the last 10 years. [258291]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

The proportion of the adult population registered with a national health service dentist in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex B of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and by strategic health authority (SHA).

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwtactivity.

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Information on adult patients seen in the previous 24 months as a percentage of the adult population in England is available in Table D5 Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics, Quarter 2: 30 September 2008" report. Information is available at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 30 September 2008 and is provided by PCT and SHA.

This report has been placed in the Library.

This information is not available by constituency.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy for his Department to sign the Information Commissioner's Personal Information Promise. [258951]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government welcomed the promise as a commendable initiative to raise awareness of the importance of effective data protection safeguards, particularly for those organisations with no similar commitments already in place.

Following the Cabinet Office Review Of Data Handling Procedures in Government, Departments have implemented a raft of measures to improve data security.

The Ministry of Justice is considering actively with the Information Commissioner's Office how the promise might add additional value to those measures we have already signed up to. These include the information charters, the recommendations of the Data Handling review and the Thomas/Walport review and, of course, our legal obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998 and other legislation and regulations.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of maintaining the databases owned and managed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies was in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [256147]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has in excess of 200 database information owners. The cost of undertaking an exercise to determine the cost of maintenance and management would incur disproportionate cost for the Department alone. As a consequence, a response has not been requested from its agencies.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish a copy of his Department's website accessibility plan. [257218]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's website accessibility policy and plan is currently in development and will be published by the end of April 2009.

The Department's website complies with the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C's) Level A guidelines for accessibility. The Government web guidelines published by the Cabinet Office-Central Office of Information require all websites operated by central Government departments to be double-A conformant by December 2009.

Our website accessibility statement is published on our website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Help/DH_062766

Departmental Private Finance Initiative

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what private finance initiative projects his Department has entered into since 1997; what the total value of each contract was; who the successful contractor was; which projects have been subject to refinancing arrangements; what the monetary value of the refinancing arrangement was in each such case; and what the extent of the clawback has been. [259550]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the capital value and estimated revenue payments for the lifetime of each private finance contract as well as the primary contractors (equity stakeholders in the project companies) involved has been placed in the Library.

Private finance initiative schemes which have been the subject of a refinancing agreement together with details of the value and the extent of the clawback to the NHS trust in each case are shown in the following table.

Scheme	*Date refinanced*	*Total refinancing gain (net present values £ million)*	*Trust's share of refinancing share (percentage)*	*Trust's share of refinancing gain (net present values £ million)*
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	May 2002	12.0	30	3.6
Dartford and Gravesham Hospitals NHS trust	March 2003	33.4	35	11.7
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	December 2003	115.5	34	29.3
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	February 2004	45.3	31.3	14.2
Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust	September 2006	42.2	43	18.3

Down's Syndrome: Research

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's plans are for commissioning new research into the causes of Down's syndrome. [253096]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies though which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

The MRC is currently funding one research project relating to Down's syndrome. The MRC does not, as a rule, earmark funds for particular topics: research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. The MRC always welcomes high quality applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are judged in open competition with other demands on funding. Awards are made according to their scientific quality and importance to human health.

Health Authorities: Manpower

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by *(a)* NHS hospital trusts, *(b)* ambulance trusts and *(c)* primary care trusts on temporary administrative staff in each of the last five years. [259179]

Ann Keen: The expenditure in national health service hospital trusts, ambulance trusts and primary care trusts on non-NHS staff under the 'administrative and clerical' heading are shown in the following table.

£

	NHS Hospital Trusts	Ambulance Trusts	Primary Care Trusts
2003-04	121,801,000	7,389,000	53,980,000
2004-05	105,520,000	6,339,000	60,926,000
2005-06	105,591,000	8,366,000	72,329,000
2006-07	90,191,000	8,374,000	73,640,000
2007-08	120,556,000	10,804,000	115,109,000

Note:
These figures do not include bank staff (either organised by the organisation itself or via NHS Professionals). Figures also do not include foundation trusts. Where an NHS trust obtains foundation trust status part way through any year, the data calculated are only for the part of the year the organisation operated as an NHS trust.
Source:
NHS Trust and PCT Financial Returns

Maternity Services

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many babies were born in stand-alone, midwife-led units in each of the last 10 years; [260190]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the clinical safety of stand-alone, midwife-led units; [260191]

(3) how many midwife-led maternity units there are; and how many of these units are *(a)* co-located with consultant-led maternity services and *(d)* stand-alone. [260192]

Ann Keen: Midwifery led care may take place in the home, in a freestanding midwifery facility, an alongside midwifery facility or within a hospital delivery suite. Information of birth in midwifery facilities is not collected centrally. We have commissioned the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU) to undertake an integrated programme of research entitled 'Birthplace', which is designed to compare outcomes of births planned at home, in different types of midwifery units, and in hospital units with obstetric services—the NPEU are expected to report at the end of the year.

We do not routinely collect details of numbers of maternity units although a one-off survey by the Healthcare Commission suggested that in March 2007, there were 382 maternity units, of which 101 were midwifery-led. We do not know how many were stand-alone and how many co-located with consultant-led units.

NHS Foundation Trusts: Land

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether NHS funding allocations to NHS foundation trust hospitals take into account the income each trust receives from land sales. [259737]

Mr. Bradshaw: Revenue allocations are made directly to primary care trusts, not NHS foundation trusts. Capital allocations from the Department require a demonstration of need, and proceeds from land sales are taken into account when agreeing the financing of a project.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS Hospital foundation trusts have sold land since their establishment; how much was sold in each case; and how much each trust received from the sale. [259739]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are informed by the chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the independent regulator for NHS foundation trusts (NHS FTs) that his organisation does not receive details or maintain a register of all land disposals by NHS FTs.

If an NHS FT intends to dispose of land, Monitor will be involved if the land is defined as a protected asset—one required for the delivery of a service commissioned by a primary care trust, or if the disposal qualifies as a major investment.

NHS: Equality

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken in co-operation with voluntary sector organisations on *(a)* developing gender-sensitive policies and *(b)* reducing gender inequalities in the NHS in the last five years. [259644]

Phil Hope: The Department is committed to ensuring that health and social care services promote gender equality. This is set out as a core principle in the NHS Constitution for England, which was developed in consultation with a range of voluntary sector organisations and was published on 21 January 2009.

Over the past five years the Department has continued to work in co-operation with voluntary sector organisations on gender equality, including:

convening a Gender Equality Advisory Group (GEAG), including voluntary sector organisations, to advise the Department on current health inequality trends and providing a consultative forum on outward-facing policy initiatives that impact on the NHS;

issuing guidance, developed with GEAG and published in March 2007 on "Creating a Gender Equality Scheme: A practical guide for the NHS" to ensure that all NHS organisations understand their gender equality duties. A copy has already been placed in the Library. Similar guidance was published in November 2008 specifically on transgender issues: "Trans: A practical guide for the NHS" and a copy has been placed in the Library; and

commissioning research into the different ways in which men and women access health services.

As we move forward, gender inequalities will be a key area for our new third sector Strategic Partner Programme where we are investing in 11 third sector organisations, including the Men's Health Forum, to develop the capability of the sector and ensure they have an informed and coherent voice influencing health and social care policy.

We are also supporting a new 'Women's health and equalities consortium' which includes six national women's organisations led by YWCA, the establishment of this consortium offers a new opportunity to ensure that the women's voluntary sector are able to inform policy and affect change particularly gender inequalities.

NHS: Finance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much and what proportion of the budget of each London *(a)* health authority and *(b)* foundation trust is expected to be top-sliced to fund debt in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [258262]

Mr. Bradshaw: The boards of all 31 primary care trusts (PCTs) in London have agreed in principle to support NHS London's medium term financial strategy, to address long term deficits within some national health service organisations in London. All PCTs, with the exception of those repaying historical deficits, will be contributing on average 0.8 per cent. of their resource baseline in 2009-10 and 0.75 per cent. in 2010-11 as part of the plan.

This is in line with the 2009-10 operating framework which states that strategic health authorities (SHAs) may determine and agree arrangements locally with their PCTs for the transfer and lodging of resources with the SHA, provided this is within the overall limits of the SHA planned surplus. SHAs will be accountable for the management of this flexibility.

London NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts will not be contributing any of their income towards NHS London's medium term financial plan.

NHS: Publications

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints were received by his Department on the accuracy of its literature relating to the provision of NHS services in the latest period for which figures are available. [259172]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information that the hon. Member requires about complaints received by the Department on the accuracy of literature relating to the provision of NHS services can be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

NHS: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS is recorded in Estates Return Information Collection data as spending on the reduction of backlog maintenance in each year since 2000-01. [259377]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the precise format requested. The amount invested by national health service trusts specially to reduce backlog maintenance costs was first collected through the Estates Return Information Collection in 2001-02.

The information which is available is shown in the following table.

Total amount of investment to reduce backlog maintenance costs, by NHS trusts in England

	£ million
2001-02	296.4
2002-03	402.4
2003-04	426.1
2004-05	[1]274.9
2005-06	[1]230.0
2006-07	[1]216.7
2007-08	[1]301.2

[1] Data collected on a non-compulsory basis.

From 2001-02 to 2003-04 the data were provided on a mandatory basis. However, since 2004-05, NHS trusts have provided the data on a non-compulsory basis, and may therefore not be complete.

Investment to reduce backlog maintenance will be prioritised locally based on risk assessment, reconfiguration planning and available resources. In addition to the investment specifically to reduce backlog maintenance in buildings which are to remain in NHS use, the major hospital building programme has replaced many existing NHS buildings that had significant levels of backlog maintenance.

The data are as provided by the NHS and have not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of those data is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each NHS organisation in England is recorded in Estates Return Information Collection data as spending on reducing its backlog of maintenance in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08; and what organisation code was provided on each occasion that such expenditure was incurred in the period. [259378]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information has been placed in the Library.

The amount invested by national health service trusts specifically to reduce backlog maintenance costs is collected through the Estates Return Information Collection. Since 2004-05, NHS trusts have provided the data on a non-compulsory basis and it may therefore not be complete.

Investment to reduce backlog maintenance will be prioritised locally based on risk assessment, reconfiguration planning and available resources. In addition to the investment specifically to reduce backlog maintenance in buildings which are to remain in NHS use, the major hospital building programme has replaced many existing NHS buildings that had significant levels of backlog maintenance.

The data are as provided by the NHS and have not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of those data is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

NHS: Waiting lists

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what each measured waiting list time in each NHS institution serving North Wiltshire constituency was in each of the last 10 years. [258292]

Mr. Bradshaw: The available data are for inpatient and outpatient waiting times for the national health service trusts and primary care trusts serving North Wiltshire, as at March for each specified year, and are given in the following tables.

Inpatient and outpatient waiting times—Royal United Hospitals Bath, March 1998 to present

	Inpatients			*Outpatients*		
	Total waiting	*waiting over 26 weeks*	*waiting over 13 weeks*	*Total waiting*	*waiting over 13 weeks*	*waiting over eight weeks*
March 1998	10,475	3,729	6,515	n/a	449	n/a
March 1999	9,638	3,309	5,851	n/a	654	n/a
March 2000	8,130	3,272	5,326	n/a	1,199	n/a
March 2001	7,667	2,450	4,503	n/a	1,22	n/a

Inpatient and outpatient waiting times—Royal United Hospitals Bath, March 1998 to present

	Inpatients			Outpatients		
	Total waiting	waiting over 26 weeks	waiting over 13 weeks	Total waiting	waiting over 13 weeks	waiting over eight weeks
March 2002	9,972	4,075	6,609	n/a	2,007	n/a
March 2003	9,593	2,702	5,725	n/a	1,131	n/a
March 2004	8,226	1,231	4,256	n/a	424	n/a
March 2005	5,547	1,177	2,966	9,248	294	2,241
March 2006	4,374	1	1,824	8,727	0	1,357
March 2007	4,653	8	1535	8148	0	1,379
March 2008	2,081	0	55	6455	0	122
December 2008	2,421	0	57	7735	0	524

Inpatient and outpatient waiting time—Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust, March 1998 in December 2008 it became Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) March 2008.

	Inpatients			Outpatients		
	Total waiting	waiting over 26 weeks	waiting over 13 weeks	Total waiting	waiting over 13 weeks	waiting over eight weeks
March 1998	6,663	2,390	3,985	n/a	1,407	n/a
March 1999	6,456	2,810	4,394	n/a	2,147	n/a
March 2000	5,820	2,195	3,707	n/a	2,996	n/a
March 2001	5,119	1,356	2,653	n/a	498	n/a
March 2002	5,163	951	2,364	n/a	70	n/a
March 2003	5,446	1,022	2,446	n/a	418	n/a
March 2004	6,733	841	2,931	n/a	89	n/a
March 2005	5,596	329	2,263	6,795	46	1,368
March 2006	5,532	0	1,927	6,531	0	889
March 2007	5,643	0	2337	5,169	0	432
March 2008	3,237	0	231	4,231	0	24
December 2008	3,852	0	37	4,155	0	31

Note:
Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust was in existence until December 2008, it then became the Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Inpatient and outpatient waiting time—West Wiltshire Primary Care Trust (PCT), March 2003 to March 2006

	Inpatients			Outpatients		
	Total waiting	waiting over 26 weeks	waiting over 13 weeks	Total waiting	waiting over 13 weeks	waiting over eight weeks
March 2003	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	13	n/a
March 2004	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	n/a
March 2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	14	0	0

Inpatient and outpatient waiting time—West Wiltshire Primary Care Trust (PCT), March 2003 to March 2006

	Inpatients			Outpatients		
	Total waiting	waiting over 26 weeks	waiting over 13 weeks	Total waiting	waiting over 13 weeks	waiting over eight weeks
March 2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0

Notes:
1. Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) do not provide any inpatient consultant led activity data.
2. From October 2006, Kennet and North Wiltshire PCT, West Wiltshire PCT and South Wiltshire PCT merged to became Wiltshire PCT

Inpatient and outpatient waiting times—Kennet and North Wiltshire PCT, March 2003 to March 2006

	Inpatients			Outpatients		
	Total waiting	waiting over 26 weeks	waiting over 13 weeks	Total waiting	waiting over 13 weeks	waiting over eight weeks
March 2003	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12	n/a
March 2004	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	n/a
March 2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	74	0	21
March 2006	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0

Notes:
1. Primary Care Trusts do not provide any inpatient consultant led activity data.
2. From October, 2006 Kennet and North Wiltshire PCT, West Wiltshire PCT and South Wiltshire PCT merged to became Wiltshire PCT

Inpatient and outpatient waiting times—Wiltshire and Swindon Healthcare NHS Trust, March 2000 to March 2002

	Inpatients			Outpatients		
	Total waiting	waiting over 26 weeks	waiting over 13 weeks	Total waiting	waiting over 13 weeks	waiting over eight weeks
March 2000	12	0	0	n/a	248	n/a
March 2001	7	0	0	n/a	24	n/a
March 2002	0	0	0	n/a	0	n/a

Inpatient and outpatient waiting times—Wiltshire Healthcare NHS Trust, March 1998 to March 1999

	Inpatients			Outpatients		
	Total waiting	waiting over 26 weeks	waiting over 13 weeks	Total waiting	waiting over 13 weeks	waiting over eight weeks
March 1998	188	0	0	n/a	0	n/a
March 1999	79	0	0	n/a	0	n/a

Inpatient and outpatient waiting times - East Wiltshire Healthcare NHS Trust, March 1998 to March 1999

	Inpatients			Outpatients		
	Total waiting	waiting over 26 weeks	waiting over 13 weeks	Total waiting	waiting over 13 weeks	waiting over eight weeks
March 1998	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	120	n/a

Inpatient and outpatient waiting times - East Wiltshire Healthcare NHS Trust, March 1998 to March 1999

	Inpatients			Outpatients		
	Total waiting	*waiting over 26 weeks*	*waiting over 13 weeks*	*Total waiting*	*waiting over 13 weeks*	*waiting over eight weeks*
March 1999	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	n/a

Note:
Prior to 2004, only the number of outpatients waiting over 13 weeks were collected.

Outpatient waiting times—Wiltshire Primary Care Trust, March 2007 to present

	Inpatients			Outpatients		
	Total waiting	*waiting over 26 weeks*	*waiting over 13 weeks*	*Total waiting*	*waiting over 13 weeks*	*waiting over eight weeks*
March 2007	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	—	1
March 2008	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	0	0
December 2008	n/a	n/a	n/a	32	0	0

Notes:
1. Wiltshire PCT came into existence in October 2006, outpatient waiting times data are available from March 2007 to present.
2. Primary Care Trusts do not provide any inpatient consultant led activity data.
3. South Wiltshire Primary Care Trust is not included, as it did not provide outpatient or inpatient services.

Source:
Monthly monitoring return and KH07 quarterly return

Patients

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of discharge letters which were received by GPs *(a)* two, *(b)* three, *(c)* four, *(d)* six, *(e)* 10 and *(f)* 12 weeks after the patients were discharged from hospital in (i) Westmorland and Lonsdale, (ii) Morecambe Bay Primary Care Trust area and (iii) England. [258148]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally. The hon. Gentleman may wish to contact his local NHS organisations for further information.

Rarer Diseases

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to increase levels of diagnosis and treatment of rarer diseases. [259402]

Ann Keen: The National Commissioning Group nationally commissions highly specialised services, which is how the national health service addresses rare conditions, on behalf of the NHS in England.

The National Commissioning Group considers new bids for additions to the national commissioning portfolio on an annual basis. The following services have been added to the national portfolio effective from 1 April 2009:

Ataxia telangiectasia service for children;

Autoimmune paediatric gut syndromes service;

Gender identity development service for children and adolescents;

Chronic pulmonary aspergillosis service;

Complex Ehlers Danlos syndrome service;

Complex Neurofibromatosis type 1 service;

Encapsulating sclerosing peritonitis surgical service;

Paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria;

Deaf child and adolescent mental health outreach service; and

Ventricular assist devices as bridge to heart transplant for adults and children.

The National Commissioning Group is currently considering bids to be added to the national commissioning portfolio from 2010-11. Advice will be passed to Ministers in the autumn to make decisions about any new services proposed to be nationally commissioned.

Thalidomide: Health Services

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with the Thalidomide Trust on health care for people affected by Thalidomide in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [260002]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has had no discussions with the Thalidomide Trust on health care for people affected by Thalidomide.

The trust has declined a recent offer of a meeting with Department officials to discuss health and social care support for those affected by Thalidomide.

Urinary System: Diseases

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of primary care trusts which fund the use of sacral nerve stimulation as a treatment for interstitial cystitis. [257500]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to decide their priorities for investment locally, taking into account both local priorities and the national health service operating framework.

Funding for sacral nerve stimulation would be made from PCT revenue allocations. Revenue allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 were announced in December 2008 and over the two years covered by this allocation, PCTs will receive an average increase in funding of 11.3 per cent., a total increase of £8.6 billion. The Department does not break down PCT allocations by policies, at either a national or local level.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Cold Weather Payments: Waveney

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons *(a)* residents of Carlton Colville have received one cold weather payment and *(b)* residents of Lowestoft, Southwold and Pakefield have received three cold weather payments in 2009 to date. [259632]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 27 February 2009]:* A cold weather payment is made to an eligible customer when the average temperature has been recorded as, or is forecast to be, 0°C or below over seven consecutive days at the weather station linked to the customer's postcode.

Lowestoft is in postcode sectors NR32 and NR33; Carlton Colville and Pakefield are both in postcode sector NR33. Postcode sectors NR32 and NR33 are

linked to Norwich airport weather station. Southwold is in postcode sector IP18 which is linked to Wattisham weather station. In 2009 to date (25 February), Norwich Airport weather station has met the temperature criterion once and Wattisham weather station has met it three times.

Source:

For postcode information: Royal Mail Address Management Guide or Royal Mail UK Addresses.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [252378]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has an estates private finance initiative (PFI) contract with Trillium for the provision of fully fitted and serviced accommodation and for which the Department pays an all inclusive unitary charge. This unitary charge includes a risk price element for all aspects of building maintenance, repair, routine decoration and refurbishment, known as Life Cycle Works. These separate elements cannot be disaggregated from the unitary charge.

Some works and refurbishments are not covered by the unitary charge and are funded separately as capital expenditure. The capital expenditure on works and refurbishment of offices allocated to Ministers in departmental buildings in the last 12 months was £4,524.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge) of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1303-04W, on departmental databases, what ACORN codes were used to help identify the postcode sectors in the 50 local authorities referred to in the answer. [258661]

Jonathan Shaw: The ACORN codes that were used to help identify the postcode sectors within the 50 local authorities referred to in the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1303-04W, are all within category 5 of ACORN: Group N, Group O, Group P, Group Q.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's most recent *(a)* IT and telephony satisfaction survey and *(b)* staff survey. [258767]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* The most recent IT and telephony satisfaction survey has been placed in the House of Commons Library. The most recent staff survey is available on the Department's website through the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/resourcecentre/corporate-publications.asp

Employment Schemes

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* pilots and *(b)* pathfinder areas his Department *(a)* has set up in each of the last two years and *(b)* plans to set up in each of the next five years; and what the cost of each is. [244490]

Mr. McNulty: The activities of the Department for Work and Pensions cover a very wide range of programmes and services. Pilots and pathfinders are a normal part of departmental business. Details of each such pathfinder or pilot and its cost are not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Employment: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what links the new specialist disability employment programme will have with *(a)* local health and social care services, *(b)* further education colleges and *(c)* Valuing People initiatives. [259121]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 26 February 2009]:* The procurement specification, due to be published at the end of March, will make it clear that prime providers will need to have close links to local health and social care services, further education colleges and Valuing People initiatives. This will ensure particularly that people with mental health conditions or learning disabilities will have good access to the new specialist disability employment programme. Some specialist local services will be able to refer people directly to the new programme.

European Globalisation Fund

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 422W, on EU grants and loans, when the European Globalisation Fund was established; what payments the Government has made to the fund; which EU member states have made applications for matched funding from the fund; which of these have been approved and for what purposes; how much has been paid out from the fund to date; what criteria govern the sources of matched funds; and if he will make a statement. [257414]

Jonathan Shaw: In his answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1422W, my right hon. Friend the Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform stated that the European globalisation fund draws on the EU budget where there may be underspends or decommitted funds. This means that Governments do not make additional payments into the fund.

Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal and Spain have had EGF applications approved, totalling €67,646,697. Germany, Portugal and Spain have further applications still to be determined, totalling €14,621,200.

All these applications are for active labour market measures, including training, to reintegrate back into the labour market workers who lost their jobs as a result of a large scale redundancy, of at least 1,000 redundancies. This forms the main criterion for use of the fund.

More detailed information is in the EGF Regulation of 20 December 2006 and the Commission Communication on the EGF in 2007—Review and Prospects—published on 2 July 2008. Both were deposited in the Library. The Commission have also placed these on the Europa website, along with advice and guidance on using the EGF.

Housing Benefit: Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* written warnings have been issued and *(b)* sanctions have been applied in the pilot areas for the sanction of reduction of housing benefit related to anti-social behaviour under the provisions of the Welfare Reform Act 2007. [259130]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given to him on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 89W.

Incapacity Benefit: Christmas Bonus

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit claimants received the £60 Christmas bonus in 2008-09; what the cost of such bonus payments was; and what the cost of such bonus payments to incapacity benefit payment claimants was in 2007-08. [259128]

Jonathan Shaw: The answer is in the following table:

Actual (2007-08) and forecasted volumes (2008-09) Christmas bonus payments to incapacity benefit claimants

	Volume of payments (to be) made	*Total cost (£ million)*
2007-08	1,080,000	11
2008-09	1,174,000	80

Notes:
1. Expenditure figures have been rounded to the nearest £ million and volumes have been rounded to the nearest 1,000.
2. The total volume of payments made in 2007-08 is not available so the figure has been estimated from the total sum paid.
3. For incapacity benefit customers Christmas bonus payments are only made to those who qualify for the long term rate. Those in receipt of severe disablement allowance and combined incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance have been excluded from the estimates. Those in receipt of pension credit and disability living allowance are not included in these estimates as the Christmas bonus hierarchy makes payments to recipients of these benefits first.

The 2007-08 expenditure figure for the Christmas bonus includes the normal payment of £10. The 2008-09 expenditure estimate for the Christmas bonus includes the £10 payment and the pre-Budget report 2008 announcement of an additional one-off payment of £60 to all Christmas bonus recipients.

Jobcentre Plus

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the report by Lesley Strathie, chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, to which he referred in his speech on 25 June 2008 at the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion Conference. [255263]

Mr. McNulty: The Report "Review of Adviser Discretion" has been placed in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies were notified to the Jobcentre Plus branch which serves residents of the London Borough of Bexley in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [259510]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available in the format requested. The available information regarding the number of vacancies notified in the London borough of Bexley is in the following table.

Number of vacancies notified in the London borough of Bexley

	Vacancies
2006	6,909
2007	7,951
2008	8,125

Notes:
1. Data are unrounded.
2. Changes to Jobcentre Plus vacancy handling procedures have led to a major discontinuity in the vacancy statistics pre- and post- May 2006. Consequently, care should be taken in interpreting time-series data.
3. These are not whole economy figures. Coverage relates just to vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus and as such represent a market share of vacancies throughout the whole economy. This proportion varies over time, according to the occupation of the vacancy and industry of the employer, and by local area. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.
4. These figures are published at: www.nomisweb.co.uk

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System

Jobcentre Plus: Civil Proceedings

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times legal action has been taken against *(a)* Jobcentre Plus and *(b)* individual jobcentre staff in each Jobcentre Plus district in each month since the creation of Jobcentre Plus in 2002; and what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of such actions. [249423]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available below regional/national level.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what plans he has to employ additional Jobcentre Plus staff in each region in each of the next five years to enable Jobcentre Plus to cope with the additional responsibilities accorded to it under the proposals in the Welfare Reform Bill; [257816]

(2) whether Jobcentre Plus staff will be given additional training in respect of their responsibilities under the proposals in Part 2 of the Welfare Reform Bill. [258261]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking:

What plans he has to employ additional Jobcentre Plus staff in each region, in each of the next five years, to enable Jobcentre Plus to cope with the additional responsibilities accorded to it under the Welfare Reform Bill.

Whether Jobcentre Plus staff will be given additional training in respect of their responsibilities under Part 2 of the Welfare Reform Bill. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus is currently undertaking detailed design and implementation planning for the range of initiatives contained within the Welfare Reform Bill. These initiatives are planned to be delivered progressively over the next three to five years. The implementation planning will include the location and timing of the specific pilots and trailblazers as outlined in the Bill, and any additional training requirements.

I am unable to provide the information you require in advance of the conclusion of this detailed planning work.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many additional Jobcentre Plus staff he expects to be employed to take account of anticipated changes in the levels of employment in each region in each of the next five years. [258128]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The information requested is not available.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus staff were employed in each region in each of the last five years. [258130]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1980W, to the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central (Jenny Willott).

New Deal for Young People

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were referred to the New Deal for Young People before they had been on jobseeker's allowance for six months in each quarter since the programme was introduced, broken down by reason for early referral. [257193]

Mr. McNulty: Information on the reason for early referral is not available. The available information is in the table.

New Deal for Young People: Starters with the early entrant indicator

Quarter ending	*Number*
1998	
February[1]	1,510
May	9,450
August	10,810
November	9,100
1999	
February	7,990
May	8,520
August	9,080
November	8,750
2000	
February	8,730
May	8,090
August	7,750
November	7,160
2001	
February	6,990
May	6,630
August	6,630
November	6,460
2002	
February	7,320
May	9,960
August	9,370
November	9,230
2003	
February	9,590
May	9,540
August	9,620
November	9,060
2004	
February	8,820
May	8,910
August	8,850
November	8,510
2005	
February	8,850
May	9,000
August	8,010
November	7,010
2006	
February	7,480
May	7,700
August	7,270
November	6,980
2007	
February	7,800
May	8,350
August	8,840
November	7,350
2008	
February	8,470
May	9,000
August	9,590
November	9,180
Total	370,070

[1] Figure is for January to February 1998.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The New Deal for Young People pilots began in January 1998 and full national roll-out occurred in April 1998. Latest data are to November 2008.
3. Early entrants are estimated to be those participants who join New Deal for Young People before reaching six months unemployed.
4. This information is available at our website link http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/tabtools/tabtool_nd.asp

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged under 24 years old have claimed the New Deal allowance in each month since the New Deal for Young People was introduced. [257194]

Mr. McNulty: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Pension Credit: Holocaust Victims

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which payments made to holocaust victims are exempted from the calculations made to determine eligibility for the pension credit. [246734]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Lump sum payments made to compensate those who were slave labourers, forced labourers or suffered personal injuries or property loss during the second world war are fully disregarded when calculating entitlement to pension credit.

In addition payments made to parents whose child died during the second world war are fully disregarded when calculating entitlement to pension credit.

Pensions paid by the German or Austrian Government which are the equivalent of the British state pension are fully taken into account. However pensions paid under special provisions by the German or Austrian Government to victims of National Socialist persecution are taken into account subject to a £10 disregard when calculating entitlement to pension credit.

Payments made to holocaust victims are not related to the German pensions paid to certain individuals who fled here from Nazi Germany as children before the start of the second world war in an initiative known as the 'Kindertransport'. Recent legislation in the Pensions Act 2008 has enabled these persons to opt to revoke their pre-1948 British national insurance contributions while retaining their British state pension with the effect of improving their German pension entitlement.

Personal Accounts

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the income distribution of those who will be automatically enrolled into a personal account under the Pensions Bill 2007 is. [249489]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Pensions Act 2008 requires employers to automatically enrol eligible workers into a qualifying work-based pension arrangement. Employers will choose the qualifying scheme they use, which could be the new personal accounts scheme.

The information in the table summarises the income distribution for those aged 22 to state pension age, working in the private sector, not already saving into a work-based pension scheme and earning more than £5,035 using data from the 2007 annual survey of hours and earnings.

Income distribution of those eligible for automatic enrolment into a work-based pension scheme

Salary band (average income)	Percentage (%)
£5,000–£9,999	19
£10,000–£14,999	22
£15,000–£19,999	21
£20,000–£24,999	16
£25,000–£29,999	9
£30,000–£34,999	5
£35,000–£39,999	3
£40,000–£44,999	2
£45,000+	4
Median (£)	17,000
Mean (£)	21,000

Note:
All those aged 22 to state pension age who work in the private sector, are not already saving into a work-based pension scheme and earn more than £5,035.
Totals may not sum due to rounding.
Source:
Annual survey of hours and earnings - 2007.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate to the nearest whole pound the weekly pension income from a personal accounts pension for a single person auto-enrolling into a personal account in 2012 at the age of *(a)* 22, *(b)* 32, *(c)* 42 and *(d)* 52, earning a salary of (i) £11,500, (ii) £12,500, (iii) £13,500, (iv) £14,500, (v) £15,500, (vi) £16,500, (vii) £17,500, (viii) £18,500, (ix) £19,500, (x) £20,500, (xi) £21,500 and (xii) £22,500 which rises annually during their career each year in line with earnings, where that person stopped working at 68, annuitised at 68, and had no savings other than a personal account pension pot. [249450]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows the expected gross weekly private pension and total net weekly income for a male in the age and earnings groups requested.

Retirement income for an individual who starts saving in 2012

£

	Age in 2012			
	22		32	
Salary in 2012	Gross private pension income	Net total income	Gross private pension income	Net total income
£11,500	24	166	17	161
£12,500	26	169	20	163
£13,500	31	191	23	165
£14,500	35	195	26	168
£15,500	39	199	29	190
£16,500	43	201	32	193
£17,500	47	204	35	196
£18,500	51	207	37	199
£19,500	55	210	40	201
£20,500	59	213	43	203
£21,500	63	216	46	206
£22,500	66	219	49	209

£

	Age in 2012			
	42		52	
Salary in 2012	Gross private pension income	Net total income	Gross private pension income	Net total income
£11,500	12	160	7	166
£12,500	14	172	8	165

£

	Age in 2012			
	62		52	
Salary in 2012	Taken private pension income	Net total income	Taken private pension income	Net total income
£15,500	16	176	9	167
£16,500	18	177	10	168
£17,500	20	180	11	170
£18,500	22	182	12	172
£19,500	24	185	14	175
£20,500	25	187	15	178
£21,500	27	190	16	181
£22,500	29	192	17	183
£23,500	31	195	18	185
£24,500	33	197	19	188

Note:
These examples assume an annual management charge of 0.5 per cent., standard assumptions about factors such as investment growth and a lifestyled fund and phasing of contributions over a three year period. The whole of the pension pot is annuitised using RPI linked annuities, assuming the annuitant is male. Individuals are assumed to start working at the age of 22, with a state pension age of 68 and to contribute 5 per cent. (including tax relief) of their qualifying earnings and to receive 3 per cent. of their qualifying earnings from their employer. Net total income is total retirement income after tax for private pension income, basic state pension, second state pension and income related benefits. Figures are in 2008-09 earnings terms.

Progression to Work Model

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of personal advisers required to administer the Progression to Work model; at what Civil Service pay band the personal advisers administering the model will be graded; and what estimate he has made of the additional cost of the scheme to his Department. [257749]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* A cadre of skilled and capable personal advisers will be absolutely essential to effectively implement the Progression to Work model. The Department made clear in its recent discussion document "Realising Potential: developing personalised conditionality and support" that it will be necessary to think through the implications for the adviser role and implement a workforce development strategy within Jobcentre Plus. This is an issue we will discuss in detail with stakeholders. As such no final decisions have yet been made on the grading or number of personal advisers necessary to deliver the Progression to Work pathfinders. However all Jobcentre Plus personal advisers are currently band C grade staff.

The cost of the new Progression to Work pathfinders will depend on precisely what the personalised conditionality and work-related activity looks like. At this stage therefore, costs are uncertain. The impact assessment associated with the White Paper "Raising Expectations and Increasing Support – reforming welfare for the future" estimated that the increase in work-focused interviews and provision to support work and skills-related activity could cost up to an extra £20 million a year for parents with younger children. For employment and support allowance customers we are still working through the detailed design of the policy and assessing the appropriate balance between Jobcentre Plus and providers. Additional costs will be met from within the current agreed Department spending plans.

Rapid Response Service: East Riding

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many redundancies in the East Riding of Yorkshire have been designated as significant and dealt with by the Rapid Response Service; and if he will make a statement. [254045]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question concerning how many redundancies in the East Riding of Yorkshire have been designated as significant and dealt with by the Rapid Response Service. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

A strengthened Rapid Response Service was launched on 12 November, doubling national funding from £3 million to £6 million in the current year and doubled again to £12million in 2009/10. Through the Rapid Response Service, Jobcentre Plus has access to funds to enable those individuals made redundant to receive the necessary help to get them back into work.

19 companies to date in the East Riding of Yorkshire have been designated as significant redundancies and dealt with by the Rapid Response Service. Of the 19 companies, 3 received full Rapid Response Funding to retrain redundant workers with the rest receiving retraining through other funding streams. In total 2,268 individuals accessed the Rapid Response Service.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the amount paid by his Department in benefits in relation to children diagnosed with foetal anti-convulsant syndrome caused by mothers receiving sodium valproate treatment during pregnancy in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259373]

Jonathan Shaw: No estimate has been made of the amount of benefits paid in relation to children diagnosed with foetal anti-convulsant syndrome caused by mothers receiving sodium valproate treatment during pregnancy. However, the disabilities associated with this syndrome may mean that a child could be entitled to disability living allowance depending on the level of their personal care needs and/or mobility difficulties arising from those disabilities.

Social Security Benefits: Obesity

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of claimants of both employment and support allowance and incapacity benefit whose capability of work is limited by obesity. [259125]

Jonathan Shaw: Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation. To qualify for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work which is called the Personal Capability Assessment. Therefore, the medical condition recorded on the incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance

claim form does not itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits. For example, the decision for a customer claiming incapacity benefit on the grounds of obesity would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities in the Personal Capability Assessment.

DWP will be publishing National Statistics on Employment and Support Allowance in summer 2009.

As at August 2008, of the 2,632,000 claimants of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, 2,130 claimants had a primary diagnosis of obesity.

Note:

Data is rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS

State Retirement Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of women who have reached state pension age since April 2008 eligible to buy back one or more year of Class 3 national insurance contributions under the measures contained in the Pensions Act 2008; how many such women have taken up that option; whether people reaching state pension age are automatically notified of their rights under the Pensions Act 2008 when they are prompted to claim that state pension; and if he will make a statement. [255667]

Ms Rosie Winterton: [holding answer 9 February 2009]: The number of women who are estimated to reach state pension age between 6 April 2008 and 5 April 2009 and eligible to pay one or more year of Class 3 National Insurance contributions under the measure contained in the Pensions Act 2008 is 145,000.

No one can take up the option before the measure comes into force on 6 April 2009.

The Department for Work and Pensions and HM Revenue and Customs are currently working together to agree business procedures for the measure and what changes may be needed to leaflets, letters and forms.

Note:

Figures refer to women who are estimated to be resident in the UK and overseas.

Source:

Information about people's National Insurance records has been obtained from the Lifetime Labour Market Database 2, 2005 release. Numbers have been estimated based on mortality assumptions for Great Britain from the 2004 based population projections.

Winter Fuel Payments: Chronically Sick

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's estimate is of the cost of extending the winter fuel allowance to terminally ill people who would not otherwise qualify, excluding the one-off additional payment of £50 for 2008-09. [241070]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Winter fuel payments are made to people aged 60 or over including those who are disabled or terminally ill. The heating costs of terminally ill people arise throughout the year, not just in winter and disability living allowance provides additional weekly financial support of up to £5,915 a year related to an individual's circumstances.

The latest available data suggest that the annual cost of extending winter fuel payments to people aged under 60 in receipt of disability living allowance under the special rules applicable to people who are terminally ill and not expected to live for more than six months is estimated to be about £5 million. This is an estimate for 2008-09 and is based on a £200 payment, which excludes the one off additional payment of £50 for this year.

It is not possible to determine how many of the estimated beneficiaries live in a household that would already be entitled to a winter fuel payment.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to Question 248845, on benefit payments to persons subject to control orders, tabled by the hon. Member for Newark on 13 January 2009. [257670]

Mr. McNulty: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 88W.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Adult Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on preparing and publishing the Evaluation of the impact of skills for life learning report. [254364]

Mr. Simon: I have been asked to reply.

The costs involved in publishing and printing in respect of the published "Evaluation of the Impact of Skills for Life Learning" reports are approximately £400.

Three reports have been published as follows:

Evaluation of the impact of basic skills learning: report on Wave 1;

Evaluation of the Impact of Skills for Life Learning: Report on Sweep 2; and

Evaluation of the Impact of Skills for Life Learning: Longitudinal Survey of Learners, Wave 3.

Child Minding

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to increase the annual fee for child minders on *(a)* the Early Years Register and *(b)* the Ofsted Childcare Register. [260043]

Beverley Hughes: Following our consultation "Childcare Act 2006: Future Approach to Fees and Subsidies" we announced in June 2008 increases to the Early Years Register fees for child minders from £25 in 2008/09 to £30 in 2009/10 and £35 in 2010/11. There are no plans to increase fees for the voluntary or compulsory parts of the General Childcare Register in 2009.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the number of childminders who can join a locally-accredited childminding network is limited. [260051]

Beverley Hughes: The Government place no limits on the number of child minders who can join locally accredited child minding networks. Local authorities can limit places on networks according to resources available to them and their assessment of the need for networked child minders.

The Government's recent document "Next Steps for Early Learning and Childcare" indicates that we will work with stakeholders to improve access to networks in all local authority areas.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many locally-accredited child minding networks have reported demand for places on networks in the last 12 months. [260052]

Beverley Hughes: The Government are committed to ensuring access to high quality provision through a range of providers, including child minders. This is why in the recent document "Next Steps for Early Learning and Childcare" we clearly committed ourselves to working with stakeholders to improve access to networks in all local authority areas.

Specific information on the demand for places on child minding networks is not collected centrally.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the effects of being on an Ofsted register are for child care settings. [260035]

Beverley Hughes: Registered providers on the Early Years Register and the General Childcare Register are required to meet the requirements of those registers, for example, in relation to ratio requirements, staff qualifications and CRB checks and are inspected by Ofsted against the requirements. Full details of the registration requirements can be found at:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Care-and-local-services/Childcare/Registration

Registered providers are able to access training, support and advice from local authorities.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of men working in childcare settings; and what steps he is taking to increase that number. [260186]

Beverley Hughes: The 2007 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey indicates that, in the majority of setting types, between 1 and 2 per cent. of staff are male.

The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) is taking the lead in a national recruitment campaign that focuses on encouraging more men into the children's work force. Activity at the end of January secured substantial coverage in the national press and media. This campaign is being aligned with Early Years Professional Status recruitment activity, which will also include a focus on underrepresented groups including men.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children in each decile of income deprivation were excluded from child care settings in each of the last 10 years. [260187]

Beverley Hughes: The information is not collected centrally.

Departmental Data protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department uses WPA2 encryption protocol on all its wireless networks. [259784]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I can confirm that the Department uses the WPA2 protocol to protect its corporate wireless network, which has been fully accredited by CESG, the National Technical Authority for Information Assurance.

The Department also provides a completely discrete wireless network for visitors to the Department to access the internet. This has no connection to the DCSF corporate network and does not utilise WPA2.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1322W, on departmental public expenditure, how much of the £800 million capital spending to be brought forward will be spent in each local authority area; what projects the money will be spent on; and if he will make a statement. [256433]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Applications from local authorities are currently being considered, and we will make an announcement shortly.

Pupil Referral Units: Standards

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which pupil referral units were assessed as inadequate by Ofsted in each year since 1997. [256423]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This is a matter for Ofsted. HMCI Christine Gilbert has written to the hon. Member and a copy of the reply has been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 20 February 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

Tables A-K show all pupil referral units which have been placed in special measures in each academic year since 1997. Special measures is an Ofsted category, defined at present in the Education Act 2005, meaning that a school is failing to give its pupils an acceptable standard of education and the persons responsible for leading, managing or governing the school are not demonstrating the capacity to secure the necessary improvement.

Please be aware that the framework for inspecting pupil referral units changed in January 2000, September 2003 and September 2005. As a result, there has been no consistent "inadequate" category over this period. These tables are therefore limited to those pupil referral units placed in special measures, as this category has been in place throughout the period in question.

A copy of this reply has been sent to right hon. Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Table A: Pupil referral units placed in special measures in 2007/08 (8 pupil referral units)

URN	School name	LA name
108754	Sunderland Pupil Referral Unit	Sunderland
112096	West Cumbria Learning Centre	Cumbria
113657	Pupil Referral Unit, Poole	Poole
115838	The Bridge Education Centre	Hampshire
125613	Area B - Out of School Learning Service	West Sussex
131193	Havering KS4 PRU	Havering
134298	Mill Road Pupil Referral Unit, Ipsos Centre	Liverpool
134880	Burton PRU	Staffordshire

Table B: Pupil referral units placed in special measures in 2006/07 (7 pupil referral units)

URN	School name	LA name
120769	Central Area Pupil Referral Unit	Norfolk
131182	Out of School Learning Service, Area A	West Sussex
131629	Alternative Centre for Education	Darlington
132997	Stafford Teaching Unit At the Stables	Staffordshire
134712	The Elstow Centre	Trafford
134869	Basingstoke School Plus	Hampshire
134983	Southwark Inclusive Learning Service KS4 Centre	Southwark

Table C: Pupil referral units placed in special measures in 2005/06 (13 pupil referral units)

URN	School name	LA name
134757	Caradon EODS Centre	Cornwall
134754	North Cornwall EODS Centre	Cornwall
134752	Restormel EODS Centre	Cornwall
134275	New Directions	Islington
100391	Project 16	Islington
134128	Brookside School	Lancashire
134127	The Oswaldtwistle School	Lancashire
134346	Ashdale	Middlesbrough
134320	Young People out of School Project	Milton Keynes
134368	The Tuition Centre	North East Lincolnshire
134521	Alternative Provision PRU	Nottingham
134157	ED-START	Stoke-on-Trent
134159	Medical PRU	Stoke-on-Trent

Table D: Pupil referral units placed in special measures in 2004/05 (2 pupil referral units)

URN	School name	LA name
132741	The New Broadoak PRU	Salford
134048	Moving On Pupil Referral Unit	Croydon

Table E: Pupil referral units placed in special measures in 2003/04 (9 pupil referral units)

URN	School name	LA name
100555	Northwood Secondary Centre	Lambeth
111520	Eston Centre (EOTAS)	Redcar and Cleveland
130993	Kidderminster Pupil Referral Unit	Worcestershire
132133	Kingsmead Centre	Derby
133572	Warrington Horizons	Warrington
133673	Ethos Pupil Referral Unit	Kirklees
133678	Primary Partnership Centre	Salford
133679	Rawcliffe Pupil Referral Unit	East Riding of Yorkshire
133735	Hornsea Pupil Referral Unit	East Riding of Yorkshire

Table F: Pupil referral units placed in special measures in 2002/03 (8 pupil referral units)

URN	School name	LA name
101584	Kingswood Centre Pupil Referral Unit	Bromley
101972	Enfield Secondary Tuition Centre	Enfield
107191	Aireview Pre-Assessment Centre	Bradford
115847	The Forest Education Centre	Hampshire
119114	Marles Hill Pupil Referral Unit	Lancashire
122397	Oakdale Support Centre Pupil Referral Unit	Nottinghamshire
123638	Yeovil Centre Pupil Referral Unit	Somerset
124919	Sedlow Bridge Centre	Surrey

Table G: Pupil referral units placed in special measures in 2001/02 (6 pupil referral units)

URN	School name	LA name
109425	Orchard Centre	Luton
119105	Preston Pupil Referral Unit	Lancashire
119113	Minster Lodge Pupil Referral Unit	Lancashire
124529	Albany Centre	Suffolk
131619	Lime House Teaching Unit	Walsall
132034	Silverbank Centre	Medway

Table H: Pupil referral units placed in special measures in 2000/01 (5 pupil referral units)

URN	School name	LA name
102957	Secondary Support Service	Sutton
104287	The Braybrook Centre	Wolverhampton
107476	Beaconsfield PRU	Calderdale
110204	Manor Road PRU	Milton Keynes
132032	Ridgeway Centre Pupil Referral Unit	Kent

Table I: Pupil referral units placed in special measures in 1999/2000 (8 pupil referral units)

URN	School name	LA name
104288	The Orchard Centre Pupil Referral Unit	Wolverhampton
105831	The Mushroom Centre	Rotherham
115836	South Farnborough Pupil Referral Unit	Hampshire
130314	Cranmays Pupil Referral Unit	Dorset
131515	Bleach Green Centre	Gateshead
131588	The Martlet Pupil Referral Unit	Nottinghamshire
131532	Kirk Hallam Pupil Referral Unit	Derbyshire
131640	Waterside Education Unit	West Berkshire

Table J: Pupil referral units placed in special measures in 1998/99 (6 pupil referral units)

URN	School name	LA name
100392	Special Learning Centre (Secondary Base)	Islington
108139	The Springfield Centre	Wakefield
109425	Charles Street Tuition Centre Pupil Referral Unit	Luton
110600	CSSC Ascham	Cambridgeshire
125497	The Milverton Centre Pupil Referral Unit	Warwickshire
130981	The Priory Centre	Wakefield

Table K: Pupil referral units placed in special measures in 1997/98 (5 pupil referral units)

URN	School name	LA name
108567	Abbotsfield Pupil Referral Unit	North Tyneside
115479	The Hatherley Centre	Gloucestershire
115838	Woodside Centre PRU	Hampshire
123971	The Queensbury Vocational Centre	Stoke-on-Trent
124925	Staines Tuition Centre	Surrey

Schools: Animal Welfare

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department encourages schools to provide extra-curricular activities in the interests of promoting and educating pupils on animal welfare issues. [259535]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The new secondary curriculum has a range of opportunities for schools to teach about animal welfare. Citizenship helps young people to consider a wide range of political, social, ethical and moral issues. Pupils should also be taught about the way in which the environment and living things need protection. In personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE education), pupils learn that people and other living things have needs, and that they have responsibilities to meet them. Teachers have the freedom and flexibility to decide how to teach the curriculum and what activities best suits the needs of their learners.

To support and inspire all schools to harness the full potential of the living world as a cross-curricular teaching and learning resource, both within and beyond the school grounds the Department funds the Growing Schools programme. It focuses on farming, as well as food and environmental issues, and on ensuring pupils are given first hand, practical experience in the outdoor classroom. Through Growing Schools the Department supports the school farms network which offers support and assistance to school farms through materials and CPD.

Schools: Nurses

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent school nurses there were in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [255655]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not held centrally.

School nurses are generally employed by primary care trusts (PCTs) although some school nurses will be directly employed by both state and independent schools. The national health service workforce census does not capture these. A number of qualified school nurses will also work across PCT boundaries but be directly employed by one single PCT.

A table showing the number of full-time equivalent school nurses employed by PCTs and national health service trusts from 2004-07 has been placed in the Library.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1730-32W, on special educational needs, if he will provide a breakdown of the figures given by *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools. [258049]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is provided in the table.

Maintained primary and secondary schools: Number of pupils[1] : position in January each year 2004-08 England

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Maintained primary schools[3]					
Number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals and have statemented special educational needs	18,180	17,120	15,600	14,730	14,050
Number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals and have non-statemented special educational needs	198,760	196,160	191,960	193,730	194,090
Number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals and were children in care	2,660	2,760	2,600	2,550	2,420
Number of pupils who had statemented special educational needs and were children in care	1,520	1,600	1,460	1,520	1,500
Number of pupils who had non-statemented special educational needs and were children in care	5,880	5,980	5,830	6,320	6,350
Number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals, had statemented special educational needs and were children in care	230	240	210	190	200
Number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals, had non-statemented special educational needs and were children in care	1,500	1,530	1,350	1,360	1,320
Maintained secondary schools[3]					
Number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals and have statemented special educational needs	21,230	19,860	18,430	16,840	15,190
Number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals and have non-statemented special educational needs	123,340	125,410	130,430	132,240	136,510
Number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals and were children in care	2,110	2,310	2,470	2,360	2,300
Number of pupils who had statemented special educational needs and were children in care	1,700	1,850	2,170	2,280	2,210
Number of pupils who had non-statemented special educational needs and were children in care	4,760	5,310	6,400	7,270	7,730
Number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals, had statemented special educational needs and were children in care	230	250	250	250	220
Number of pupils who were eligible for free school meals, had non-statemented special educational needs and were children in care	930	1,050	1,160	1,150	1,190

[1] Includes dually registered pupils and boarding pupils.
[2] All pupils aged 5-19.
[3] Includes middle schools as deemed.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many non-maintained special schools had *(a)* between 100 and 200 pupils, *(b)* between 201 and 300 pupils, *(c)* between 301 and 400 pupils and *(d)* over 400 pupils in 2008. [259297]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is shown in the following table.

Non maintained special schools: number of schools by size[1]: position at January 2008—England

	Number of schools
Between 100 and 200 pupils	9
Between 201 and 300 pupils	1
Between 301 and 400 pupils	0
Over 400 pupils	0
Total	10

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
Source:
School Census

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of providing *(a)* special needs education and *(b)* social care for children diagnosed with foetal anti-convulsant syndrome resulting from mothers receiving sodium valproate treatment during pregnancy in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259372]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The budgeted net expenditure by local authorities in England on special educational needs is £5,098,916,000[1] for the financial year 2008-09. The Department does not collect data about local authorities' expenditure specifically on social care provision for children diagnosed with foetal anti-convulsant syndrome and no estimate has been made of the cost.

[1] The data are drawn from local authorities Children, Schools and Families Financial Data Collection Budget (Tables 1 and 2) submitted to the DCSF.

Special Educational Needs: Pupil Exclusions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils with statemented special educational needs of behavioural, emotional or social difficulties were given *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four, *(e)* five and *(f)* more than five fixed-period exclusions from (i) mainstream primary and (ii) mainstream secondary schools in 2007-08. [260289]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on exclusions for the 2007/08 school year will not be available until the summer.

Teaching Methods

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the comparative effect on educational attainment of streaming classes by ability and using mixed-ability classes. [260158]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Analysis of research suggests that no single model of pupil grouping will be of benefit to all pupils all of the time. For example, there is some evidence that being taught in a mixed ability class can be beneficial for low attainers, but that ability-based classes can be beneficial for high attainers.

We promote setting—the grouping of pupils according to their ability in a particular subject—as an effective way of ensuring that individual pupils are receiving personalised help appropriate to where they are in their learning. Similarly, we promote effective pupil grouping practices, and guided work, as tools for delivering the most appropriate curriculum to each individual in mixed ability classes.

We do not promote streaming—where pupils are assigned to classes on the basis of an overall assessment of their general ability and pupils remain in their streamed classes across the majority of subjects—as it assumes that children will have the same level of ability in all subjects.

We published "Grouping Pupils for Success" in September 2006 which provides guidance on effective setting and grouping practices, and highlights their associated advantages and disadvantages. "Personalised Learning—A Practical Guide", published in October 2008, also has chapters on both "High quality teaching and learning" and "Pupil Grouping", which describe the repertoire of teaching strategies and techniques practitioners can use to address the varied needs of a mixed-ability class. Copies of both of these documents have been placed in the House Libraries.

TREASURY

Banks: Iceland

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the authorities in Iceland on payments to UK depositors in Icelandic banks; what assessment he has made of the position of these depositors in respect of compensation for monies lost; and if he will make a statement. [254757]

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent discussions he has had with the Icelandic government on Icelandic banks in respect of UK depositors and creditors. [255848]

Ian Pearson: The Government have taken urgent action to protect the interests of UK depositors in Icelandic banks and are actively pursuing a full resolution. The Government have and will continue to ensure that Parliament and the public are updated on developments as and when possible, without compromising negotiations with the Icelandic Government.

The Chancellor, along with the Governor of the Bank of England and the chairman of the FSA, gave details of discussions related to Icelandic banking situation to the Common's Treasury committee on 3 November 2008.

The Government continue to work closely with the Icelandic authorities to ensure the fair treatment for UK depositors and creditors.

Banks: USA

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether UK-based banks with entities or subsidiaries in the US are able to gain access to the US's Troubled Assets Relief Programme. [258126]

Ian Pearson: The Troubled Assets Relief Programme (TARP) is a US scheme and eligibility criteria for the TARP program are a matter for the US Administration.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what powers the Financial Services Authority has to investigate the operations of subsidiaries of United States-based banks operating in the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [259051]

Ian Pearson: This is an operational matter for the Financial Services Authority. I understand that the chairman of the FSA, Lord Turner, will write to the hon. Gentleman.

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what auditing his Department undertakes to ensure that IT security policies are being followed; and on how many occasions *(a)* IT security policies have been breached by employees and *(b)* a member of staff has been sanctioned for a breach of such policies in the last 12 months. [259714]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury conduct periodic audits of IT systems and business processes, which include, where relevant, the degree to which IT security policies are being followed. In the last 12 months, there have been no identified cases of IT security policies has being broken by employees, and no employees have been sanctioned.

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's IT security hierarchy. [259715]

Angela Eagle: A copy of HM Treasury's IT security hierarchy will be placed in the Library of the House. Reference can be made to:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/hmt_orgchart.pdf

to see how the hierarchy fits into the overall HM Treasury organisational structure.

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what scanning for vulnerabilities his Department conducts of each of its IT devices; what method is used for IT device scans; and how many vulnerabilities have been detected as a result of such scans in the last 12 months. [259716]

Angela Eagle: The Department has a number of measures in place to scan for, and report on, vulnerabilities, including the use of more than one anti-virus software product. It is departmental policy not to publish precise details of the measures used and their detection rates, as this could provide useful information for individuals who might seek to attack our IT systems.

EC Budget

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the nature was of the fines levied on the United Kingdom recorded under Article 7 1 0 of the European Communities budget for *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [256231]

Ian Pearson: Chapter Seven, Article 7 1 0 of the EC budget—fines, periodic penalty payments and other penalties—only relates to fines imposed by the European Commission on companies for infringements of EC competition rules and does not apply to member states. Details of competition fines imposed on companies in cartel cases by European Commission decisions are listed on the website of the Directorate-General Competition:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/cartels/overview/faqs_en.html

Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* HM Treasury residual estate is in 2008-09. [258516]

Angela Eagle: HMRC does not incur empty property business rates for vacant properties on their estate because the liability for rates passes to their PFI contractor as soon as HMRC vacate a property.

The estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties on the HM Treasury residual estate is £200,970.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by the Government Actuary's Department is in 2008-09. [258517]

Angela Eagle: The Government Actuary's Department does not have any vacant property and has not incurred any cost in empty property business rates.

Equality: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* funding and *(b)* other resources HM Revenue and Customs has provided to each regional equality and diversity partnership in the last 12 months. [259529]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs has not provided funding or other resources to any of the regional equality and diversity partnerships in the last 12 months.

EU Grants and Loans

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much European capital funding has been made available to *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Tees Valley District (i) since 1997 and (ii) in the last 12 months. [257747]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

Figures on European capital funding that has been made available to the UK, the North East and Tees Valley since 1997 are not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The following table shows European structural funds allocations to the North East and the United Kingdom for the years 1997 to 2008.

United Kingdom structural funds allocations (excluding community initiative/cross border programmes)

	Total North East	*€ million, 1994 prices England total UK*
[1]1997	68	1,099
[1]1998	177	1,560
[1]1999	122	1,529
2000	70	2,633
2001	71	2,604
2002	72	2,574
2003	73	2,540
2004	66	2,246
2005	66	2,251
2006	67	2,200
2007	78	1,436
2008	78	1,367

[1] Excludes objective 3, 4 and 5a

Financial Services Authority: Public Appointments

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will appoint a senior official from the Bank Workers' Union to the post of deputy chairman of the Financial Services Authority. [258220]

Ian Pearson: There are no plans to make such an appointment.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the change in tax revenue which would occur if incomes at £100,000 and above were taxed at a marginal rate of 50 per cent. in 2009-10. [259620]

Mr. Timms: The table 'Additional full-year yield from the introduction of additional higher rates of tax on TAXABLE incomes over a specific amount' contains comprehensive information on income tax and is available in the Library of the House of Commons. The table excludes any estimate of behavioural response.

The version of the table currently available is based upon the 2005-06 Survey of Personal Incomes projected forward to 2008-09 in line with Budget 2008, including changes made on the13 May 2008. An updated table for 2009-10 based on the latest available survey will be placed in the Library before the summer recess.

Inflation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Governor of the Bank of England on measures to maintain the target level of inflation. [260047]

Ian Pearson: The Governor of the Bank of England and the Chancellor discuss economic and financial developments on a regular basis.

Monetary policy decisions are made by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England. The MPC has full operational independence from the Government in deciding how to meet the Government's inflation target of 2 per cent. on a consumer price index basis.

International Monetary Fund

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the International Monetary Fund on its assessment of *(a)* public and *(b)* private debt in the UK since January 2009; and if he will make a statement. [259071]

Yvette Cooper: The Government continue to work closely with international partners in responding to the financial crisis. An IMF delegation visited the UK between 12 and 23 May 2008. During that time they held a large number of meetings, including with Ministers, Government officials, and external organisations, at which a broad range of economic issues was discussed.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was discussed in the meetings between his Department and representatives of the International Monetary Fund during their recent visit to the UK in May 2008; whether a record of each meeting was kept; who was present at each meeting; and if he will make a statement. [259148]

Ian Pearson: An IMF delegation visited the UK between the 12 and 23 May 2008. During that time they held a large number of meetings, including with Ministers, Government officials, and external organisations, at which a broad range of economic issues was discussed. These meetings then informed the Concluding Statement, which the IMF mission team published immediately following the Mission in May 2008, and the Article IV Staff Report and Public Information Notice (PIN), both of which were published by the IMF in August 2008.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what reports on the British economy have been produced by the International Monetary Fund in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [259149]

Ian Pearson: Under Article IV of the IMF's Articles of Agreement, the IMF holds bilateral discussions with members, usually every year. Staff reports produced in the context of these consultations can be found on the IMF's website at

www.imf.org/external/country/GBR/index.htm

Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who regulates Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander's (KSF's) activities in the UK; what steps *(a)* the Government and *(b)* other regulatory bodies have taken in relation to KSF assets in the last six months; what those assets were valued at (i) 1 September 2008 and (ii) the latest date for which figures are available; what compensation arrangements apply to (A) individuals, (B) local authorities and (C) other public bodies who have lost funds deposited in KSF; and what the relationship is between KSF and KSF Isle of Man. [250361]

Ian Pearson: Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Ltd. (KSF), a UK subsidiary of Kaupthing Bank hf, is incorporated under English law and regulated by the FSA.

On 8 October 2008, the FSA concluded that Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Ltd. no longer met threshold conditions and was in default for the purposes of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). The Treasury, using an order under the Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008, transferred KSF's deposit book of "Kaupthing Edge" accounts to ING Direct. The Government also committed to paying out in full FSCS eligible depositors whose accounts were not transferred.

The remainder of KSF's business was subsequently placed into administration following due legal process. The administrators are responsible for managing the remainder of KSF's business and loan book to maximise recovery for creditors. The administrators will continue to deal with the assets in compliance with insolvency law and the provisions of the transfer order (including those provisions of the transfer order which confer certain limited functions on the Treasury in relation to the assets of KSF). Those depositors that are ineligible for FSCS compensation will be creditors of the bank in the normal way and paid out in accordance with UK insolvency procedures.

Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander (Isle of Man) (KSF IoM) is not a subsidiary of KSF in the UK, but of the Icelandic parent company.

Members: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 20 October 2008, on behalf of Miss Y. Buckoke, which was acknowledged by his Department with the reference PO REF: 1/61949/2008; [259076]

(2) when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 15 October 2008, on behalf of Mr J. Harris, which was acknowledged by his Department with the reference PO REF: 1/6198/2008; [259077]

(3) when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 27 October 2008 on behalf of Mr Richard Pointing, which was acknowledged by his Department with the reference PO REF: 1/62375/2008; [259078]

(4) when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon, of 3 November 2008, regarding the Lloyds TSB/HBOS merger sent on behalf of Ryan Collier, acknowledged by his Department with the reference PO REF: 1/63282/2008; [260108]

(5) when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon, of 11 November 2008, regarding Icesave, sent on behalf of Rik Artrill, acknowledged by his Department with the reference PO REF: 1/63121/2008. [260110]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Financial Secretary hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon, of 17 November 2008, sent on behalf of Chris Bolton, regarding HM Revenue and Customs, acknowledged by his Department with the reference PO REF: 1/63353/2008. [260109]

Mr. Timms: I replied to the hon. Member on 23 December.

National Debt

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much national debt was repaid in each year since 1997. [246574]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* The information requested is available on the Debt Management Office's website at:

www.dmo.gov.uk

and the Office for National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

Revenue and Customs: North West

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure that any in-house training undertaken by employees of HM Revenue and Customs offices at *(a)* Regian House, Liverpool, *(b)* Dukes House, Southport and *(c)* Birchen House, Birkenhead results in recognised accreditation for those employees. [259473]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs runs various programmes of training, to support its employees in the professional delivery of services to the public. Some of those programmes are accredited.

Programmes are accredited by awarding bodies where there is benefit to the taxpayer in doing so. Employees at the offices cited have available to them the full range of training needed to undertake their duties. Accreditation is not sought on the basis of location, but where employees in a location successfully complete accredited programmes they will receive the recognised accreditation.

Revenue and Customs: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs and its agencies have spent on external public relations in the last 24 months. [250482]

Mr. Timms: HMRC and its agencies will have paid £318,715 to external public relation companies to run marketing campaigns raising public awareness of tax and benefits in 2007-08 and 2008-09 by the end of March 2009.

Saving Gateway Accounts

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of extending the availability of Saving Gateway accounts to recipients of carer's allowance. [255723]

Ian Pearson: I refer my hon. Friend to the comments I made on the floor of the House on 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 296.

Supply Estimates

Dr. Fox: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to lay the 2009-10 Main Estimates before the House. [258876]

Yvette Cooper: The main estimates are presented within 25 working days after the Budget as normal, subject to Parliament sitting. If Parliament is not sitting the main estimates will be laid once Parliament has returned. The exact date will be determined shortly.

Taxation: British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* taxes and *(b)* other fiscal levies his Department can raise in (i) Gibraltar, (ii) Anguilla, (iii) the Cayman Islands, (iv) the Falkland Islands, (v) the Isle of Man, (vi) Jersey and (vii) Guernsey. [259214]

Mr. Timms: Each of these jurisdictions is fiscally autonomous and United Kingdom taxes do not, therefore, extend to them.

It is important however that all of these jurisdictions provide assistance to the United Kingdom as required, to ensure that UK taxes are correctly assessed and enforced.

UK Financial Investments: Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many staff of UK Financial Investments have remuneration packages of *(a)* between £100,000 and £149,999 and *(b)* over £150,000 a year; [258032]

(2) what the payroll expenditure of UK Financial Investments Limited is. [258033]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Altrincham and Sale, West (Mr. Brady) on 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 684W.

Valuation Office: Databases

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 776W, on the Valuation Office: reorganisation, whether the Valuation Office Agency will be able to use property data previously held by the Rent Service for council tax valuations once the transfer of functions has taken place. [258411]

Mr. Timms: The extent to which the VOA can use property data held by the Rent Service for council tax valuations is unaffected by the transfer of the Rent Service.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the UK's carbon dioxide emissions, defined in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol, were in each year since 1990, without adjustment for the effect of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. [257599]

Joan Ruddock: UK greenhouse gas and carbon dioxide emissions are published as National Statistics.

Carbon dioxide emissions, according to the Kyoto Protocol and without the effect of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme from 1990-2007, can be found in Annex A—Breakdown of Headline results, on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globatmos/index.htm

Energy Supply: Research

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much the Government are spending on *(a)* nuclear fusion research and *(b)* research into renewables in 2008-09. [254880]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills provides funding to the Technology Strategy Board and the research councils. The Technology Strategy Board estimate of expenditure on applied research and development into renewables to date during 2008-09 is £10.9 million. The research councils' estimated expenditure on research and related training in 2008-09 is:

	£ million
Nuclear fusion[1]	35.7
Renewables[2]	37

[1] Includes underspend carried over from 2007-08 and a payment for some work carried out in 2007-08.
[2] NB Incomplete as data are not available from all councils. Includes research on networks and energy storage.

In addition, the research councils are providing funding of £13.88 million over the period 2004-09 for the UK Energy Research Centre (which undertakes a range of research relating to sustainable energy, including renewables), and energy is included in the work of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research (which has some £15.8 million funding from the research councils over 2000-08). The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and Technology Strategy Board also provide funding to the Energy Technologies Institute, which is establishing a portfolio of development projects in low carbon energy technologies, including renewables.

The Carbon Trust, which receives funding from the Department of Energy and Climate Change, estimate expenditure of £4.1 million in 2008-09 on research into renewables.

Energy: Conservation

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to publish the regulations for the Community Energy Saving Programme. [256857]

Joan Ruddock: The consultation for the Community Energy Saving Programme was published on 12 February 2009.

We will publish a draft order in the coming weeks, to illustrate how the policy proposals contained in the consultation document might be given legal effect.

The order will then be finalised once the Government have received and considered responses to the consultation process.

Fuel Poverty: EU Countries

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on rates of fuel poverty in other EU member states. [242491]

Joan Ruddock: Comparable rates of fuel poverty are not produced across other EU member states. The Department holds fuel poverty rates for the UK and each country within it.

Fuel Poverty: Mobile Homes

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans his Department has to reduce fuel poverty among park home residents. [258686]

Joan Ruddock: Those residing in Park Homes are eligible for the Warm Front scheme providing that they receive one of the income or disability related qualifying benefits. However, many Park Homes can prove 'hard to treat' and may not be suitable for some of the measures currently available under Warm Front.

However, Warm Front is currently reviewing alternative products which could be used to heat and insulate park home properties, to assess their suitability for inclusion in the scheme.

Fuel Poverty: Travelling People

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans his Department has to reduce fuel poverty among Gypsy and Traveller communities. [258683]

Joan Ruddock: Those living in Gypsy and Traveller communities, and in receipt of a qualifying income or disability related benefit, are able to apply for assistance with heating and insulation measures through Warm Front. Indeed DECC ensures that the Warm Front scheme manager, eaga plc, actively targets minority ethnic groups to ensure they can benefit from the scheme.

Unfortunately, many of those of the Gypsy and Traveller communities live in properties including Park Homes, which can prove 'hard to treat' and may not be suitable for some of the measures currently available under Warm Front. However, we are currently reviewing options for alternative heating and insulation products which could assist these properties.

In addition, those who live in Gypsy and Traveller communities and are over 60 years of age would qualify for the winter fuel payment and, subject to their satisfying the grant eligibility criteria for applicants, could also qualify for assistance under the cold weather payments scheme.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of UK from *(a)* travel, *(b)* domestic use and *(c)* agriculture in each of the last three years. [254132]

Joan Ruddock: The latest 2007 estimates of greenhouse gas emissions were published on 3 February 2009. DEFRA are currently publishing the DECC climate change statistics and please refer to the following link for the 2007 FINAL UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions National Statistics.

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globatmos/index.htm

The proportion of UK greenhouse gas emissions from *(a)* travel *(b)* domestic use (residential) *(c)* agriculture UK for each of the last three years are shown in the following table. Emission reporting in the UK can be broken down into individual gases, and also by 'source' and on an 'end user' basis. For 'end user' the emissions are reallocated from the production and distribution of energy to the users of that energy. The main difference between source and end user emissions comes from the treatment of emissions from combustion of fossil fuels, the largest source of carbon dioxide in most countries. To derive emissions by end user, emissions from power stations and other fuel processing industries have been re-allocated to end users on an approximate basis according to their use of the fuel. Emissions by end user are subject to more uncertainty than emissions by source and should only be used to give a broad indication of emissions by sector.

Table 1 following shows greenhouse gas emissions by source category 2005-07.

Table 1: Greenhouse gas emissions by source (2005-07) for national communication categories of travel, residential and agriculture (2007 final figures, February 2009)

	Proportions (percentage)			*Million tonnes CO_2 equivalent*		
Category	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Travel (transport)	20.5	20.9	21.5	133.9	135.5	136.7
Domestic (residential)	13.5	13.1	12.8	88.2	84.9	81.2
Agriculture	7.8	7.6	7.5	50.7	49.4	47.9
Total GHG emissions				652.8	647.9	636.6

Please also see table 2 following to see the latest available greenhouse gas emission figures using end user categories. The latest data available for end user are up to 2006.

Table 2: Greenhouse gas emissions by end user (2004-06) for national communication categories of travel, residential and agriculture (2007 provisional figures, March 2008)

	Proportions (percentage)			*Million tonnes CO_2 equivalent*		
Category	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Travel (transport)	24.6	25.0	25.2	161.7	163.5	164.1
Domestic (residential)	24.3	23.9	23.8	159.9	156.3	155.5
Agriculture	8.2	8.0	7.9	53.7	52.7	51.5
Total GHG emissions				657.6	655.2	652.3

Please also note that the differences in the totals in greenhouse gas emissions between each year is due to revisions in data. These are the official National Statistics.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 2 December 2008 on cancer patients' fuel bills. [255349]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 9 February 2009]*: I replied to the hon Member on 23 February and apologise for the delay, which was due to departmental reorganisation.

Nuclear Power: Consultants

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1431-2W, on nuclear power: consultants, what the total monetary value is of the contracts with each of the consultants engaged in connection with the generic design assessment. [255964]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has engaged a range of external bodies and individuals to assist it with various technical aspects, process assurance and organisation of generic design assessment. The value, in connection with the Generic Design Assessment, of existing contracts is as follows:

	GDA cost (£)
Contractors: (listed in columns 1431W)	
IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)	229,879.00
Washington E and C Ltd	70,000.00
EPRI	57,144.00
Health Protection agency (formerly NRPB)	16,564.40
Morson International	14,000.00
Imperial College London	800.00
OECD-NEA	352,312.84
AMEC NNC	19,314.00
Atkins Nuclear	22,483.02
Other contractors (used since)	
DYCODA, LLC	10,000.00
Jacobsen Engineering Ltd	104,400.00
Serco Assurance	59,975.00
University of Liverpool	2,605.81
VTT Technical Research Centre Finland	66,600.00
Process review board: (column 1432W)	
David Hughes	12,500.00
John Raine	15,016.00
Bernard Whittle	12,155.00
Phillip Woodward	12,155.00
Project assurance officer: (column 1432W)	
James Furness	29,500.00

Not included are Technical Support Contractors (TSC) for GDA that are still pending. In line with the GDA Delivery plan, TSC costs will increase significantly in the next two years. Requesting Parties are aware of potential costs and receive annual estimates that are also updated quarterly.

Values in table are contract values not annual costs.

Power Stations: EC Law

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) whether his Department has plans to apply for a derogation from the EU large combustion plant directive; [256157]

(2) what discussions he has had with *(a)* EU institutions and *(b)* energy companies on applications for derogations from the EU large combustion plant directive. [256158]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

The large combustion plants directive (2001/20/EC) contains no derogations for which the United Kingdom has to apply and therefore no discussions with EU institutions have been necessary. It is open to the competent authority (the Environment Agency in England and Wales) to apply such derogations as are mentioned in the directive as it sees fit in the light of discussion with the plant operator concerned.

Public Sector: Computers

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to encourage *(a)* thin computing and *(b)* environmentally-friendly computing practices in the public sector. [258068]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA carefully considered the promotion of 'thin' clients, which are centrally managed computers with most of the function of the system located in a central server room. However, evidence to date has shown that the increased electricity consumption of these server rooms (e.g. through the air conditioning needed to cool the room) renders this technology less attractive than previously thought from an energy efficiency perspective.

The Government's "Greening ICT Strategy" published last year sets out a strategy for reducing the environmental impact of Government's computer systems. One of their main aims is to make the energy consumption of our ICT systems carbon neutral by 2012. We also mandated a set of minimum environmental standards for commonly-purchased products, including ICT.

Solar Power

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has conducted into excitonic solar cells. [255157]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and the Technology Strategy Board, funded through the Department's Science and Research, and Innovation Budgets respectively, support a portfolio of research into excitonic solar cells.

The EPSRC's current portfolio on excitonic solar research totals £10 million and includes £1.1 million for the SUPERGEN Excitonic Solar Cells Consortium.

The Technology Strategy Board currently has two collaborative R&D projects in this area providing total grant support of £833,000.

Basic and applied research funded by both organisations in areas such as materials and plastic electronics is relevant, but not captured in these figures.

Warm Front Scheme

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made towards his Department's target to provide free loft insulation for pensioners over 70 to date; and if he will make a statement. [257522]

Joan Ruddock: The Department do not have a target to provide free loft insulation to pensioners over 70. However, the Government do have an ambition to help all households meet their energy efficiency potential by 2020, where practical. As a key contribution, we have set the major energy suppliers ambitious household carbon saving targets, which they meet through promoting subsidised energy efficiency measures. 40 per cent. of their targets have to be met in a priority group of vulnerable households on qualifying benefits and aged 70 and over. Currently, all six obligated suppliers offer priority group households free loft insulation and cavity wall insulation, where none exists, subject to a survey of the property. Under the supplier obligation, around 1.5 million priority group households have received loft insulation since the scheme first began in April 2002.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to his Department's press release of 7 January 2009, on additional apprentices, how many of the 35,000 additional apprenticeship places for 2009-10 are additional to those referred to in his Department's press release of 8 December 2008. [254504]

Mr. Simon: The volume of apprenticeships we planned for 2009-10 were set out in my Department's grant letter of 18 November 2008 to the Learning and Skills Council.

All the 35,000 apprenticeship places announced on 7 January 2009 are additional to these planned volumes. Our press release of 8 December 2008 highlighted high street companies that are expanding their apprenticeship programmes and therefore helping us towards our ambitions for significant growth in the apprenticeship programme. Clearly, we will need to explore whether these companies and other employers, both large and small, across the public, private and third sectors can do more to help us provide extra places. Our national advertising campaign which started this week and the new National Apprenticeship Service will promote the value of apprenticeships to employers to ensure we deliver jobs and training for young people and adults. This will build further on the record number of apprenticeship starts and completions delivered last year; the best since 1997.

Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007-08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004-05.

Apprentices: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many of those completing apprenticeship schemes in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency obtained full-time permanent employment in each of the last five years. [255031]

Mr. Simon: An apprenticeship is a work-based programme and apprentices must have a job or a work placement as a condition of completing their apprenticeship framework. Many will already be in permanent employment prior to the end of their apprenticeship. Table 1 following shows apprenticeship completions in Cumbria local authority and Copeland constituency. Figures are presented from 2003/04 to 2007/08, the latest year for which fully audited data is available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship completions in Cumbria local authority and Copeland constituency—2007/08

	Cumbria local authority	Copeland constituency
2003/04	800	130
2004/05	1,100	190
2005/06	1,400	240
2006/07	1,500	240
2007/08	1,600	240

Information on the immediate destinations of apprenticeships upon completion of their apprenticeship is not readily available.

This type of information will in future be collected using the Framework for Excellence learner destination survey with the first results for all FE Colleges and Work based learning providers available in spring 2009. There are no current plans to produce this analysis at local authority or constituency level.

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make it his policy for his Department to sign the Information Commissioner's Personal Information Promise. [258953]

Mr. Simon: The Government welcomed the Promise as a commendable initiative to raise awareness of the importance of effective data protection safeguards, particularly for those organisations with no similar commitments already in place.

The Government take data protection very seriously. Following the Cabinet Office Review of Data Handling Procedures in Government, Departments have implemented a raft of measures to improve data security.

The Ministry of Justice is considering actively with the ICO how the Promise might add additional value to those measures we have already signed up to. These include the Information Charters, the recommendations of the Data Handling Review and the Thomas/Walport Review and, of course, our legal obligations under the Data Protection Act and other legislation and regulations.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which ICT projects initiated by his Department since its inception have been abandoned before completion; what costs were incurred on each project; who the contractors were; what the date of *(a)* commencement and *(b)* abandonment was in each case; and if he will make a statement. [256657]

Mr. Simon: DIUS is a new Department established in June 2007, substantially from parts of the former DTI and DfES. As far as we are aware, since June 2007 the Department has not abandoned any information technology projects.

No information technology projects were abandoned in the last five years for those functions brought over into DIUS from the former DTI.

It is not possible, without exceeding the disproportionate cost threshold, to determine if any information technology projects were abandoned in the last five years for those functions brought over into DIUS from the former DfES.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will publish a copy of his Department's website accessibility plan. [257219]

Mr. Simon: DIUS is committed to making its website as accessible to as many people as possible and strives to meet W3C WAI Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) to Double A standard. We currently publish a Website Accessibility statement on our interim corporate website at:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/accessibility/

The full DIUS site will be launched in March and this will also aim to meet W3C WAI Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) to Double A standard. In addition we are in the process of developing a full website accessibility plan which we will publish on our new website as soon possible after launch of the new site and no later than the end of May 2009.

Departmental Pay

Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of staff in his Department and its agencies have received bonus payments since it was established; what the total amount of bonuses paid has been; what the largest single payment has been; and if he will make a statement. [258085]

Mr. Simon: The Department was created on 28 June 2007. The Department's annual non-pensionable bonuses are awarded on 1 April 2008 for the 12 month performance reporting period ending on 31 March 2008.

Since the Department's establishment, bonuses awarded to its employees and its agencies are set out as follows.

Staff

	Number	*Percentage*	*Total cost (£)*	*Highest single payment (£)*
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills	225	25	535,000	20,000
National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML)	15	24	15,303	2,166
The UK Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO):				
Performance payment to members of senior civil service	22	66	137,864.00	13,000
Performance pay for staff below SCS				
(a) for 1 August 2007	670	42.6	179,326.00	640
(b) for 1 August 2008	1,015	100	260,649.00	582

Notes:
1. *Award date for SCS staff is 1 April 2008.*
2. *Award date for non-SCS staff is 1 August 2007 and 1 August 2008.*

Education: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding his Department provided to each *(a)* further education and *(b)* higher education college in each of the principal seaside towns of England in 2007-08. [257412]

Mr. Simon: Table 1 shows total funding for adult (aged 19 or over) learners through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for FE colleges located in principal seaside towns in England.

Table 2 provides information on total funding through the Higher Education Funding Council for England for Higher Education Institutions located in principal seaside towns.

The information given here refers only to provision delivered in FE colleges and in higher education institutions. However, other providers may also deliver FE or HE provision, and may also receive funding from the LSC or HEFCE, so the figures given below do not necessarily represent the full funding available.

We have used the list of 37 "principal seaside towns" used in "England's Seaside Towns—A 'benchmarking' study" published in November 2008 by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Table 1: LSC funding for adult (aged 19 or over) learners in FE colleges based in principal seaside towns 2007-08

College	*Funding (£)*
Bexhill College	358,000
Blackpool and the Fylde College	6,250,000
Blackpool Sixth Form	2,600,000
City College Brighton	6,200,000

Table 1: LSC funding for adult (aged 19 or over) learners in FE colleges based in principal seaside towns 2007-08

College	Funding (£)
Lowestoft College	651,000
Sussex Downs College	6,990,000
South Kent College	5,280,000
Great Yarmouth College	2,320,000
Lowestoft College	2,870,000
East Norfolk Sixth Form College	307,000
Isle of Wight College	6,730,000
Penwith College	2,630,000
Scarborough Sixth Form	199,000
Yorkshire Coast College	2,940,000
South East Essex College	3,520,000
King George V College	436,000
Southport college	4,030,000
Skegness College	7,670,000
Weymouth College	3,020,000
Northbrook College	6,460,000
Total	71,600,000

Note:
Funding totals include participation and non participation funds from Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills through the Learning and Skills Council

Table 2: HEFCE funding for higher education institutions based in principal seaside towns 2007-08

Higher education institution	Funding (£)
Blackpool and Fylde College	6,270,000
Brighton University	51,000,000
Arts Institute at Bournemouth	8,680,000
Bournemouth University	38,160,000
Cornwall College	314,000
Sussex University	47,970,000
University College of Falmouth	9,000,000
Yorkshire Coast College of Further and Higher Education	320,000
Total	161,700,000

Note:
These amounts cover HEFCE's combined teaching and research grants to these institutions. It is not possible to disaggregate spend to a particular locality where a university/college offers HE courses across multiple sites.

Education: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many submissions for capital projects were considered at the 17 December 2008 meeting of the Learning and Skills Council's National Council; and how many were applications in (*a*) principle and (*b*) detail; [258462]

(2) which (*a*) further education and (*b*) sixth form colleges made submissions for capital projects which were considered at the 17 December 2008 meeting of the Learning and Skills Council's National Council; and which of those submissions were applications in (i) principle and (ii) detail. [258463]

Mr. Simon: Capital funding for further education colleges is administrated by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Mark Haysom, the LSC Chief Executive will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Libraries.

Education: Prisons

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding his Department allocated for (*a*) library services and (*b*) other education services in prisons in each of the last five years. [257632]

Mr. Simon: The total budget for offender skills and employment, including allocations for prison libraries and heads of Learning and Skills and funds passed to the Youth Justice Board for education in young offender institutions, is provided in the following table. The table also shows the total spend on prison libraries (including young offender institutions) as a subset of the total budget for each year.

	Total budget	£ million Library budget
2003-04	116	3.3
2004-05	116	3.6
2005-06	141	4.9
2006-07	146	5.7
2007-08	156	7.0

English Language: Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many courses in English for speakers of other languages paid for from the public purse were (*a*) started and (*b*) completed in each of the last five years. [258545]

Mr. Simon: Table 1 shows participation and achievements in Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funded courses in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) for 2004/05 to 2007/08. The data prior to 2004/05 are calculated on a slightly different basis to these figures and have not been provided.

Table 1: Participation and achievements in LSC-funded courses in English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), 2004/05 to 2007/08

	Participation	Achievements
2004/05	111,500	31,500
2005/06	143,300	82,500
2006/07	164,400	101,800
2007/08 (provisional)	165,700	109,300

Notes:
1. Volumes are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures in this table are a count of the number of learners that participated at any point during the year. Learners undertaking more than one course are counted only once for each data collection. However, learners that are included in different data collections, whether that relates to different years or different funding streams will be counted more than once.
3. Final data for 2007/08 will be published in March 2009.

Source:
FE, UfI, WBL and ASL Individualised Learning Records

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people resident in Braintree constituency were admitted to universities in England in each of the last five years. [260383]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information is shown in the table. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Entrants[1] from Braintree parliamentary constituency— English higher education institutions[2], academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

Academic year	Entrants
2003/04	1,090
2004/05	1,265
2005/06	960
2006/07	920
2007/08	950

[1] Covers entrants to all levels of HE courses.
[2] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants over the time series.
Note:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Innovation

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which departments have published innovative procurement plans in the last 12 months. [258575]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* When the 'Innovation Nation' White Paper was published in March 2008, we anticipated that Departments would produce their plans in that calendar year. This has not proved practicable, and we have now asked Departments to put their plans in place by the end of the financial year. I can confirm that most major spending Departments expect to have their innovation procurement plans in place by the end of March. DIUS is working closely with the Departments and with the Office for Government Commerce to ensure that the Departments' plans achieve value for the buying Department while encouraging innovation in business, and to ensure that the effectiveness of the plans is appropriately monitored.

Research: British Antarctic Territory

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost of maintaining the UK's four research stations in the British Antarctic Territory was in the last 12 months. [248002]

Mr. Lammy: The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) operates three research stations in the British Antarctic Territory. The cost of operating them in the last financial year 2007-08 was about £4 million. This excludes the cost of the science and monitoring work undertaken at these stations. The total BAS resource budget is £45 million per year.

Students: Loans

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the economic downturn on the provision of *(a)* career development loans and *(b)* professional development loans by UK banks to students. [258439]

Mr. Simon: Career development loans (CDLs) are a successful GB wide programme administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to help individuals invest in their future by financing vocational learning of their choice. CDLs are commercial loans provided by three high street banks, for which the Government pays the interest while people study.

The LSC monitors and analyses lending trends on a continuing basis. The number of loans given so far this year is lower than forecast. The LSC believe that, in part, this reflects the banks' concerns about the economic downturn.

However, as set out in January in "New Opportunities: Fair Chances for the Future", the Government believe that loans can play a greater part in helping people gain the skills they need. Expanded and rebranded professional and career development loans (PCDLs), which will be available for courses starting in September 2009, will offer reduced headline interest rates and allow for loans up to £10,000. PCDLs will help more people seeking professional and technical qualifications get on the right track in their career, and help those who have been made redundant retrain.

Students: Voluntary Work

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what Government *(a)* guidance and *(b)* funding initiatives are available to higher education institutions to support student volunteering. [259108]

Mr. Lammy: The Department, through the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), has provided significant funding to higher education institutions (HEIs) to support staff and student volunteering—£52 million up to 2008-09 under the HE Active Community Fund (HEACF) and the Teaching Quality Enhancement Fund. The funding has now been mainstreamed and the intention is that institutions will decide how they continue to support student/staff volunteering through their block grants.

From 2002 to 2006 at least 60,000 people benefited from HEACF volunteer projects. The funding was focussed on helping HEIs to develop and grow volunteering opportunities to build closer links with the community and to help students further develop their employability and generic skills. HEFCE provided HEIs with guidance in support of this funding stream.

The Higher Education Academy's Annual Volunteer Awards recognises the important contribution of volunteering undertaken by staff and students in institutions.

Train to Gain Programme: Darlington

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people living in Darlington constituency have participated in the Train to Gain programme in each of the last three years. [258259]

Mr. Simon: Table 1 shows the number of Train to Gain starts in the parliamentary constituency of Darlington, in each academic year from 2005/06 to 2007/08.

Table 1: Train to Gain starts in 2005/06 to 2007/08

	Darlington constituency	All Train to Gain starts
2005/06	100	32,400
2006/07	460	206,300
2007/08	620	331,800

Notes:
1. Parliamentary constituency is based on learner's home postcode.
2. Numbers for Leeds West have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Numbers for England have been rounded to the nearest 100.
4. Train to Gain was created in April 2006. Therefore, figures for 2005/06 only include the months of April to July 2006.

Source:
WBL ILR

Train to Gain is the key service for supporting employers to invest in the future productivity and profitability of their businesses by investing in the skills of their employees. Train to Gain offers quality-assured, impartial advice from skills brokers, to help identify the business' skills needs at all levels and make the right, informed choices.

Vocational Training

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what schemes his Department has in place to assist with re-training people with more than five GCSEs. [258298]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, University and Skills assists people with more than five GCSEs wanting to re-train through the Train to Gain programme, apprenticeships and through further education provision. And all young people aged 19-25 are guaranteed fully funded training to achieve a level 3 qualification.

To meet the current and future demand for re-training as a result of the recession, flexibilities and additional funding have been introduced to give people the real help they need. Apprenticeships will be expanded by 35,000 places by 2009-10 funded by an additional £140 million. SMEs have priority for £350 million of Train to Gain funds to provide bite-size training in business critical areas, fully funded level 2 qualifications and subsidised level 3 qualifications, regardless of whether the employee already has a qualification at this level.

In addition, a joint package with DWP of £158 million has been made available for people who are currently facing redundancy or looking for work, and £83 million will provide high quality FE training places to around 75,000 people who have been out of work for six months or more.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bankruptcy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* bankruptcy orders and *(b)* individual voluntary agreements were issued in each year since 1996-97. [258120]

Mr. McFadden: The following table records the number of bankruptcy orders and individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs) in each financial year since 1996-97 in England and Wales.

Financial year	Bankruptcy orders[1]	IVAs[2]
1996-97	21,058	4,441
1997-98	19,713	4,466
1998-99	20,508	5,113
1999-2000	21,479	8,139
2000-01	21,961	7,480
2001-02	23,426	6,010
2002-03	25,177	6,425
2003-04	29,633	8,210
2004-05	37,562	11,613
2005-06	53,386	24,947
2006-07	64,610	47,975
2007-08	62,357	39,671
2008-09[3]	51,614	30,311

[1] Not seasonally adjusted.
[2] Insolvency data for the current financial year are only available up to December 2008.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* bankruptcy orders and *(b)* individual voluntary agreements were recorded in (i) Winchester, (ii) Hampshire and (iii) England in each of the last three years. [258223]

Mr. McFadden: Table 1 shows the number of *(a)* bankruptcy orders and *(b)* individual voluntary arrangements recorded in (i) Winchester, (ii) Hampshire and (iii) England in each of the last three years. Regional figures are not yet available for 2008.

Table 1

		2005	2006	2007
Bankruptcy orders	Winchester	99	107	113
	Hampshire	1,809	2,334	2,179
	England	43,023	57,481	59,114
Individual voluntary arrangements	Winchester	32	88	84
	Hampshire	848	1,732	1,707
	England	18,537	40,635	39,084

Notes:
1. Classifying insolvent individuals into administrative geographies is done using the postcode that the person provides.
2. Inaccurate or missing postcodes mean that the numbers in the table will be subject to an element of missing data. Nationally, this proportion has been decreasing from about 12 per cent. in 2000 to less than 4 per cent. in 2007.
3. Figures for Hampshire include Isle of Wight.

Bankruptcy: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people were declared bankrupt in *(a)* Putney, Roehampton and Southfields, *(b)* Wandsworth and *(c)* London in each of the last 10 years. [258362]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* The following table shows the number of bankruptcy orders recorded in *(a)* Putney, Roehampton and Southfields, *(b)* Wandsworth and *(c)* London in each year from 2000-07. Regional figures are not yet available for 2008, nor for years prior to 2000.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Putney, Roehampton and Southfields	8	14	10	13	19	30	35	26
Wandsworth	50	57	49	67	93	140	165	175
London	1,646	1,759	1,927	2,584	3,848	5,328	6,780	6,627

Note:
1. Classifying insolvent individuals into administrative geographies are done using the postcode that the person provides.
2. Inaccurate or missing postcodes mean that the numbers in the table will be subject to an element of missing data. Nationally, this proportion has been decreasing from about 12 per cent. in 2000 to less than 4 per cent. in 2007.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many loans he estimates will be taken out under the Working Capital Scheme in the next 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the average value of such loans. [252244]

Ian Pearson: The working capital scheme is not available directly to businesses. The scheme enables participating banks to increase the amount of working capital they can make available to businesses.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to support *(a)* manufacturing industry, *(b)* the retail sector, *(c)* small businesses, *(d)* motor traders and *(e)* business start-ups; and if he will make a statement. [254476]

Ian Pearson: The Government are taking a range of steps to help businesses through the current economic downturn to boost capital and liquidity in the market. This is across all sectors of the economy. Key measures include the reduction in VAT, the introduction of a new Enterprise Finance Guarantee to support up to £1.3 billion of bank lending, a separate £10 billion guarantee facility to support further working capital bank lending, a £75 million Capital for Enterprise Fund to convert businesses' debt into equity and £25 million of regional funds.

There is also an extensive range of support for anyone considering starting their own business at:

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk

On manufacturing, the Government launched their new Manufacturing Strategy in September last year. It focuses on what the sector needs for success in the long-term—including seizing the opportunities of the low carbon economy, supporting skills, realising overseas opportunities and improving the perception and understanding of manufacturing.

It builds on existing areas of support such as R and D Tax Credits, the Technology Programme and the Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS). MAS is monitoring the situation for small manufacturing companies and responding flexibly with suitable advice to help companies. We are also piloting increased support for MAS in the West Midlands.

In the longer term, we are ensuring that the policies within the Manufacturing Strategy work to bolster UK manufacturing and deliver the foundations of 21st century success such as world-leading R and D and a highly skilled work force.

The retail sector also has access to the package of help on offer. For example, 1,876 retailers/wholesalers and repair shops have, since October, benefited from a Business Link "Health Check". This is just one of the many schemes that can be accessed via the portal at:

www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp

On support for motor traders, I refer my hon. Friend to the statement I made on the automotive sector on 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 165-67.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much and what proportion of their budget was spent by each regional development agency on supporting *(a)* high technology businesses, *(b)* science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills, *(c)* innovative procurement and *(d)* social innovation and social enterprise in each year since 2005. [258999]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 26 February 2009]:* The RDAs do not record expenditure as requested. Furthermore, to separate out this data would incur disproportionate cost.

Capital for Enterprise Fund

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of the business plan for the Capital for Enterprise Fund. [254603]

Ian Pearson: The Capital for Enterprise Fund is a commercial investment fund which will be governed by a commercial limited partnership agreement between the fund manager and the investors in the fund. What the fund will do will be specified in the partnership agreement, summarised as follows:

The Capital for Enterprise fund will provide £75 million of equity, made up of £50 million Government funds and an additional £25 million from high street banks.

The fund will provide equity and quasi-equity of £250,000 to £2 million for companies under the EU SME definition, that is those with turnover of up to €50 million who have viable business models and growth potential in need of long term capital.

Risk will be shared equally between Government funds and those committed by banks.

Construction: Finance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect on the construction and associated industries of reductions in credit insurance cover; and if he will make a statement. [258759]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* The reduction of credit insurance can exacerbate financial difficulties already being felt by firms. The Department is discussing the issue of reduction of credit insurance with industry.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will estimate his Department's expenditure on the Export Credits Guarantee Department in each financial year from 2009-10 to 2014-15. [257650]

Ian Pearson: ECGD is self-funding and funds its operations out of the premium it charges for its support to exporters and the interest it charges on un-recovered claims.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department's central media and communication unit spent on public surveys in each of the last three years. [247924]

Mr. McFadden: Public surveys are not procured through this Department's central communications directorate but, rather, across the business. Such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the following figures are available relating to expenditure on public surveys procured through the Central Office of Information (COI) in the last three full financial years:

	£
2007-08	
Omnibus on nuclear attitudes	7,970
Consumer protection	34,700
Public attitudes to science research	68,100
Pregnancy leaflet awareness	17,100
Renewable energy	14,600
Total	142,470
2006-07	
Renewable energy	14,000
Public attitudes to science research	29,800
Total	43,800
2005-06	
Consumer direct	181,650
Renewable energy	23,375
Total	205,025

Export Credits Guarantee Department: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by the Export Credits Guarantee Department is in 2008-09. [258524]

Ian Pearson: ECGD does not own any property.

Government Departments: Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many contracts have been awarded through the supply2.gov website in each year since its creation; and what proportion of them were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises. [253636]

Ian Pearson: The supply2.gov.uk site offers consolidated access to public sector opportunities and allows businesses to search and view open lower-value contract opportunities in a single place. The portal seeks to bring a greater level of transparency to public sector opportunities, enabling more small businesses to access opportunities that had historically been difficult to identify. It does not measure contract awards and consequently no estimate of the number of contracts awarded, or the proportion won by SMEs, through the site are available.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many contracts have been awarded through the CompeteFor website in each year since its creation; what proportion of those contracts were awarded to small and medium-sized companies; and if he will make a statement. [253637]

Ian Pearson: The CompeteFor portal was only launched a year ago. It is early days in terms of contract opportunities as it is designed to capture contracts predominantly in the Olympic supply chain. 217 opportunities have been awarded that have been advertised on CompeteFor and 60 per cent. of these were to companies on CompeteFor. 82 per cent. of the contracts awarded to CompeteFor companies were to SMEs. In total 1,700 opportunities have been posted on CompeteFor and 850 of these opportunities have been posted since 10 December 2008.

Greater Manchester

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1311W, on departmental official visits, how much the agency which deals with overnight accommodation for his Department charged for hotel accommodation costs in Manchester on 7 January 2009. [258927]

Mr. McFadden: £129 per night.

Honours

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what meetings the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has had with members of the Honours Committees since his appointment. [251066]

Mr. McFadden: Honours Committees are composed of civil servants and independent members. Of the independent members, my noble Friend, the Secretary of State has had one meeting, to discuss BERR issues, with Professor Sir George Bain. He has had various meetings with some of the civil servants on the Honours Committees (including his permanent secretary): none of them have been to discuss the Honours process.

Israel: Arms Trade

Mark Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department has carried out investigations to determine whether export licences have been granted inappropriately for unmanned aerial vehicles used in the Gaza conflict. [257362]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 24 February 2009]:* The UK operates a licensing system built around pre-licensing risk assessment. All export licence applications are rigorously assessed on a case by case basis against the Consolidated

EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria and any other relevant announced policies. Assessments of applications take account of all available information at the time of the application, including information about the situation in the receiving country. HMG seeks advice on export licence applications, as appropriate, from its advisors in diplomatic posts overseas, including for Israel.

Licences will not be issued if any of the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria would be breached by doing so. However, the Government reassess licences that are in force if circumstances change significantly in the destination country and can revoke these licences if, in the light of those changed circumstances, they assesses that the export covered by the licence would breach any of the criteria.

Keep Our Future Afloat Campaign

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 722W, on the Keep our Future Afloat campaign, to which bodies the North West Regional Development Agency provided funding to be used by the Keep our Future Afloat campaign. [258658]

Mr. McFadden: The north west regional development agency (NWDA) funding in support of Keep our Future Afloat Campaign (KOFAC) was paid direct to Furness Enterprise Limited who acted as Secretariat for KOFAC. Those funds were subsequently paid to the shipyard unions for KOFAC activity to attract naval jobs to the region outlined in my previous response to the right hon. Member on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 454W.

Motor Vehicles: Industry

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress his Department has made in discussions with the automotive industry on assistance for motor companies and their subsidiaries in the provision of finance for vehicle purchases. [258896]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 26 February 2009]:* My noble Friend, the Minister for Trade and Investment, is exploring what solutions can be found to enable the car finance industry to access credit. He is consulting with a range of interested parties, including the Bank of England, banks and the motor finance industry.

Ofcom: Correspondence

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Chief Executive of Ofcom will reply to the hon. Member for Weston-Super-Mare's letters of 15 October 2008, 28 November 2008 and 5 January 2009 on behalf of his constituent, Mr Nicholas Carey-Harris. [256339]

Mr. McFadden: The Office of Communications (Ofcom) has informed me that they responded to the hon. Member's correspondence on 10 February 2009. I understand they also contacted him to explain and apologise for the delay.

Regional Venture Capital Funds

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many firms have received funding from each of the Regional Venture Capital Funds (RVCFs) in each year since the funds were established; how much was lent by each RVCF in each of those years; how many applications for funding were declined by each RCVF in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [253635]

Ian Pearson: The RVCF programme was introduced to help address the equity gap for small and medium sized firms with growth potential seeking investment support up to £660,000.

At the end of September 2008, regional venture capital funds (RVCF) had invested a total of £126,704,755 in 346 firms. A break down of investment by each RVCF for each year since their creation is provided in the following tables. All of the funds have now reached the close of the investment period and therefore no further new investments will be made.

Consistent data on the approaches made by firms to funds that did not receive support are not available.

RVCF investments by number of firms and amount of investment 2002-08

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
RVCF	*SMEs*	*Amount invested (£)*	*SMEs*	*Amount invested (£)*	*SMEs*	*Amount invested (£)*	*SMEs*	*Amount invested (£)*
East of England	0	0	0	0	4	1,303,091	3	1,082,673
East Midlands	5	836,494	9	2,067,304	12	4,036,531	5	2,350,482
London	0	0	9	2,000,102	8	3,088,333	17	5,984,580
North East	8	1,625,102	5	1,391,790	12	2,142,490	5	1,857,500
North West	2	333,334	7	1,713,332	12	4,006,946	4	2,444,349
South East	3	399,999	18	5,300,000	5	4,424,767	5	2,097,634
South West	0	0	4	1,000,000	2	400,000	5	1,050,000
West Midlands	0	0	9	1,719,996	12	2,712,503	8	2,031,404
Yorkshire and Humber	0	0	5	1,200,000	5	1,375,000	9	2,324,454
Total	18	3,194,928	66	16,392,525	72	23,489,661	61	21,223,075

	2006		2007		2008		Total	
RVCF	SMEs	Amount invested (£)	SMEs	Amount invested (£)	SMEs	Amount invested (£)	SMEs	Amount invested (£)
East of England	4	1,024,500	1	1,421,283	1	1,007,662	13	5,839,210
East Midlands	4	1,722,934	6	3,533,878	3	2,270,320	44	16,817,943
London	13	4,872,692	10	4,007,793	6	2,866,860	63	22,820,360
North East	4	1,013,625	3	741,668	0	399,850	37	9,172,025
North West	7	2,647,484	2	2,631,461	0	861,312	34	14,638,219
South East	7	3,061,374	6	4,218,541	1	1,375,849	45	20,878,162
South West	6	1,684,025	8	3,931,467	6	2,628,757	31	10,694,249
West Midlands	6	1,817,728	5	2,842,256	1	2,516,108	41	13,639,995
Yorkshire and Humber	2	785,906	11	3,649,889	6	2,869,342	38	12,204,591
Total	53	18,630,269	52	26,978,237	24	16,796,060	346	126,704,755

Small Business: Credit

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on access to credit for small businesses. [255830]

Ian Pearson: BERR Ministers and officials regularly have discussions with Her Majesty's Treasury on a range of issues including access to credit for small businesses.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how often the panel established to monitor lending to small businesses has met since it was convened. [256165]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 11 February 2009]:* Officials from BERR, HMT and the Bank of England meet to monitor lending to small businesses on a monthly basis, and started in November 2008.

Small Businesses: Bank Services

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to improve the flow of credit to small businesses. [253480]

Ian Pearson: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Glasgow, Central (Mr. Sarwar) on 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1456W.

Small Businesses: Procurement

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the number of small and medium-sized enterprises registered with the Supply2.gov.uk website in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; what projection he has made of the equivalent figure for 2008-09; and of these, how many renewed their annual registration in each such year. [246767]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* No figures are available for businesses registered on supply2.gov.uk. The number of supplier user registrations in 2006-07 and 2007-08 was 42,766 and 31,352 respectively. The projected number of supplier user registrations in 2008-09 is 55,834. There is no annual requirement on users to renew the free local location access.

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the amount paid to Supply2.gov.uk in subscription fees for *(a)* Free Location Service, *(b)* Regional Area Service, *(c)* Home County Service and *(d)* National Service in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08 and (iii) 2008-09." [246768]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* The supply2.gov.uk service was let under a concession type contract, following a competitive tender. All the commercial risk is borne by the operator. The contract only requires the contractor to provide information on revenues where these exceed an annual threshold. This provision has not so far been triggered during the course of the current contract.

VAT: Channel Islands

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of businesses which have closed as a result of competition from businesses on the Channel Islands which operate under value added tax exemption rules; and if he will take steps to compensate those businesses which have closed. [256806]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

No such estimate has been made. In practice it is unlikely to be possible to attribute reliably the closure of any particular business to one specific factor.

Waterford Wedgwood

Mr. Cash: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he last met representatives of *(a)* Waterford Wedgwood and *(b)* JCB; and what steps (i) he and (ii) Advantage West Midlands have taken to provide advice and assistance to each company. [247889]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) spoke to JCB on 9 January 2009 and JCB was also present, as a representative of the construction equipment sector, at

the meeting between the automotive industry and BERR Ministers on 27 November 2008. Support for the automotive sector has been the subject of much recent discussion and I refer the hon. Member to my reply to my hon. Friend the Member for Chorley (Mr. Hoyle) on 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1315W.

Advantage West Midlands (AWM) has been working with other regional partners to explore ways in which they could assist industry, including these two companies. This includes support for the work force (comprising training for the existing work force, as well as support for company staff facing redundancy), support for suppliers and exploring the potential for redevelopment of parts of the companies estates.

Since Waterford Wedgewood went into administration, AWM have approached the administrators to further the discussion. In addition, a Ceramics Task Group involving AWM has been called by the North Staffordshire Regeneration Partnership to discuss support to the wider ceramics industry.

Working Hours: Fire Services

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will hold discussions with Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority on the effect of proposed changes to the EU Working Time Directive on Shropshire's retained firefighters. [258263]

Mr. McFadden: The UK Government recognise that losing the individual's right to opt-out of the 48 hour working week as set by the working time directive, would have a detrimental effect on the hours which firefighters working the retained duty system could be available for duty, especially the substantial numbers who work full-time for their primary employer. Many other workers also use this important flexibility and so we remain firmly of the view that this right should remain. We, along with a majority of other member states will be fighting for the retention of the opt-out as this dossier progresses through the European negotiation process.

I am very aware of the widespread concern on this issue among retained firefighters. Officials both from this Department and the Department for Communities and Local Government have worked very closely with the Retained Firefighters' Union and will continue to keep them informed throughout the negotiations.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make it his policy to enable members of the public to purchase 10 Downing Street gift shop products. [258613]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer the Prime Minster gave to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 881W.

10 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Northwood of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 467W, on 10 Downing Street: repairs and maintenance, on what date the works in 10 Downing Street associated with Westminster City Council planning application reference 08/00696/1884 were *(a)* started and *(b)* completed. [258616]

Kevin Brennan: The work was carried out during August and September 2008.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Ruislip-Norwood of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 467W, on Downing Street: repairs and maintenance, (1) which external contractors were used to undertake the works in 10 Downing Street associated with Westminster City Council planning application reference 08/00696/1884; [258693]

(2) what the estimated budget for the works in 10 Downing Street associated with Westminster City Council planning application reference 08/00696/1884 was before commencement of the works. [258617]

Kevin Brennan: The procurement of facilities services across the Cabinet Office estate is provided by the total Facilities Management provider for the Cabinet Office. Expenditure figures for 2008-09 will be available after the end of the financial year, once the Cabinet Office accounts have been audited.

Cancer

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the most recent five-year cancer survival rates are in each primary care trust. [259386]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated February 2009:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the most recent five-year cancer survival rates are in each primary care trust. I am replying in her absence. [259386]

Cancer survival rates are only produced for specific cancers. A figure giving the overall survival rate for all cancer patients is not produced as it would not be meaningful to combine figures for disparate conditions having very different survival rates.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) does not produce survival rates for individual primary care trusts. ONS regularly publishes five-year survival rates for patients resident in the 'Spearhead Group' of primary care trusts in England, compared with those for patients resident in the rest of England. These survival rates for ten cancers (bladder, breast, cervix, colon, lung oesophagus, ovary, prostate, rectum and stomach) are available on the Office for National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14821

The lowest geographical area for which cancer survival rates are available are strategic health authority areas. Five-year survival rates for patients resident in government office regions, and strategic health authorities for eight cancers (bladder, breast, cervix, colon, lung, oesophagus, prostate and stomach) are available on the Office for National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=11991&Pos=9&ColRank=1&Rank=272

Charity Commission: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant property of the Charity Commission as recorded on the e-PIMS database at *(a)* Woodfield House and *(b)* Harmsworth House is in 2008-09. [258540]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, 27 February 2009

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on vacant office space.

The Charity Commission has no empty property on which it is paying business rates. Our entry on e-PIMS reflects this.

I hope this is helpful

Civil Servants: Computers

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many Macbook Air computers are on offer to civil servants as part of the showusabetterway.co.uk competition. [250334]

Mr. Watson: Show us a better way was a competition to stimulate ideas on how to improve public services through information. The prizes were: a £60,000 fund to develop ideas further and £20,000 for working prototypes.

There was an additional prize of a Macbook Air for the best idea from a civil servant. This was to encourage participation online and to stimulate and reward innovation within the service.

The Cabinet Office will be awarding a Macbook Air to one civil servant for their winning idea of a school catchment area tool.

Computer Software

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the Government's policy on the use of open source software is. [258366]

Mr. Watson: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush (Andrew Slaughter) on 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 592-3W.

Conditions of Employment: Parents

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many parents of young children in *(a)* England, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* the City of York have requested flexible working. [257974]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many parents of young children in (a) England, (b) Yorkshire and the Humber and (c) the City of York have requested flexible working. (257974)

The available information is provided in the attached table.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) household datasets. These are based on the number of parents in employment who are working agreed alternative working arrangements. It cannot provide the numbers of parents that have requested such working arrangements.

Parents of young children have been defined as those having at least one child aged 0 to 4 years.

The LFS is a sample survey covering over 53,000 households in the United Kingdom in each three month period. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Number of parents[1] with dependent children aged under five in employment[2] with agreed flexible work arrangement[3], April to June 2008, not seasonally adjusted

	Number (Thousand)
England	529
Yorkshire and the Humber	56
City of York	[4]

[1] Parents are defined as people with dependent children who are residents in their household.
[2] Excluding those on college-based schemes.
[3] Agreed work arrangement includes: flexible working hours, annualised hours contract, term time working, job sharing, nine day fortnight, four and a half day week and zero hours contract.
[4] Sample size too small to provide an estimate.
Source:
Labour Force Survey Household dataset.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the IT division of the Cabinet Office has a list of each database maintained by or on behalf of the Cabinet Office. [258611]

Mr. Watson: The IT division of the Cabinet Office has a list of each database maintained by or on behalf of the Department. For information regarding this list, I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by me to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1696W.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which of the public appointments for which his Department is responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restriction, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records his Department keeps in respect of such appointments. [254234]

Mr. Watson: Information on appointments made by the Department published in the Cabinet Office Public Appointments Plans, is available at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/public_bodies.aspx

Copies are also available in the Libraries of the House. The report for 2008 is due to be published shortly. More detailed information about individual appointments is set out in the relevant body's Annual Report. Vacancies may be advertised on the Cabinet Office Public Appointments website at:

www.publicappointments.gov.uk

The process for making a public appointment, including guidance on political activity and eligibility criteria, follows the Cabinet Office publication "Making and Managing Public Appointments". For appointments

regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the appointments process also complies with the "Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies". Copies are in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Video Recordings

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 745-6W, on departmental video recordings, how much expenditure the Cabinet Office incurred in payments to each company in the last 12 months; and what the *(a)* title and *(b)* purpose of the video produced was in each case. [257488]

Mr. Watson: The Department has not used any of the companies on the list provided by the chief executive of the Central Office of Information.

Disadvantaged

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the proposed new duty for the public sector to address social inequality contained in the New Opportunities White Paper is to apply to *(a)* executive agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies. [258612]

Kevin Brennan: The Government are talking with interested parties about the concept and design of a duty to address socio-economic inequality, ahead of deciding whether to legislate. No decisions have been taken as to which public bodies the proposed duty might apply to.

Employment Level: Private Sector

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many British citizens were employed by the private sector in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [258597]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated February 2009

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many British citizens were employed by the private sector in (a) 1997 and (b) the most recent year for which figures are available (258597). I am replying in her absence.

The available information for UK nationals aged 16 and over is provided in the attached table.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). These estimates are based on the respondents' views about the organisation for which they work. Citizenship is defined as the nationality reported by the respondents at the time of the survey.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures have been derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently the 2008 estimate is not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

UK nationals aged 16 and over employed in the private sector[1,2], three month period ending December, 1997 and 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	Thousands/Persons
1997	19,724
2008[3]	*20,212

[1]It should be noted that private sector estimates are based on survey respondents' views about the organisation for which they work
[2]Includes self-employed and unpaid family workers
[3]Coefficients of variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:
Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical robustness
* 0 = CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 = CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels mobile home sites etc)
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Government Communications Network

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many individuals are members of the Government Communications Network. [241771]

Mr. Watson: The Government Communications Network is not a membership organisation. It is primarily an online network of professional communicators.

Any civil servant who considers all or part of their job to be communication can register online to gain access to GCN and the resources it provides through its website.

Government Departments: Internet

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent on transformational government projects in each year since 2005. [258333]

Mr. Watson: We do not hold this information centrally. However, in relation to the Cabinet Office's ICT expenditure I refer the hon. and learned Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central (Jenny Willott) on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 392W. More widely, the Cabinet Office publishes an annual report on Transformational Government which contains summary information about expenditure across Government Departments represented on the CIO Council. The reports for 2006 and 2007 can be found online on the CIO website:

www.cio.gov.uk

and copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

Government Departments: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in each *(a)* Government department, *(b)* executive agency and *(c)* non-departmental public body in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [258593]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated February 2009:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in each (a) Government department, (b) executive agency and (c) non-departmental public body in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available, according to records held by (A) the Cabinet Office and (B) the Office for National Statistics. I am replying in her absence. (258593).

Estimates of employment for the home civil service from Q3 2004 onwards are taken from the Civil Service element of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES). These are the official employment estimates used by both the Cabinet Office and the Office for National Statistics. Estimates prior to this date are based on results from the Civil Service Statistics publication (Mandate collection), undertaken by Cabinet Office.

The number of full-time equivalent staff employed by government departments and executive agencies in 1996-7 was published by Cabinet Office and is available on- line: http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/documents/pdf/stats/css97.pdf

The number of full-time equivalent staff employed by government departments and their executive agencies are published on a quarterly basis by the Office for National Statistics. The most recent data are for Quarter 3 2008 (Annex A).

Estimates of employment for individual non-departmental public bodies are not published by either Cabinet Office or the Office for National Statistics.

Annex A: Civil service employment by department, Q3 2008

All employees	*Full-time equivalent*
Attorney-General's Departments	
Crown Prosecution Service	8,150
Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate	50
Attorney-General's Office	40
Serious Fraud Office	310
Treasury Solicitor	790
Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office	340
Cabinet Office	
Cabinet Office excl agencies	1,220
Other Cabinet Office agencies	
Central Office of Information	750
National School of Government	230
Parliamentary Counsel Office	70
HM Treasury	
HM Treasury	1,180
Chancellor's other departments	
Debt Management Office	80
Government Actuary's Department	100
National Savings and Investments	150
Office of Government Commerce	250
OGC Buying Solutions	260
Royal Mint	800
UK Statistics Authority	
UK Statistics Authority[2, 3, 4]	3,130

Annex A: Civil service employment by department, Q3 2008

All employees	*Full-time equivalent*
Charity Commission	
Charity Commission	460
Communities and Local Government	
Department for Communities and Local Government	2,760
Fire Service College	230
Ordnance Survey	1,380
Planning Inspectorate	770
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	50
Culture, Media and Sport	
Department for Culture Media and Sport	460
Royal Parks	100
Defence	
Ministry of Defence	67,370
Defence Support Group	3,250
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory	3,390
Meteorological Office	1,790
UK Hydrographic Office	990
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills	
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills	810
National Weights and Measures Laboratory	50
UK Intellectual Property Office	990
Department for Children, Schools and Families	
Department for Children, Schools and Families	3,090
Ofsted	
Ofsted	2,510
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs	3,000
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	530
Central Science Laboratory	620
Government Decontamination Services	30
Marine Fisheries Agency	180
Ofwat	200
Rural Payments Agency	3,350
State Veterinary Service	1,560
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	1,170
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	140
Export Credits Guarantee Department	
Export Credit Guarantee Department	200

Annex A: Civil service employment by department, Q3 2008

All employees	*Full-time equivalent*
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (excl. agencies)	5,800
Wilton Park Executive Agency	80
Health	
Department of Health (excl. agencies)	2,210
Food Standards Agency	760
Meat Hygiene Service	1,090
Medical and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency	870
National Healthcare Purchasing and Supplies	760
NHS Business Services Authority	210
HM Revenue and Customs	
HM Revenue and Customs	81,120
Valuation Office	3,810
Home Office	
Home Office (excl. agencies)	2,440
Criminal Records Bureau	510
Identity and Passport Service'	3,990
UK Border Agency	17,540
Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism	260
International Development	
Department for International Development	1,590
Justice	
Ministry of Justice (excl. agencies)	3,390
HM Courts Service	19,420
Land Registry	7,240
National Archives	590
Public Guardianship Office	320
Tribunals Service	2,750
Scotland Office	90
Wales Office	60
Public Sector Prison Service	49,800
Northern Ireland Office	
Northern Ireland Office	120
Security and Intelligence Services	
Security and Intelligence Services	5,270
Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	
Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	3,510
Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service	770
Companies House	1,080
Insolvency Service	2,440
Office of Fair Trading	590
Office of Gas and Electricity Market	300
Postal Services Commission	60

Annex A: Civil service employment by department, Q3 2008

All employees	*Full-time equivalent*
Transport	
Department for Transport	2,030
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	6,260
Driving Standards Agency	2,570
Government Car and Despatch Agency	310
Highways Agency	3,470
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	1,110
Office of Rail Regulation	340
Vehicle Certification Agency	140
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	2,570
Work and Pensions	
DWP Corporate and Shared Services	10,770
Child Support Agency	9,360
Job Centre Plus	66,980
Pensions'and Disability Carers Service	15,800
The Health and Safety Executive	3,580
The Rent Service	490
Scottish Government	
Scottish Government (excl. agencies)	4,780
Scottish Housing Regulator	60
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service	1,620
Courts Group	30
Fisheries Research Services	310
General Register Scotland	290
HM Inspectorate of Education	200
Historic Scotland	960
National Archive for Scotland	160
Office of Accountant in Bankruptcy	120
Registers of Scotland	1,340
Scottish Court Service	1,300
Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency	300
Scottish Prison Service Headquarters	3,930
Scottish Public Pensions Agency	230
Social Work Inspection Agency	40
Student Awards Agency	140
Transport Scotland	280
Office for the Scottish Charity Regulator	50
Mental Health Tribunal Scotland	80
Welsh Assembly	
Welsh Assembly Government	5,790
ESTYN	160

Annex A: Civil service employment by department, Q3 2008

All employees	*Full-time equivalent*
Total employment	487,490

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, and numbers less than five are represented by*.

[2] The UK Statistics Authority (the Authority) was established on 1 April 2008, when the 'Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007' came into effect. One of the functions of the Authority is to oversee the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Office for National Statistics employees are now included within the UK Statistics Authority return and are not listed separately.

[3] On 1 April 2008 employees of the General Register Office were transferred from the UK Statistics Authority to the Identity and Passport Service (IPS).

[4] As of 1 April 2008, Field Interviewers are now classified as civil servants and are included as UK Statistics Authority employees.

Notes:

1. The Disability and Carers Service and the Pension Service are now called the Pension, Disability and Carers Service.
2. Communities Scotland, Scottish Agricultural Science Agency and Scottish Building Standards Agency were abolished on 1 April 2008. Staff moved into the Scottish Government.
3. Scottish Housing Regulator was set up on 1 April 2008.

Source:

Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey.

Government Departments: Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* advice the (i) Cabinet Office and (ii) Cabinet Secretary has issued to Government departments on the process and procedure for public appointments. [258605]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office publication "Making and Managing Public Appointments" provides advice and guidance on the public appointments process. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House. Copies can also be downloaded from:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/appointments.asp

Government Procurement Card

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many instances of the misuse of Government procurement cards within the Cabinet Office have been recorded in each of the last three years. [258609]

Kevin Brennan: There have been no cases recorded of the misuse of Government Procurement Cards within the Cabinet Office in the financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Chichester of 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 582W, which expert advisers other than those formally appointed as special advisers have been commissioned by his Department since June 2007. [258656]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is not held centrally and cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies: Expenditure

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will publish figures for the total expenditure by each *(a)* advisory and *(b)* executive non-departmental public body in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [258731]

Mr. Watson: This information is not held centrally. Information on expenditure by individual non-departmental public bodies is published by relevant sponsoring departments. More detailed information is published in individual bodies' annual reports and accounts.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies: Pay

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the wage bill was of each non-departmental public body in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [258592]

Mr. Watson: This information is not held centrally. Detailed information on staff costs is published in individual bodies' annual reports and accounts.

Private Detectives

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 873W, on private detectives, on how many occasions since January 2003 individuals from the panel of independent investigators have been used to undertake internal investigations; and how long each such investigation lasted. [258621]

Mr. Watson: It has been the practice of successive Governments not to comment on the conduct of leak investigations.

Private Sector: Pay

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the mean wage of a full-time *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector worker was in each year since 1996-97. [258618]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the mean wage of a full-time worker in (a) the private sector and (b) the public sector was in each year since 1996-97. (258618). I am replying in her absence.

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all full-time employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

I attach a table showing the mean gross weekly earnings for all full-time employees in the private and public sector from 1997 to 2008.

Mean weekly pay—gross[1] for full-time employee jobs[2], United Kingdom 1997 to 2008

£

	Public full-time employees	Private full-time employees
1997	375	373
1998	385	392
1999	405	410
2000	415	426
2001	438	455
2002	458	479
2003	470	492
2004[3]	500	511
2004[4]	503	498
2005	531	513
2006[5]	543	534
2007	557	550
2008	582	574

[1] Full-time employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.
[2] 2004 results excluding supplementary survey for comparison with 2003.
[3] 2004 results including supplementary surveys designed to improve coverage of the survey (for more information see National Statistics website www.statistics.gov.uk).
[4] 2006 results with methodology consistent with 2007.

Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans he has to introduce secondary legislation to facilitate data sharing under the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 apart from the draft Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 (Disclosure of Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2009. [258713]

Kevin Brennan: The UK Statistics Authority has approved plans to take forward a number of data sharing measures that require secondary legislation.

In respect of the disclosure of information to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) by another public authority, there are plans for secondary legislation to share information on students in higher education (for improving population statistics), information from the Value Added Tax System (to reduce the reporting burden on business) and information from the Joint Unemployment and Vacancies Operating System (again to reduce the burden on business).

In respect of disclosure by ONS to other public authorities, there are plans for secondary legislation to disclose information from the Interdepartmental Business Register to the Bank of England. There are also plans for secondary legislation to disclose information from this source to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland, although this will not require legislation in the UK Parliament.

Statistics: Employment

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether staff employed by *(a)* the Carbon Trust, *(b)* Envirowise, *(c)* the Energy Savings Trust, *(d)* Network Rail, *(e)* the regional development agencies and *(f)* UK Financial Investments Ltd., are deemed to be part of (i) the civil service, (ii) central Government and (iii) the public sector, for the purpose of Office for National Statistics sector employee headcounts. [258598]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning whether staff employed by (a) the Carbon Trust, (b) Envirowise, (c) the Energy Savings Trust, (d) Network Rail, (e) the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) and (f) UK Financial Investments Ltd, are deemed to be part of (i) the Civil Service, (ii) central government and (iii) the public sector, for the purpose of Office for National Statistics sector employee headcounts. (258598). I am replying in her absence.

The Office for National Statistics collects employment statistics for the public sector, as part of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES). I can confirm that staff employed by the Carbon Trust, Envirowise, the Energy Savings Trust, Network Rail and UK Financial Investments Ltd are not currently deemed to be part of the Civil Service, central government or the public sector for the purpose of Office for National Statistics sector employee headcounts.

Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) are included in total public sector employee and central government headcounts. They are not deemed to be part of the Civil Service.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether staff employed in *(a)* non-Ministerial departments and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies are deemed to be part of (i) the Civil Service, (ii) central government and (iii) the public sector, for the purpose of Office for National Statistics sector employee headcounts. [258599]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated February 2009:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning whether staff employed in (a) non-ministerial departments and (b) non-departmental public bodies are deemed to be part of (i) the Civil Service, (ii) central government and (iii) the public sector, for the purpose of Office for National Statistics sector employee headcounts. (258599). I am replying in her absence.

The Office for National Statistics collects employment statistics for the public sector, as part of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES).

Staff employed in non-ministerial departments are deemed to be part of the Civil Service, central government and public sector for the purpose of Office for National Statistics sector employee headcounts.

Most non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) are classified to the central government sector and are included within estimates of total public sector employee headcounts. However, some NDPBs are also public corporations—the staff employed by these NDPBs are not deemed to be part of central government for the purpose of Office for National Statistics sector employee headcounts, but are included within total estimates of public sector employment and some within the Civil Service employee headcount totals (depending on the employment status of their employees). Most executive NDPBs are non-Crown, as such any staff they employ are not civil servants (although some will have civil servants on loan or secondment). There are 3 exceptions—ACAS, the Health and Safety Executive and the new Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission. These 3 bodies are Crown NDPBs and their employees are civil servants and are counted as being in the Civil Service, central government and total public sector for the purpose of ONS sector employee headcounts.

VAT

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether value added tax (VAT) is charged on VAT-liable items in (*a*) the Cabinet Office and (*b*) 10 Downing Street staff canteens; and whether retail prices on VAT-liable items have been reduced since December 2008. [258614]

Kevin Brennan: The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office. All canteen facilities within the Cabinet Office are provided by external suppliers, and as commercial entities, they are required to apply VAT in line with HM Revenue and Customs policy. This includes applying the reduction from 17.5 per cent. to 15 per cent. introduced in December 2008.

Regional Ministers

Andrew MacKinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance he issues to departments on the facilities to be made available to assistants to regional Ministers; and if he will make a statement. [257438]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The Cabinet Secretary provided guidance to departments on the support that can be provided to parliamentary assistants to Regional Ministers. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House. Information about the number of visits where assistants to Regional Ministers have used transport provided by Government Offices is not held centrally.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many phosphorus munitions have been used by NATO forces in Afghanistan in the last two years. [257014]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 24 February 2009]:* The MOD does not hold information on NATO forces expenditure of phosphorus in Afghanistan in the last two years. NATO forces in Afghanistan use phosphorus munitions to produce a smoke screen to provide cover and thus protection for troops on the battlefield, and not in an anti-personnel capacity.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009 to the hon. Member for Dunfermline and West Fife, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what modifications will be made to the Merlin helicopters; and which company he expects to undertake such modifications. [259451]

Mr. Hutton: We will provide our Merlin helicopters with modifications appropriate to the environmental conditions and hostile threats which the Merlin force is likely to encounter in Afghanistan. These modifications will include the fitting of improved rotor blades to allow the aircraft to operate in hot and high conditions and changes to the aircraft's defensive aids suite. Details of this equipment is being withheld as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

All procurement will be undertaken by AgustaWestland as the prime contractor.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Merlin helicopters are being upgraded for operations in Afghanistan; and what the average cost of the upgrade is. [259664]

Mr. Hutton: It is envisaged that all 28 Merlin Mk3/3a helicopters will eventually be upgraded at a cost in the region of £50 million. This equates to an estimated average of £1.8 million per aircraft.

The number of aircraft to be deployed on operations in Afghanistan is being withheld as disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Air Force: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training hours flying time RAF fast jet pilots were able to undertake on average in each year since 2004. [258877]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to reduce levels of overstretch in the armed forces. [258823]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: While the current situation is manageable it is recognised that the continuing level of operations means that the demands on our armed forces remain significant. While the overall manning situation is improving, there remain challenges in maintaining overall manning levels and significant shortfalls remain in some specific trades. Additional measures to reduce the burden on personnel include: reducing the level on non-operational tasking and ensuring all deployments are essential; regularly reviewing the scale and mix of personnel deployed; increasing recruitment and training; and providing financial and non-financial incentives including retention bonuses for certain trades or specialisations that are experiencing shortfalls and continuance of Service beyond the end of engagements. The Services are also undergoing a restructuring programme to rebalance force structures. The continuing drawdown from Iraq will also improve tour intervals and stretch.

Armed Forces: Training

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his Department's Minute of 17 February 2009, concerning a contingent liability for the costs associated with the Defence Training Review which was laid before the House on that date, if he will refrain from incurring the liability described in the Minute until (*a*) the Public Accounts Committee and (*b*) the Defence Committee have completed their consideration of the matter. [259513]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 27 February 2009]:* Copies of the departmental minute were provided to the Clerks of the House of Commons Defence Committee and the Public Accounts Committee on 17 February in accordance with established procedures. It is the MOD's normal practice when laying a departmental minute concerning a contingent liability to provide copies to the two Committees to ensure that they have ample opportunity to raise any issues with Ministers if they wish.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* in-service dates and *(b)* current out-of-service dates are for each armoured vehicle type in the Marines. [259212]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Royal Marines operate two armoured vehicles:

	In-service date	*Out-of-service date*
Viking	2005	2024
Beach recovery vehicle	2003	2028

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current out-of-service dates are for each armoured vehicle type in the Army. [259213]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information is provided in the following table.

	Out-of-service dates	*Remarks*
FV430 Bulldog	2030	FV430 Mk2—2010
Challenger 2	2035	Challenger armoured repair and recovery vehicle—2040
CVR(T)	2020	2026 for Environmental mitigation UOR vehicles
Mastiff	—[1]	UOR procurement
Saxon	2012	—
Titan	2040	—
Trojan	2040	—
Vector	2019	—
Warrior	2025	—

[1] No planned OSD at present.

Defence Estates: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter to him from General Sir Richard Dannatt on the venue for shooting events at the London 2012 Olympics. [242082]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 10 December 2008]:* I have placed a copy of the note on Bisley that Gen Sir Richard Dannatt passed to my predecessor in September 2008 in the Library of the House.

We remain committed to working with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic games to enable the shooting events at the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics to take place at the Royal Artillery Barracks, subject to there being minimal disruption to army personnel, their families, and to the operations of the Barracks.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his Department's Spring Supplementary Estimate, what the reasons are for the £170 million increase in RfR 1 subhead U2; and which assets have fallen in value. [258869]

Mr. Hutton: The 2008-09 MOD Spring Supplementary Estimates requested £170 million of net additional resources for non-cash Annually Managed Expenditure (AME). This covers a £200 million impairment charge due to the downward revaluation of land and buildings (reflecting current UK property market conditions); and also the downward revaluation of land and buildings planned for disposal by Defence Estates. The Defence Estates total holding of land and buildings is currently valued at £20 billion. This increased gross AME provision request was partially offset by a £30 million decrease resulting from a revised equipment impairment forecast.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will break down his Department's Spring Supplementary Estimates 2009-10 on the same basis as in the answer of 14 July 2008 to the hon. Member for Aldershot, *Official Report*, column 167W, on departmental public expenditure. [259452]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Hercules Aircraft

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the original expected usage was of each type of Hercules airlift aircraft airframes; when each type came into service; what the expected length of their service life was on entry into service; and what the present rate of airframe usage is. [259668]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Hercules C-130K entered service with the RAF in 1967. Because of the long period of time that has since elapsed, details of the original planned service life and usage of these aircraft are no longer held centrally. As at 31 January 2009 the Hercules C-130K fleet had undertaken a total of 7,527 flying hours in the current financial year.

The Hercules C-130J entered service with the RAF in 1999 with an expected service life of 30 years. Details of the original planned usage of these aircraft are no longer held centrally. As at 31 January 2009 the Hercules C-130J fleet had undertaken a total of 15,680 flying hours in the current financial year.

HMS Vanguard

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department estimates it will cost to repair damage to HMS Vanguard as a result of its collision with Le Triomphant in the Atlantic. [259194]

Mr. Hutton: It is too early to say.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how far HMS Vanguard was from other identifiable vessels at the time of its collision with Le Triomphant. [259195]

Mr. Hutton: I am withholding this information on the grounds of national security.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of sonar equipment on Royal Navy submarines as a result of the collision between HMS Vanguard and Le Triomphant. [259197]

Mr. Hutton: It is too early to say as we need to await the conclusions of the review of the incident.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how long his Department estimates repairs to the damage to HMS Vanguard as a result of its collision with Le Triomphant will take. [259201]

Mr. Hutton: It is too early to say.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many crew members were on board HMS Vanguard at the time of its collision with Le Triomphant; and what the *(a)* maximum and *(b)* minimum crew levels are for HMS Vanguard. [259220]

Mr. Hutton: I am withholding this information on the grounds of national security. The declared complement of a Vanguard class SSBN is 135.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the decibel sound pressure level (dBSPL) of HMS Vanguard's nuclear reactors' water pumps was *(a)* before and *(b)* at the time of the collision with Le Triomphant. [259221]

Mr. Hutton: I am withholding this information on the grounds of national security.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at what speed HMS Vanguard was travelling at the time of its collision with Le Triomphant. [259222]

Mr. Hutton: HMS Vanguard was travelling at very low speed when it came into contact with FS Le Triomphant. I am withholding further information on the grounds of national security.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will undertake an investigation of whether the collision between HMS Vanguard and Le Triomphant has had any impact on the marine environment. [259223]

Mr. Hutton: The MOD takes this incident very seriously and a thorough review is under way. We will act on any lessons that might be identified. I can confirm that there has been no compromise to nuclear safety.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has begun disciplinary action as a result of the collision between HMS Vanguard and Le Triomphant. [259224]

Mr. Hutton: No disciplinary action has been initiated as a result of the collision between HMS Vanguard and FS Le Triomphant. However, the MOD takes this incident very seriously and a thorough review is under way. We will act on any lessons that might be identified.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department will have with its French counterpart on investigation of the collision between HMS Vanguard and Le Triomphant. [259225]

Mr. Hutton: It is too early to say as we need to await the conclusions of the review of the incident.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of *(a)* the total air transport and tanker aircraft fleet in service and *(b)* the air transport and tanker aircraft forward air fleet were fit for purpose in each year since 2001, broken down by aircraft type. [258870]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested for the C-17, Tristar, VC-10 and Hercules fleets is provided in the following table. 'In service' has been taken to mean the effective fleet, which covers all aircraft barring those which are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal. Aircraft in the forward fleet (FF) are those that are available to the front line command for operational and training purposes including those that are classed as short term unserviceable; aircraft undergoing scheduled depth maintenance or planned routine fleet maintenance are not included. Aircraft defined as fit for purpose (FFP) are those considered capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date.

The information requested is not available prior to 2005. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest aircraft.

	Number of aircraft FFP	*In-service fleet*	*FFP as a percentage of in-service fleet*	*FF*	*FFP as a percentage of FF*
FY 2005-06					
C-17	3	4	75	3	100
Tristar	4	9	44	7	57
VC-10	9	16	56	15	60
Hercules C130K	10	25	40	14	71
Hercules C130J	13	25	52	22	59
FY 2006-07					
C-17	3	4	75	3	100
Tristar	5	9	55	6	83
VC-10	9	16	56	14	64
Hercules C130K	10	22	42	12	83
Hercules C130J	15	25	60	20	75
FY 2007-08					
C-17	3	6	50	4	75
Tristar	5	9	56	7	71
VC-10	8	16	50	13	62
Hercules C130K	10	19	53	13	77
Hercules C130J	14	24	58	19	74

	Number of aircraft FEP	In-service fleet	FEP as a percentage of in-service fleet	FF	FEP as a percentage of FF
FY 2008-09					
C-17	4	6	67	5	80
Tristar	4	9	44	7	57
VC-10	7	15	47	12	58
Hercules C130K	9	17	39	12	75
Hercules C130J	15	24	63	19	79

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* in-service dates and *(b)* current out-of-service dates are for each aircraft type in the Royal Air Force. [258919]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information is as follows:

Aircraft	*In-service date*	*Planned out-of-service date*
Typhoon	2003	2029
Tornado GR4	1998	2025
Tornado F3	1986	2011
Harrier GR7/GR9/T10/T11	1999 (GR7/T10)	2018
	2006 (GR9/T12)	2018
Nimrod MR2	1970	2011
Nimrod R1	1974	[1]
Tristar	1984	2015
VC10	1966	2014
Sentry	1991	2025
Sentinel	2008	2035
Hercules C-130K	1967	2012
Hercules C-130J	1999	2030
C-17	2001	2031
BAE 125	1983	2017
BAE 146	1986	2017
Sea King 3/3a	1978 (Mk 3)	2017
	1996 (Mk3a)	2017
Dominie	1966	2013
Hawk T1/T2	1989	2018
Tucano	1989	2014
Vigilant Glider	1992	2015
Viking Glider	1992	2013

[1] Nimrod R1 out-of-service date is dependent on the procurement strategy for a mission system capability update which has yet to be decided.

Nuclear Submarines

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many submerged collisions involving British nuclear submarines there have been since 2000. [259984]

Mr. Hutton: Since 2000 the following incidents involving submerged royal navy submarines have taken place: HMS Superb in May 2008, HMS Tireless in 2003, HMS Trafalgar in 2002 and HMS Triumph in November 2000. HMS Tireless hit an iceberg while on Arctic patrol. The remainder were all grounding incidents. All the vessels, apart from HMS Superb, which was decommissioned in October 2008, were repaired and returned to service.

Nuclear Weapons

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the Mutual Defence Agreement 2004 has been amended to enable co-operation on the Reliable Replacement Warhead programme: [258415]

(2) whether the Mutual Defence Agreement 2004 has been amended to enable the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston to *(a)* undertake and *(b)* host work on the Reliable Replacement Warhead programme; [258426]

(3) whether the Mutual Defence Agreement 2004 has been amended in order to *(a)* give the United Kingdom access to information on the use of control technologies and *(b)* enable the United Kingdom to participate in the Reliable Replacement Warhead programme. [258433]

Mr. Hutton: No. While the duration of the Mutual Defence Agreement (MDA) was extended by another 10 years (to 2014) in 2004, no extension to its scope was made then or since. In my reply to an earlier question by the hon. Member on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 308W, I confirmed that following the exchange of letters between the then Prime Minister and the then US President in December 2006, enhanced collaborations are taking place between the United Kingdom and the United States under the MDA in support of the UK's nuclear stockpile stewardship programme and which contribute to the ongoing review of warhead options announced in the 2006 White Paper—"The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent (CMD 6994)".

I am withholding the information about the detailed nature of these enhanced collaboration, in the interests of national security.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether staff at the Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston follow similar concept design, development and production processes as in laboratories in the United States. [258425]

Mr. Hutton: There are a number of similarities in approach between the Atomic Weapons Establishment and their counterparts in the United States national laboratories. These include the management of research, the assessment of technology readiness, and the fundamentals of science-based stockpile stewardship in the absence of underground nuclear tests. However, our warheads are based on a wholly UK design and differ from US warheads in a number of areas.

Peacekeeping Operations: Defence Equipment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* equipment failure reports and *(b)* serious equipment failures have been recorded by his Department for each (i) armoured vehicle type and (ii) small arms equipment type in (A) Iraq and (B) Afghanistan in each year since 2004. [258881]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The number of equipment failure reports (EFRs) and serious equipment failures (SEFs) recorded are shown in the following tables:

Equipment Failure Reports

	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Iraq	*Afg*	*Iraq*	*Afg*	*Iraq*	*Afg*	*Iraq*	*Afg*	*Iraq*	*Afg*	*Iraq*	*Afg*
Armoured Vehicles												
CRMBT	110	0	184	0	204	0	141	0	160	0	0	0
CVR(T)	87	0	44	0	29	83	63	190	1	301	1	25
Bulldog	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	1	153	0	11	0
432 Mk2	8	0	7	0	9	0	106	0	1	0	0	0
Mastiff	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	26	156	99	70	2
Saxon	16	7	0	0	3	5	0	4	0	1	0	0
Vector	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	65	96	9	8
Warrior	141	0	237	0	599	0	288	0	342	78	12	5
Titan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trojan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small Arms												
9mm Browning	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9mm Sig Sauer P226	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA80	0	0	1	0	9	6	0	1	0	0	0	0
LSW	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LMG	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GPMG	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
UGL	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Sniper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HMG .50	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	0	0	0

The EFR System is the mandated system for equipment users to report failures, such as accidental damage, maintenance related failures and breakdowns, or the failure of an item fitted to the vehicle. It does not incorporate the results of subsequent investigations and therefore does not differentiate between what might later prove to have been a problem caused by operator error or damage sustained as a result of operations. Nor does this data record the severity of a failure which might have no discernible impact on operational capability or safety.

Serious Equipment Failures

	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Iraq	*Afg*	*Iraq*	*Afg*	*Iraq*	*Afg*	*Iraq*	*Afg*	*Iraq*	*Afg*	*Iraq*	*Afg*
Armoured Vehicles												
CRMBT	n/a	n/a	4	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
CVR(T)	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0
Bulldog	n/a	n/a	0	0	2	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
432 Mk2	n/a	n/a	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mastiff	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	6	0	4
Saxon	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Vector	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	10	4	4	3	1
Warrior	n/a	n/a	11	0	32	0	6	0	2	10	0	1
Titan	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trojan	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small Arms												
9mm Browning	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9mm Sig Sauer P226	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
SA80	n/a	n/a	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LSW	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LMG	n/a	n/a	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GPMG	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
UGL	n/a	n/a	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sniper	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HMG .50	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0

A SEF is defined as a failure or suspected failure that results in, or has the potential to result in personal injury, loss of life or serious damage. An EFR can become a SEF, so some of the figures in the SEF table relate to the same incident in the EFR table. SEF figures for 2004 are not readily available and could be obtained and analysed only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the cost of replacing equipment which is destroyed or has become unserviceable on military operations in Iraq or Afghanistan is met from *(a)* his Department's core budget, *(b)* the contingency reserve or *(c)* another source; [259159]

(2) whether the cost of repairing equipment following military operations in Iraq or Afghanistan is met from *(a)* his Department's core budget, *(b)* the contingency reserve or *(c)* another source. [259160]

Mr. Quentin Davies: While on current operations, all equipment costs that result from a level of activity that is higher than that programmed in the core budget are funded by the Treasury Reserve.

Territorial Army: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current *(a)* trained requirement, *(b)* actual strength and *(c)* numbers fit for duty is for each infantry battalion of the Territorial Army. [258879]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at 1 January 2009, the trained requirement and actual strength of Territorial Army battalions was as follows:

Battalion	*Trained requirement*	*Actual strength*
3rd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regt	480	450
7th Battalion the Rifles	460	510
4th Battalion the Duke of Lancaster's Regt (King's Lancashire and Border)	500	560
3rd Battalion the Princess of Wales's Royal Regt (Queen's and Royal Hampshires)	460	320
3rd Battalion the Royal Welsh	460	370
7th Battalion the Royal Regt of Scotland	530	390
The London Regt	420	320
5th Battalion the Royal Regt of Fusiliers	460	360
4th Battalion the Parachute Regt	400	380
6th Battalion the Royal Regt of Scotland	430	270
4th Battalion the Mercian Regt	670	600
4th Battalion the Yorkshire Regt	530	400
6th Battalion the Rifles	480	380
2nd Battalion the Royal Irish Regt	430	410

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Information on number of 'fit for duty' personnel is not recorded for the Territorial Army and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Trident Submarines

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps are being taken to prevent collisions between Trident submarines and other submarines in the future. [259196]

Mr. Hutton: The MOD takes this incident very seriously and a thorough review is under way. We will act on any lessons that might be identified.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what collisions between Royal Navy submarines and other vessels have taken place since 1997. [259229]

Mr. Hutton: There have been no collisions between Royal Navy submarines and other vessels since 1997 other than the recent incident involving HMS Vanguard and the French submarine Le Triomphant.

War Pensions

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of cases considered by the war pension appeal tribunals resulted in *(a)* the rejection of an application by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency for an appeal and *(b)* a settlement in favour of the claimant for each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [258188]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The proportion of cases under the War Pension Scheme (WPS) considered by the Pension Appeal Tribunal/First-tier Tribunal (PAT/FTT) over the last five years which has resulted in a rejected application is 64.4 per cent. and *(b)* a settlement in favour of the claimant is 34.9 per cent. Table 1 gives a detailed breakdown of rejected and successful appeals by calendar year.

Table 1: Percentages of rejected and successful appeals by calendar year[1]

	Percentage of:	
	rejected appeals	*successful appeals*
2004	66.0	33.1
2005	64.6	34.4
2006	61.5	38.0
2007	64.9	34.5
2008[2]	65.0	34.7
Total[3]	64.4	34.9

[1] Percentages of appeals that resulted in a rejected or successful application do not add to 100 per cent. as each year there were a small number of cases where the assessment was reduced by the PAT/FTT. These cases are considered to have been overturned but are not rejected or successful.
[2] January to September
[3] 2004 to September 2008

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of decisions on claims made under the *(a)* war pension and *(b)* armed forces compensation scheme by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency were overturned (i) at a tribunal and (ii) by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency following a request from the claimant for a review of the decision in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [258189]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Over the past five years—1 January 2004 to 30 September 2008—there have been 86,220 claims with an outcome under the War Pension Scheme (WPS). During the same period there have been 3,925 decisions overturned at a Pension Appeal Tribunal/First-Tier Tribunal (PAT/FTT). However it is not possible to directly associate claims with subsequent appeals on the War Pension Computer System. Therefore, it is not possible to calculate (i) the proportion of decisions on claims made in any one year that are overturned at Tribunal.

Table 1 presents a breakdown of claims with an outcome between 1 January 2004 and 30 September 2008, by calendar year.

Table 1: Number of claims with an outcome under the WPS between 1 January 2004 and 30 September 2008, by calendar year[1]

	Outcomes
2004	21,855
2005	19,365
2006	18,130
2007	15,295
2008[2]	11,575
Total	86,220

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest five. Totals may not add due to rounding
[2] January to September

Table 2 presents a breakdown of overturned appeals between 1 January 2004 and 30 September, by calendar year.

Table 2: Number of overturned appeals under the WPS between 1 January and 30 September 2008, by calendar year[1]

	Overturned appeals[2]
2004	900
2005	815
2006	850
2007	765
2008[3]	590
Total	3,925

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest five. Totals may not add due to rounding.
[2] This includes successful entitlement and allowance appeals, which can be made following first and second claims, and also assessment appeals, where the award can be increased or reduced.
[3] January to September

Claimants under the WPS have no statutory right to request a review. Therefore it is not possible to provide information on (ii) the proportion of decisions on claims overturned by the Service Personnel and Veterans' Agency (SPVA) following a request for a review from the claimant. However, any decision may be reviewed at any time on any grounds. If a claimant is dissatisfied with their outcome, they may lodge an appeal either with or without having previously requested a review. Information on reviews is not held centrally.

The Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) was introduced on 6 April 2005 and unlike the WPS includes the right to ask for formal review (known as a reconsideration) of decisions. Between 1 November 2005 and 30 September 2008, there have been 6,000 claims with an outcome under the AFCS.

Any claims with a decision made between 6 April 2005 and 31 October 2005 were recorded on an interim system prior to the introduction of the Compensation and Pension System (CAPS). Data held on the interim system are not compatible with CAPS and therefore it is not possible to analyse this data.

35 decisions on claims under the AFCS have been overturned at Tribunal and 95 decisions on claims under the AFCS have been overturned following a request from the claimant for a reconsideration of the decision.

Table 3 presents a breakdown of claims with an outcome between 1 November 2005 and 30 September 2008, by calendar year.

Table 3: Number of claims with an outcome under the AFCS between 1 November 2005 and 30 September 2008, by calendar year[1]

	Outcomes
2005[2]	5
2006	1,085
2007	1,890
2008[3]	3,020
Total	6,000

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest five for data protection purposes. Totals may not add due to rounding.
[2] November to December
[3] January to September

Table 4 presents a breakdown of appeal and reconsideration decisions overturned at Tribunal between 1 November 2005 and 30 September 2008, by calendar year.

Table 4: Number of overturned appeals and reconsiderations under the AFCS between 1 November 2005 and 30 September 2008, by calendar year[1, 2]

	Overturned appeals[3]	*Overturned reconsiderations*
2005[4]	-	-
2006	•	10
2007	15	25
2008[5]	15	60
Total	35	95

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest five for data protection purposes. '•' indicates fewer than five but greater than zero. '-' indicates zero. Totals may not add due to rounding.
[2] Claims with an outcome during one calendar year may have had an overturned appeal/reconsideration in a later year. Therefore the number of overturned appeals/reconsiderations in a specific year cannot be directly compared with the outcomes in that year.
[3] Of the 35 appeals overturned at Tribunal, fewer than five were subsequently overturned again by the Pension Appeal Commissioner/ Upper Tribunal (PAC/UT).
[4] November to December
[5] January to September

Warships

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many tours have been undertaken by each *(a)* Type-42 destroyer, *(b)* Type-22 frigate and *(c)* Type-23 frigate since 2005; where each tour was; what the length of each tour was; and what the length of time was between each tour. [258883]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Listed as follows are deployment details and length of time between each deployment of Type 42, Type 22 and Type 23 units from 2005 to those continuing into 2009.

Unit	*Deployment*	*Year*	*Duration in months*	*Time before next deployment in months*
T23				
Portland	South Atlantic	2005	6	21
	North Atlantic	2007	6	11
	Gulf	2008-09	8	
Somerset	Mediterranean	2005	2	30
	Mediterranean	2008	6	6
	Mediterranean and Far East	2009	5	
Sutherland	Baltic Sea	2005	2	15
	Gulf	2006-07	6	
Argyll	Gulf	2005	6	13
	Mediterranean	2006	2	10

Unit	Deployment	Year	Duration in months	Time before next deployment in months
	Gulf	2007-08	6	10
	Mediterranean	2009	2	—
Monmouth	Mediterranean	2004-05	4	23
	Far East	2007	9	—
Montrose	Gulf	2005	3	6
	Gulf	2005-06	6	8
	Mediterranean	2007	7	8
	Gulf	2008	7	—
Nth'land	Caribbean	2006	2	14
	Mediterranean	2007	4	9
	Red Sea	2009	6	—
Iron Duke	South Atlantic	2004	3	18
	North Atlantic	2006	6	18
	North Atlantic	2008	7	—
Lancaster	Mediterranean/ Gulf	2006	5	4
	North Atlantic	2006-07	4	17
	Gulf	2008-09	6	—
Richmond	Gulf	2007	7	3
	USA	2008	2	7
	Gulf	2009	6	—
Westminster	West Africa	2005	2	6
	Far East	2006	6	14
	Far East	2008	5	—
Kent	Mediterranean	2004	—	17
	Gulf	2006	6	17
	Far East	2008	6	—
St. Albans	Gulf	2006	6	29
	Mediterranean	2009	3	—
T22				
Cambeltown	Gulf	2005	5	13
	Gulf	2007	3	7
	Gulf	2007-08	7	—
Cornwall	Gulf	2007	7	5

Unit	Deployment	Year	Duration in months	Time before next deployment in months
	Europe	2008	1	—
Chatham	Gulf	2004-05	6	12
	South Atlantic	2006	6	10
	Mediterranean	2007	2	4
	Gulf	2008	7	—
Cumberland	North Atlantic	2005	4	33
	Mediterranean	2008	4	—
T42				
Gloucester	Gulf	2004-05	4	13
	Gulf	2006	4	4
	Mediterranean	2006-07	2	—
Edinburgh	South Atlantic	2006-07	10	7
	Far East	2008	5	—
Manchester	Mediterranean	2005	4	16
	North Europe	2007	1	1
	USA	2007	2	8
	Gulf	2007-08	7	8
	South Atlantic	2009	7	—
York	Far East	2005	6	6
	Mediterranean	2006	6	—
Exeter	Mediterranean	2005	2	2
	North Europe	2006	1	19
	Mediterranean	2007	1	2
	Mediterranean	2008	2	—
Liverpool	North Atlantic	2005	6	5
	South Atlantic	2006	6	20
	South Atlantic	2008	7	—
Nottingham	Gulf	2005	3	1
	Mediterranean	2005	2	6
	Mediterranean	2006	5	16
	South Atlantic	2007-08	6	—
Southampton	South Atlantic	2005-06	6	7
	Mediterranean	2006	2	5
	South Atlantic	2007	8	—

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 3 March 2009

WALES

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which works of art from the Government Art Collection each Minister in his Department has selected for display in a private office. [259433]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether his Department uses WPA2 encryption protocol on all its wireless networks. [259808]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office does not operate any wireless networks.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what auditing his Department undertakes to ensure that IT security policies are being followed; and on how many occasions *(a)* IT security policies have been breached by employees and *(b)* a member of staff has been sanctioned for a breach of such policies in the last 12 months. [259809]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office's IT services are provided by the Ministry of Justice, which has in place safeguards and auditing capabilities to ensure that IT policies are being followed by staff. No members of Wales Office staff have broken IT security rules in the last 12 months.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's IT security hierarchy; [259810]

(2) what scanning for vulnerabilities his Department conducts of each of its IT devices; what method is used for IT device scans; and how many vulnerabilities have been detected as a result of such scans in the last 12 months; [259811]

(3) what IT security policy his Department has; what procedures are in place to ensure the policy is being followed; what his Department's policy is on encryption of data when they leave departmental premises; and what sanctions are in place for failure to comply with this policy. [259852]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office is provided with its IT services by the Ministry of Justice, which is responsible for IT security. Safeguards and audit capabilities are in place to ensure their policies are followed.

When leaving departmental premises, all data are required to be encrypted, and the capability to copy data onto removable media such as CDs or memory sticks is significantly limited. Staff found not to be complying with this policy risk disciplinary action.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what percentage of letters sent by his Department were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259978]

Mr. Paul Murphy: All the Wales Office's external mail is handled by the Royal Mail. All mail addressed to other Government Departments is handled by the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy for his Department to sign the Information Commissioner's Personal Information Promise. [258947]

Mr. Hoon: The Government welcomed the promise as a commendable initiative to raise awareness of the importance of effective data protection safeguards, particularly for those organisations with no similar commitments already in place.

The Government take data protection very seriously. Following the Cabinet Office Review of Data Handling Procedures in Government, Departments have implemented a raft of measures to improve data security.

The Ministry of Justice is considering actively with the Information Commissioner's Office how the promise might add additional value to those measures we have already signed up to. These include the Information Charters, the recommendations of the Data Handling Review and the Thomas/Walport Review and, of course, our legal obligations under the Data Protection Act and other legislation and regulations.

Departmental Leave

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for which bargaining units in his Department *(a)* public and privilege days and *(b)* annual leave entitlements accrue during (i) ordinary and (ii) additional maternity leave. [258629]

Mr. Hoon: All bargaining units within the Department for Transport except the Vehicle Certification Agency, allow accrual of public and privilege days and annual leave during both ordinary and additional maternity leave. Vehicle Certification Agency allows accrual of annual leave only during both ordinary and additional maternity leave.

Departmental NDPBs: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, *(c)* the Driving Standards Agency, *(d)* the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency, *(e)* the Government Car and Despatch Agency and *(f)* the Highways Agency is in 2008-09. [258522]

Mr. Hoon: The requested information is as follows:

	£
(a) Central Department	7,970
(b) Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	5,405
(c) Driving Standards Agency	24,000
(d) Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	0
(e) Government Car and Despatch Agency	0
(f) Highways Agency	64,087

Departmental Publications

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the terms of reference of his Department's staff handbook streamlining project are. [258619]

Mr. Hoon: To review the staff handbook and people management policies to ensure they are up to date, comply with any changes in employment law and support the Department in achieving its objectives.

DVLA: Personal Records

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many (a) customer case and (b) other files containing personal information have been lost by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [259391]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Individual cases are managed via an electronic casework system. This has been accredited to Government security standards and there has been no data loss from this system.

There are paper-based casework files that are held both at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency HQ and its local offices. These files are managed locally and the cost of collecting information for lost or misplaced files would be prohibitive.

Park and Ride Schemes: Coastal Areas

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many park and ride schemes operate in English seaside towns; where such schemes are located; what recent assessment he has made of the viability of such schemes; what the average public subsidy provided for such schemes in 2008 was; and if he will make a statement. [260005]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold central data on park and ride sites located in seaside towns. Local authorities are responsible for funding most park and ride schemes, mainly through the integrated transport block, which the Department allocates to support local transport plans (LTPs). The funding is for local authorities to invest in transport capital works, including park and ride, according to their local plans and priorities. It totals £576 million for the 2008-09 period.

Local authorities also make appropriate assessment of the on-going viability of park and ride schemes. It would not be appropriate to initiate a specific nationwide audit of park and ride schemes on top of the other audit and reporting processes Government require from local authorities.

The Department does provide funding for major transport projects of over £5 million. In 2008, one major scheme in a coastal town for which there was a park and ride element received £16.2 million of Government funding. However only a small proportion of that amount would have been dedicated to the park and ride element.

Park and ride schemes play an important part in helping to tackle congestion in many localities. They are one of a range of policy tools suggested by the full guidance on the second local transport plans (2006 to 2011), published in December 2004 and shortly due to be revised for the next planning round.

Railways: Sussex

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will direct a redrafting of the timetable for rail services in Sussex to take account of the needs of rail passengers as part of the Sussex Route Utilisation Strategy. [259781]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 27 February 2009]:* Route Utilisation Strategies seek to balance capacity, demand (passenger and freight), operational performance and cost, to address the requirements of funders and all stakeholders. Network Rail is in the course of developing a Route Utilisation Strategy for Sussex, in conjunction with, and on behalf of, rail industry partners and wider stakeholders. It would be inappropriate for Government to issue directions.

Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason he has required Southern to transfer rolling stock to First Capital Connect from April 2009; and what assessment he has made of the consequences of this requirement for passengers on Southern's services. [259405]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 27 February 2009]:* The Thameslink programme requires the introduction of a new timetable on the 22 March. This timetable is necessary to enable major works to start at London Blackfriars.

The timetable requires additional dual voltage rolling stock, which are currently being delivered from Bombardier.

Bombardier are late in the delivery of these new trains, and as a short-term measure, Southern are supplying up to eight dual voltage trains to First Capital Connect.

Southern will operate additional single voltage trains that can be provided from other operators maintaining the levels of service provided.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to reallocate coaches from the Gatwick Express service to other services operated by Southern; and if he will take account of current passenger loading in the reallocation. [259406]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 27 February 2009]:* There are currently no plans to reduce the number of coaches forming each Gatwick Express train. The class 460 trains will remain eight-car stock and it is envisaged that the refurbished class 442 trains will remain in 10-car formation.

Until the December 2008 timetable change, the Gatwick Express fleet was formed of 64 class 460 vehicles dedicated to use on Gatwick Express services.

Since December 2008, in addition to the class 460 services, six peak Gatwick Express services have been extended to and from Brighton. These services have been enabled through the leasing and refurbishment of 85 class 442 vehicles. Due to delays in the refurbishment programme, some of the extended Gatwick Express services have been formed of Southern class 377 trains. However, from 16 March it is envisaged that class 377 stock will no longer be used on the extended Gatwick Express service.

It is planned that, if sufficient class 442 vehicles are delivered from the refurbishment programme, they will also be deployed on the Eastbourne to London Bridge route from the end of March.

Bids for the replacement South Central franchise have now been received and are in the process of being evaluated. Contained within the bid submissions are the bidders' plans to accommodate existing passenger loads and to provide for future demand, including details of the rolling stock that they propose to lease. The award of the franchise, and the commitments made by the incoming franchisee, are scheduled for announcement in early June.

Safer Roads Humber

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much public money has been paid to Safer Roads Humber to support the discharge of its objectives; from what sources such funding has been drawn; what rules are in place to ensure value for money from such funding; and if he will make a statement. [260007]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have provided financial support for road safety activities to the four local highway authorities in the area covered by the Safer Roads Humber partnership. The local authorities are responsible for final decisions about how much funding to allocate to the Safer Roads Humber partnership. The funding the local authorities put into the partnership is subject to the relevant audit requirements placed on the local authorities.

The funding support provided to the local authorities in the Humber area relating specifically to road safety in 2008-09 is shown in the following table.

£

Local authority	*Contribution to area based grant*	*Specific capital grant*
East Riding of Yorkshire	613,041	136,398
Kingston upon Hull	511,892	113,893
North East Lincolnshire	297,395	66,169
North Lincolnshire	341,202	75,916

Wheel Clamping: Scotland

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made for the purposes of policy formulation of the efficacy of the prohibition of wheel clamping on private land in Scotland. [259756]

Paul Clark: Wheel clamping on private land in Scotland is a devolved matter for the Scottish Executive. Wheel clamping on private land in England is a matter for the Home Secretary.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Cars: Theft

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many car-jackings have taken place in each district command unit in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [260142]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1163W, on redundancy, what estimate has he made of the annual payroll savings resulting from staff exit schemes in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09 excluding the cost of severance packages; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for 2009-10. [254469]

Mr. Woodward: Further to the answer given on 25 November 2008, as corrected on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1MC, all staff referred to left the Northern Ireland Office on early retirement terms and not on staff exit schemes.

Local Government: Elections

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the reasons are for the postponement of the 2010 local council elections in Northern Ireland until 2011; and if he will make a statement. [260028]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Assembly recently passed legislation to reduce the number of councils in Northern Ireland from 26 to 11. This reduction is being implemented and it is planned that it will be in place by 2011. For this reason Parliament recently approved legislation to postpone the local elections previously scheduled for 2009 in Northern Ireland until 2011, so that the next local elections can be held under the new 11 council model.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anti-Semitism: West Midlands

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will request the Chief Constable of the West Midlands to compile a report on the *(a)* number and *(b)* location of reported anti-Semitic incidents in the West Midlands since December 2008; and if she will make a statement. [256535]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government abhor all forms of hate crime including that of anti-Semitism. From April 2008 police forces have been collecting hate crime statistics, using the race, faith, disability or homophobic flag to indicate whether an offence is considered to be aggravated by these factors. These data are for intelligence purposes, to better understand any trends in hate crime and to target resources. These will include anti-Semitic hate crime.

Appropriate Adults

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times an appropriate adult has been called to a police station because of concerns that a suspect is mentally disordered or mentally vulnerable in each police force area in each year since 2000; and if she will make a statement. [251162]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally.

Asylum

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on granting asylum to applicants who claim to have been persecuted by members of (*a*) another ethnic group and (*b*) armed groups operating unlawfully in their country of origin. [259321]

Mr. Woolas: Our policy in deciding whether to grant asylum is set out in the immigration rules.

In accordance with this policy, UK Border Agency case owners carefully consider asylum claims to determine whether the person has a well-founded fear of persecution on grounds of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group. This will include persecution by members of another ethnic group or armed groups operating unlawfully in the country of origin where the state authorities, or the organisation (including international organisations) controlling the state territory, are unable or unwilling to provide protection against persecution or serious harm and where the individual cannot reasonably be expected to avoid the persecution by relocating within the country concerned.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what documentation her Department provides to asylum seekers when they claim asylum after arrival in the UK; and what services such people are entitled to receive on arriving in the country. [259655]

Mr. Woolas: Asylum applicants and their dependants are issued with an Application Registration Card (ARC) on or after arrival in the United Kingdom, as an acknowledgement of an asylum claim made to the UK Border Agency. The card contains information about the identity and immigration status of the holder.

Asylum applicants are also issued with information sheets which set out the services they are entitled to receive for the duration of their claim. This includes health care, schooling for children and, subject to their financial circumstances, access to legal representation and benefits.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to expand the Gateway refugee programme; and if she will make a statement. [260094]

Meg Hillier: We have no plans to increase the quota from its current level.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 9 December 2004, *Official Report*, columns 733-7W, to the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) on asylum and immigration, how many asylum seekers have been dispersed to each parliamentary constituency in the latest two-year period for which figures are available. [260455]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the number of asylum seekers that have been dispersed to each parliamentary constituency over a two-year period is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Statistics on the location of asylum seekers in the UK are published in tables 5 and 6 of the quarterly bulletin *Control of Immigration* on the number of asylum seekers in receipt of support at the end of the quarter, broken down by Government office, region and local authority.

Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

Further break downs by parliamentary constituency are available from the Library of the House.

Asylum: Children

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to bring forward proposals to amend the Leaving Care Act 2000 to allow unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to return to their country of origin. [257209]

Mr. Woolas: None; the Children Act 1989 as amended by the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 has no effect on the return of unaccompanied asylum seeking children to their countries of origin.

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department is making in relation to special authority status for local authorities who are dealing with unaccompanied asylum seeking children. [257215]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency will shortly be seeking proposals from local authorities, or groups of local authorities, setting out the numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children they could accommodate, and at what cost.

Bail

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many persons arrested were later released on police bail of (*a*) less than three months, (*b*) three to six months, (*c*) six to nine months, (*d*) nine to 12 months and (*e*) more than 12 months in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; [259470]

(2) how many persons were *(a)* arrested, *(b)* arrested and later released on police bail and *(c)* arrested but not charged in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; [259471]

(3) how many persons arrested and later released on police bail sought a court review of their bail conditions in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and how many such bail conditions were subsequently (i) varied and (ii) rescinded in each of those years. [259472]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There were 1,429,800 persons arrested in England and Wales in 2005-06 and 1,482,200 persons arrested in 2006-07.

There is no link between the arrests data reported to the Home Office and any subsequent outcome, therefore data on those arrested and then released on police bail are not available.

Crime: Economic Situation

Mr. Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the likely effect of the recession on levels of *(a)* acquisitive crime, *(b)* violent crime, *(c)* fraudulent crime and *(d)* social disorder in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [258579]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office monitors crime levels quarterly through published statistics, and more often through management data to inform performance discussions. However, crime levels fluctuate in the short term, and it is too early to draw firm conclusions about longer term trends and the influence of individual factors on crime in 2008-09.

Academic research, including a study by the Home Office, has demonstrated an association between changes in the economy and some crime. However, in looking at future crime, these studies cannot fully allow for the impact of policy or other interventions and hence do not predict actual levels of crime.

Since March 2003, overall property crime has fallen by 18 per cent., exceeding the 15 per cent. target set out in the Home Office's public service agreement. That reduction is greater than would have been forecast based on economic factors alone.

The Government have long-standing, sound systems and flexible policies in place to deal with crime. These have led to significant reductions: overall crime, as measured by the British Crime Survey, has fallen by 39 per cent. since 1997. They also mean that we are well placed to prevent future rises in crime. As the Association of Chief Police Officers pointed out in January, the Police Service has never been in a better and stronger position to meet challenges caused by the economic downturn. The Department is confident that these policies and systems provide the flexibility needed to respond to future economic challenges.

Detainees: Prostitution

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to monitor the number of individuals who have worked as prostitutes and have subsequently been detained in *(a)* prisons and *(b)* immigration removal centres; and what schemes are available to offer support to such individuals. [258271]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This information is not available.

Firearms

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to prevent the *(a)* conversion to live fire of and *(b)* distribution of blank-firing firearms. [258492]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We are working with the police to tackle the supply of all firearms. An action day in November 2007 resulted in 124 arrests and the seizure of 10 real and over a thousand imitation firearms. We are also working with both the Serious Organised Crime Agency and HM Revenue and Customs, who have increased the priority and resources they focus on this issue, to prevent and detect illegal firearms entering the UK, including readily-convertible blank firers which are prohibited under the provisions of the Firearms Acts. Regulations are being prepared under section 39 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 setting out the specifications to which blank firing imitation firearms must conform.

Genetics: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1249-51W, on genetics: databases, how many and what proportion of recorded crimes have been detected using DNA from the national DNA database in each month since April 2008; and if she will make a statement. [251166]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number and proportion of recorded crimes detected in which a DNA match was available for 2008-09 to date is shown in table 1. Data on the number of crimes detected with a DNA match are collected on a quarterly, rather than a monthly, basis. The figures provided are for quarters 1 and 2 of 2008-09; the quarter 3 figures are not yet available. Table 1 also includes projected figures for the full year 2008-09 which are based on the figures for quarters 1 and 2.

The figures for the number of crimes detected in which a DNA match was available only include crimes detected in which a DNA match was reported by the National DNA Database (NDNAD). They do not include DNA matches which arise through case work in serious crime, which usually involve comparing DNA profiles in a forensic laboratory; these data are not collected centrally. It is also important to note that the detections are achieved through integrated criminal investigation, not through DNA alone.

The presentation of crimes detected with DNA as a proportion of total recorded crime undervalues the relative contribution of DNA to the crime detection rate.

It should be noted that the majority of recorded crimes do not have a crime scene (for example, minor assault, drugs offences, theft, fraud etc.) and do not have a crime scene examination. In 2007-08, just over 854,000 crimes had a crime scene examination (17 per cent. of recorded crimes). In those crimes which have a crime scene examination, some do not yield any forensic material (DNA or fingerprints). In 2007-08, potential DNA material was collected at 102,400 crimes, and of

these, 41,800 crimes yielded DNA crime scene samples of sufficient quantity and quality for profiling and loading to the NDNAD. Of the 41,800 crimes in which a crime scene sample profile was loaded, a match was generated in 37,375 crimes (this represents 89 per cent. of crimes where DNA material was loaded to the NDNAD).

The proportion of 'crimes detected in which a DNA match was available', of those, 'crimes where potential DNA material was collected' is shown in table 2.

Table 1

	Detected crimes in which a DNA match was available ('DNA detections')	*Additional detections arising from the DNA match[1]*	*Total detected crimes in which a DNA match was available or played a part*	*Total recorded crime*	*Proportion of 'total crimes detected in which a DNA match was available or played a part' of total recorded crime (percentage)*
Q1 2008-09	4,557	4,369	8,926	1215,600	0.73
Q2 2008-09	4,418	3,799	8,217	1,208,800	0.68
Year to date (first two quarters)	8,975	8,168	17,143	2,424,400	0.71
Projected figure for 2008-09[2]	17,950	16,336	34,286	4,848,800	0.71

[1] Additional detections may result from the original crime with the DNA match due to the identification of further offences through forensic linkage or through admission by the offender.
[2] The projected figures for 2008-09 are based on the actual figures for quarters 1 and 2 of 2008-09 multiplied by two.

Table 2

	Detected crimes in which a DNA match was available ('DNA detections')	*Additional detections arising from the DNA match[1]*	*Total detected crimes in which a DNA match was available or played a part*	*Crimes where potential DNA material collected*	*Proportion of 'crimes detected in which a DNA match was available' of 'crimes where potential DNA material collected' (percentage)*
Q1 2008-09	4,557	4,369	8,926	24,103	37.03
Q2 2008-09	4,418	3,799	8,217	25,076	32.77
Year to date (first two quarters)	8,975	8,168	17,143	49,179	34.86
Projected figure for 2008-09	17,950	16,336	34,286	98,358	34.86

[1] Additional detections may result from the original crime with the DNA match due to the identification of further offences through forensic linkage or through admission by the offender.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2062W, on genetics: database, what research projects utilising data from the national DNA database have been approved since 15 January 2008; and if she will make a statement. [251244]

Mr. Alan Campbell: No research projects using data from the national DNA database have been approved since the previous answer of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2062W.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many trafficked persons identified as such by (*a*) police forces and (*b*) other authorities in each of the last three years are subsequently known to have been trafficked further. [256250]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Figures on re-trafficking of victims are not held centrally. Analysis of the outcomes of Pentameter 2 is currently being undertaken by the UK Human Trafficking Centre and will provide a more up to date picture of the extent of trafficking into the UK and the threat of re-trafficking of victims.

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many trafficked (*a*) women and (*b*) children discovered through police operations against human trafficking in each of the last three years have subsequently been registered missing and are thought still to be in the UK. [256251]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Figures on the number of those identified as trafficked women who have absconded are not held centrally.

Under Operation Pentameter 2, police recovered 16 children, 13 of whom had been identified as potentially trafficked for sexual exploitation, none of whom have been reported as having absconded and three for forced labour, of which, one absconded with the other two remaining in local authority care.

Human Trafficking: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officers in Essex Police Force have received training on the Council of Europe Convention Against Trafficking of Human Beings in the last three years. [254784]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The UK signed the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in 2007 and ratified it in December 2008.

The UKHTC are currently developing a short DVD to be distributed to police officers in all forces on the National Referral Mechanism which is a core element of the requirements of the Convention.

All police forces in England and Wales have sent officers to the training courses devised and delivered by the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) and this work has been reinforced by the distribution of awareness raising material sent electronically to all police officers. The UKHTC in conjunction with the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) are also in the process of rolling out training modules on human trafficking to be included in mainstream police courses. All of this work involves an element of training specifically on the Convention.

Forces were additionally made aware of the requirements of the convention as part of Operation Pentameter 2 which included a trial of the national referral mechanism to be introduced from 1 April 2009.

Personation

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to prevent fraud against private enterprises by persons impersonating individuals known to be dead. [258288]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Under the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006, the Registrars General for England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland can disclose death registration information to assist in the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of offences.

Under the Disclosure of Death Registration Information (DDRI) scheme, the supply of death registration records to vetted organisations commenced on 6 October 2008. The scheme is administered by the General Register Office for England and Wales on behalf of the three Registrars General. Six organisations are currently in receipt of a weekly supply of death registration records, and further applications to receive the data are being processed. The information is being used to prevent and detect fraudulent applications for financial gain. Early results show that pension funds, banks and mortgage companies have been using these data to check against loan and credit card applications, insurance payouts and pensions.

The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) has for some years matched death data against passport records and identified a number of fraudulently issued passports, as well as stopping fraudulent applications made using such identities. Close liaison with law enforcement agencies in taking action against those responsible would include consideration of wider criminality, including the impact on private enterprise, particularly the financial sector.

Police Community Support Officers: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers operating in Chorley borough are *(a)* funded wholly by Lancashire Police, *(b)* funded in part by Chorley Borough Council and *(c)* funded wholly by Chorley Borough Council. [259671]

Mr. Coaker: Information on contributions from local authorities to fund or part-fund PCSO posts is not collected centrally.

Police: Accidents

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police vehicles were involved in road accidents which resulted in *(a)* slight injuries, *(b)* serious injuries and *(c)* fatalities in 2007-08. [256742]

Mr. Coaker: Figures available centrally show the numbers of casualties and degree of injury in road traffic collisions involving police vehicles in emergency/pursuit. Figures for 2007-08 have been provided for 38 of the 43 police forces in England and Wales. They show that there were *(a)* 617 slight injuries, *(b)* 20 serious injuries and *(c)* one fatality.

The data provided here are a supplementary series collected on behalf and released with the approval of Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary (HMIC). These data are normally used for inspection purposes only.

Police: Conferences

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of policing the G20 summit to be held in London in April 2009. [258886]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for the chief officers of the forces concerned.

Police: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 165-66W, on police: finance, how much funding was allocated to each police force in each year from 2004-05 to 2009-10; and if she will make a statement. [260143]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is set out in the following table.

£ million

	Allocation after floors and scaling					
Police authority	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Avon and Somerset	162.2	170.0	161.8	167.9	173.7	179.7
Bedfordshire	62.1	65.1	64.0	66.4	68.5	70.8
Cambridgeshire	73.4	77.9	73.8	76.5	78.7	81.0
Cheshire	107.2	111.3	110.8	114.8	117.6	120.5
Cleveland	86.8	90.9	89.8	93.0	95.3	97.7

£ million

	Allocation after floors and scaling					
Police authority	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Cumbria	59.6	62.1	61.8	64.0	65.6	67.2
Derbyshire	101.2	105.0	102.0	105.8	109.2	112.6
Devon and Cornwall	166.7	173.0	171.4	177.5	181.9	186.4
Dorset	63.6	66.0	60.0	62.2	63.7	65.3
Durham	84.2	87.8	84.0	87.0	89.2	91.4
Essex	160.9	167.0	162.6	168.5	173.0	177.9
GLA—Police	1,822.0	1,927.8	1,818.3	1,883.7	1,930.0	1,978.3
Gloucestershire	58.9	61.1	54.5	56.5	57.8	59.3
Greater Manchester	393.2	412.5	417.4	432.7	445.6	458.9
Hampshire	190.5	197.7	190.4	197.3	202.2	207.5
Hertfordshire	104.8	108.8	110.4	114.4	117.7	121.1
Humberside	114.6	118.9	117.8	122.0	125.1	128.4
Kent	182.6	189.5	176.2	182.6	187.2	192.1
Lancashire	182.9	190.8	187.0	193.7	198.8	204.1
Leicestershire	102.0	107.7	107.5	111.5	114.7	118.0
Lincolnshire	60.6	63.4	58.3	60.5	62.3	64.3
Merseyside	248.4	257.7	245.0	253.8	260.6	267.4
Norfolk	82.2	85.9	80.5	83.4	85.4	87.6
North Yorkshire	72.7	75.4	70.5	73.0	74.8	76.7
Northamptonshire	64.3	67.8	69.2	71.7	73.5	75.5
Northumbria	221.4	232.2	229.7	238.0	243.8	249.9
Nottinghamshire	127.6	133.3	127.8	132.5	136.9	141.4
South Yorkshire	178.0	185.7	187.5	194.3	199.1	204.1
Staffordshire	109.2	113.3	110.3	114.3	117.4	120.6
Suffolk	66.0	68.5	65.2	67.6	69.2	71.0
Surrey	88.2	91.5	93.6	97.0	99.3	101.8
Sussex	158.1	164.0	156.1	161.7	165.7	169.8
Thames Valley	212.6	220.6	217.9	225.9	231.9	238.2
Warwickshire	49.8	51.8	49.7	51.5	52.8	54.1
West Mercia	107.7	111.8	112.0	116.0	118.9	121.8
West Midlands	399.3	426.5	433.6	450.2	468.0	486.1
West Yorkshire	298.9	313.6	306.2	317.6	328.2	339.2
Wiltshire	60.6	62.9	59.9	62.0	63.6	65.2

Notes:
1. All figures are rounded to the nearest £100,000. Grant as calculated under the Local Government Finance Report (England). This includes the Metropolitan Special Payment, and the effect of floors and scaling.
2. From 2006-07 funding for pensions and security funding became specific grants, and no longer part of general grant.
3. Figures for the City of London are excluded because these are allocated to the Common Council of the City of London as a whole in respect of all its functions. The city is grouped with education authorities for floors and scaling purposes.

Police: Firearms

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many claims have been made against her Department for being dilatory in paying compensation under the compensation schemes under the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997 to a person who has surrendered firearms and ammunition to police following the introduction of the prohibition on the possession, manufacture and sale of weapons under the Act. [258937]

Mr. Alan Campbell: One ex gratia payment was made in respect of a particularly complex claim where certain payments could have been made earlier.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* weapons and *(b)* items of ancillary equipment handed into police forces following the entering into force of the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997 remain in the possession of police forces. [258938]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has issued disposal notices in respect of all but 92 of the 72,000 claims received. It is for individual chief officers to keep records of such items still in their possession.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many owners of weapons and items of ancillary equipment handed into police forces following the entering into force of the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997 have not received payment under the compensation schemes introduced under the Act. [258939]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Payments have been offered to all claimants in accordance with the terms of the schemes.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests to police forces have been *(a)* made and *(b)* granted for the return of items deemed to be ineligible for compensation under the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997 compensation schemes. [258940]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not held centrally.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the residual liability to the public purse for payments under the compensation schemes introduced under the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997. [258941]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It is not possible to estimate any residual liability since some claimants may wish to resurrect issues of concern. However, we believe that claimants have all been paid in accordance with the schemes.

Prosecutions: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of serious crimes reported to the police led to prosecutions in each London borough in the last 12 months. [258493]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information is not available in the form requested. The Home Office collects statistics on the number of offences recorded by the police and the method of detection where appropriate. One of the methods of detection is 'charge/summons' but there is no way of establishing how many recorded offences actually led to a prosecution. Data specifically on defendants proceeded against are collected by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform in the Ministry of Justice.

Prostitution

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will commission research on the primary reasons for an individual to start working as a prostitute. [259204]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office consultation, Paying the Price, which was published in 2004 and informed the Co-ordinated Prostitution Strategy considered the issue of routes into prostitution. It drew on an extensive range of existing research which considered the reasons for persons' involvement in prostitution.

Prostitution: Local Government

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to monitor local authority provision of services to individuals who work as prostitutes. [258310]

Mr. Alan Campbell: No such mechanisms exist.

Sex Establishments: Licensing

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that the frequency exemption contained in lap dancing licensing reforms is removed. [258987]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Clause 25 of the Policing and Crime Bill will require all venues that wish to offer lap dancing on a monthly basis or more frequently to hold a sex encounter venue licence. The Government believe that this would capture venues offering lap dancing events on a regular basis and therefore as part of their core business. However, in response to concerns raised during the committee stage in the House of Commons, the Government have agreed to look into these issues further and are currently considering whether any amendments are required.

Speed Limits: Fines

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drivers were fined for speeding in each police force area in 2008; and how much was paid in fines for such offences. [256741]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of magistrates courts imposed fines for speed limit offences by police force area in England and Wales for 2007 are given in the following table. Court proceedings data for 2008 are scheduled to be published in the autumn of 2009.

It is not possible to identify separately the payment rate of fines arising from speeding offences. The latest enforcement rate for all financial penalties imposed by the courts is 85 per cent for the period April-December 2008.

In addition to court fines, police officers have the power to issue fixed penalty notices under section 54 of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 for speeding offences. The decision as to whether to issue a fixed penalty notice is a matter for the police. Currently the amount payable for a fixed penalty notice for speeding is £60.

Information on the number of fixed penalty notices issued in 2006 (latest available) broken down by police force area is provided in table 2. Data for 2007 are scheduled to be published in April 2009 with 2008 data to be announced.

Table 1: Number of magistrates courts imposed fines[1] for speed limit offences[2] by police force area, England and Wales, 2007[3, 4]*

Police force area	*Number of fines[1]*
Avon and Somerset	5,761
Bedfordshire	4,238
Cambridgeshire	4,181
Cheshire	3,136
Cleveland	1,194
Cumbria	2,470
Derbyshire	2,846
Devon and Cornwall	3,940
Dorset	2,340
Durham	650
Essex	7,247
Gloucestershire	1,111
Greater Manchester	4,521
Hampshire	4,789
Hertfordshire	2,525
Humberside	2,182
Kent	3,181
Lancashire	7,463
Leicestershire	1,802
Lincolnshire	3,800
London, City of	460
Merseyside	3,010
Metropolitan police	5,882
Norfolk	2,669
Northamptonshire	2,919
Northumbria	3,570
North Yorkshire	2,004
Nottinghamshire	3,387
South Yorkshire	4,167

Table 1: Number of magistrates courts imposed fines[1] for speed limit offences[2] by police force area, England and Wales, 2007[3, 4]

Police force area	Number of fines[1]
Staffordshire	4,540
Suffolk	3,401
Surrey	3,514
Sussex	3,965
Thames Valley	5,883
Warwickshire	1,340
West Mercia	2,651
West Midlands	4,652
West Yorkshire	5,638
Wiltshire	5,005
Dyfed Powys	945
Gwent	1,125
North Wales	4,345
South Wales	2,394
Total England and Wales	146,843

[1] Magistrates courts data only. Fines given at the Crown court total nationally (England and Wales) less than 10 each year.
[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ss. 16; 81; 84; 86; 88 & 89; Motor Vehicles (Speed Limit on Motorways) Regs. 1973; Parks Regulation (Amendment) Act 1926 - byelaws made thereunder.
[3] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis unit.
[Ref: IOS 98-09]

Table 2: Fixed penalty notices issued[1] for speed limit offences[2] by police force area, England and Wales 2006

Police force area	Number
Avon and Somerset	52,606
Bedfordshire	48,407
Cambridgeshire	20,502
Cheshire	28,570
Cleveland	19,044
Cumbria	32,023
Derbyshire	31,404
Devon and Cornwall	42,467
Dorset	51,599
Durham	2,817
Essex	60,705
Gloucestershire	13,406
Greater Manchester	60,282
Hampshire	49,404
Hertfordshire	61,805
Humberside	36,718
Kent	47,179
Lancashire	57,658
Leicestershire	24,605
Lincolnshire	25,750
London, City of	5,089
Merseyside	33,049
Metropolitan	102,482
Norfolk	24,985
North Yorkshire	42,342
Northamptonshire	51,880
Northumbria	5,256
Nottinghamshire	42,916
South Yorkshire	51,462
Staffordshire	50,823
Suffolk	34,442
Surrey	39,520
Sussex	48,627
Thames Valley	137,312
Warwickshire	30,316
West Mercia	46,213
West Midlands	44,497
West Yorkshire	49,528
Wiltshire	51,458
Dyfed Powys	1,054
Gwent	531
North Wales	59,491
South Wales	33,208
England and Wales	1,773,412

[1] Only covers notices paid where there is no further action.
[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1973.
[3] Revised since original publication.
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Treaty of Lisbon

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Metropolitan Police have informed her of accusations of malfeasance they have received about the Lisbon Treaty ratification against *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* other members of the Cabinet; and if she will make a statement. [251061]

Mr. Coaker: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has not been informed by the Metropolitan Police Service of any such accusations of malfeasance in relation to the ratification of the Lisbon treaty.

The UK ratified the Lisbon treaty on 16 July 2008, following Royal Assent to the EU (Amendment) Act, which was received on 19 June 2008. The Act was passed after 25 days of detailed consideration in both Houses.

War Crimes

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she has issued to police forces on steps to be taken following an arrest of a person suspected to be guilty of an offence related to the violation of the laws or customs of war; and if she will make a statement. [257443]

Mr. Coaker: Guidance on this issue is a matter for the Metropolitan Police Service and the Counter Terrorism Division of the Crown Prosecution Service. They have an agreed national protocol in place for the handling of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what additional funding will be made available through the EU's economic recovery plan to rural development, with particular reference to training in environmental improvement. [258816]

Huw Irranca-Davies: As part of the proposed European Economic Recovery Plan, the Commission is proposing a €1.25 billion package of measures to be delivered through Member States' Rural Development Programmes, of which €1 billion will be dedicated to rural broadband infrastructure projects and €250 million to projects in support of the 'new challenges' agreed as part of the recent CAP Health Check (climate change, renewable energy, water management, biodiversity and dairy sector restructuring). No agreement has yet been reached in the Council of Ministers on this package. The Commission is proposing that this funding should be allocated in proportion to existing shares of rural development funding. The United Kingdom would therefore receive around €15 million in total. No decisions have yet been made on how this funding might be used, if the package is agreed.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* cattle infected by bovine tuberculosis and *(b)* calves born to cows infected by bovine tuberculosis have been slaughtered in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and how much was paid in compensation to their owners. [251282]

Jane Kennedy: The following table shows the number of cattle slaughtered under bovine tuberculosis (TB) control measures either as test reactors or direct contacts, and the amount of compensation paid, in England, in the last 10 years.

Data on the number of calves slaughtered because they were born to cows affected by TB is not centrally collated in electronic format and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Number of cattle slaughtered[1]	*Compensation paid*[2] *(£ million)*
2007	19,794	15.2
2006	16,007	18.1
2005	23,135	32.1
2004	17,306	23.1
2003	17,551	25.2
2002	18,443	20.8
2001	4,438	4.6
2000	7,190	5.7
1999	5,580	3.2
1998	5,027	3.6

[1] Data regarding the number of cattle slaughtered as test reactors or direct contacts are taken from the Animal Health Database (Vetnet). Data for 2006-07 are provisional and subject to change as more data become available and as a result of data validation and cleansing.

[2] Compensation includes payments to farmers for 'reactors' and 'direct contact' animals which are compulsorily slaughtered. For 1999 onwards these data have been taken from the DEFRA Oracle Financial System. 1998 data are drawn from the 1998 report of the Chief Veterinary Officer and are not directly comparable to later years.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy for his Department to sign the Information Commissioner's Personal Information Promise. [258952]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government welcome the promise as a commendable initiative to raise awareness of the importance of effective data protection safeguards, particularly for those organisations with no similar commitments already in place.

The Government take data protection very seriously. Following the Cabinet Office review of data handling procedures in Government, departments have implemented a raft of measures to improve data security.

The Ministry of Justice is considering actively with the ICO how the promise might add additional value to those measures we have already signed up to. These include the information charters, the recommendations of the data handling review and the Thomas/Walport review and, of course, our legal obligations under the Data Protection Act and other legislation and regulations.

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department or its predecessors were on sick leave for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days in each of the last five years. [256324]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information requested for the core Department is shown in the following table.

	Number of staff		
Total working days absent in year	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
30-49	80	81	50
50-99	72	66	41
100 plus	48	25	29

Information for the Executive agencies and for earlier years could be provided only by incurring disproportionate cost.

DEFRA has a policy to promote health and wellbeing and reduce sickness absence for its employees. It manages long term sickness absences by facilitating timely employee access to occupational health advice, medical or wellbeing interventions. Individuals are also encouraged to return to work through the use of occupational health expertise that enables them to undertake a structured programme of recuperative duties. This helps employees return to full working hours and duties as quickly as possible.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department were recorded as having been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December in each of the last five years. [256631]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information requested for the core Department is as follows:

	Number
2006	1
2007	4
2008	2

Information for the Executive agencies and for earlier years could be provided only by incurring disproportionate cost.

DEFRA's strategy for managing employee sickness absence over 12 months is to ensure that individuals receive necessary occupational health interventions. Their managers also receive timely medical and human resources advice and information. Employees are further supported in returning to work by undertaking a structured programme of recuperative duties, agreed with their manager and the occupational health service. This helps them return to full working hours and duties as quickly as possible.

Drinking Water

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of litres of bottled *(a)* sparkling and *(b)* still water consumed in England in each year since 2000; and what percentage was supplied in bottles made of (i) plastic, (ii) glass and (iii) other materials. [259495]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table shows the estimated number of litres of mineral water purchased in the UK in each year since 2001.

	Total UK purchases of mineral water (Million litres)
April to March each year	
2001-02	747
2002-03	794
2003-04	876
2004-05	950
2005-06	964
Calendar year	
2006	1,103
2007	995

Source:
Expenditure and Food Survey.

From 2006, the Expenditure and Food Survey switched to a calendar year basis. It is not possible to resample earlier data on the same basis. It is also not possible to account accurately for wastage during consumption. DEFRA has no compatible population figures on which to calculate purchases on a national basis, therefore it is not possible to provide similar estimates for purchases in England. However, the following table shows the estimated average number of litres of mineral water purchased per person in England in each year since 2001.

	Purchases of mineral water per person/year in litres in England
April to March each year	
2001-02	13
2002-03	13
2003-04	15
2004-05	16
2005-06	16
Calendar year	
2006	19
2007	17

Source:
Expenditure and Food Survey.

DEFRA does not collect statistics which distinguish between sparkling and still water or the way water is packaged.

Entry Level Stewardship Scheme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to introduce new cross-compliance measures into the entry level stewardship agreement. [258820]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Compliance with single payment scheme cross compliance requirements has been a requirement for environmental stewardship agreements entered into from January 2007. Cross compliance changes to be introduced in January 2010 as a result of the recent CAP health check agreement, will apply to these environmental stewardship agreements. A public consultation on the health check changes will be launched later this year.

Environment Protection

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the cost of implementation of those provisions of the Stockholm Convention relating to environmental protection. [258833]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We have received no recent representations on the cost of implementation of those provisions of the Stockholm Convention relating to environmental protection.

Farmers' Markets: Finance

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding is available under the England Rural Development Programme to support the establishment of farmers' markets in 2008-09. [260183]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Under axis 1 of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) funding is available for opening new marketing opportunities for agricultural and forestry products, putting the emphasis on quality. Under axis 3 of the RDPE, funding is available for the promotion of tourism activities linked to quality regional and local food culture. It is for each region to determine whether the establishment of farmers' markets is a priority for them.

Fisheries

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will meet representatives of the small and under-10 metre fishing fleet from the Thames Estuary and East Anglia Coast to discuss his Department's policy on inshore fishing. [259609]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Following the December announcement on a package of measures designed to bring short-term stability to the English inshore fleet, a project—Sustainable Access to Inshore Fisheries (SAIF)—is now under way in DEFRA to develop a strategy for the fleet's long-term sustainability. Through the SAIF project, DEFRA officials and I will engage with a wide range of industry and community representatives over the next few months. We intend to arrange a series of meetings around the coast, and I would be pleased to include the Thames estuary and East Anglian coast as areas for inclusion in the meeting schedule.

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew: Fees and Charges

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the retail prices for *(a)* entry and *(b)* guided tours have been reduced at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew as a result of the December 2008 reduction in value added tax. [258387]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew reviews its prices regularly, using other, similar visitor attractions as a benchmark. Initial plans to raise entry prices by 50 pence for this year have now been deferred, with prices held instead at 2008 levels. This is to reflect the recent reduction in value added tax.

Guided tours at the Royal Botanic Gardens are either free of charge or specifically priced to meet individual customer requirements.

Sewers: Fats

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if his Department will introduce measures to require commercial hot food premises to have a grease control system to prevent the entry of fats, oils and greases into the sewerage system; [259319]

(2) what steps his Department and its associated public bodies are taking to prevent the discharge of fats, oils and greases into the sewerage system from commercial hot food premises; and if he will make a statement; [259317]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of local voluntary schemes for installing control measures in commercial hot food premises as a means of preventing the discharge of fats, oils and greases into the sewerage system. [259318]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

There is a general requirement in building regulations, and more generally other public health legislation, that drains should be constructed in such a way as to minimise the risk of blockage. Grease from hot food premises is acknowledged as a significant cause of drain blockages. Drainage is dealt with in part H of the Building Regulations and when the guidance was comprehensively revised in 2002 additional guidance was added about the provision of grease control measures to hot food premises. Where drains malfunction, building legislation provides local authorise with enforcement powers to ensure that the problem is remedied.

In order to test the effectiveness of the above measure my department was party to a joint research project with the water industry. The outcome of this research has enabled water companies and local authorities to be more confident in their enforcement measures and has enabled some pilot projects to deal with some particularly troublesome cases and bring them to a satisfactory conclusion.

Welsh Language

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many members of staff at each grade in his Department identify themselves as Welsh speakers. [257792]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 23 February 2009]*: DEFRA does not monitor the number of staff at each grade in the Department who identify themselves as Welsh speakers. DEFRA does however provide a Welsh language service for our customers through our customer call centres and through our telephone helplines.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 54W, on departmental art works, what the *(a)* title, *(b)* artist and *(c)* Government Art Collection reference number is of each Government Art Collection item reported as stolen in each year since 1997-98. [258586]

Barbara Follett: The following Government art collection works have been stolen since 1997-98:

Title	*Artist*	*Last known location*	*Government art collection reference number*
Lake Landscape	George Arnald	Ambassador's temporary Residence, Buenos Aires, between 23 and 30 August 2001, presumed stolen.	GAC7462
St. James's Park and Banqueting House	Anthony Highmore	Ambassador's temporary Residence, Buenos Aires, between 23 and 30 August 2001, presumed stolen.	GAC7963
Sir Woodbine Parish (1796-1882)	after Thomas Phillips	Ambassador's temporary Residence, Buenos Aires, between 23 and 30 August 2001, presumed stolen.	GAC1328
Offering to Jupiter	Michele Rocca	Ambassador's temporary Residence, Buenos Aires, between 23 and 30 August 2001, presumed stolen.	GAC2298

Title	Artist	Last known location	Government art collection reference number
Landscape	Edward Williams	Ambassador's temporary Residence, Buenos Aires, between 23 and 30 August 2001, presumed stolen.	GAC2703
Sir William Chambers	Francis Cotes	Stolen from the Somerset House Trust, Somerset House, London, in February 2008 and recovered by the police in September 2008.	GAC0/252
Shipping 1821	J.T. Serres	Stolen from the Somerset House Trust, Somerset House, London, in February 2008 and recovered by the police in September 2008.	GAC3158

Departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 880W, on Departmental non-departmental public bodies, how many times bodies for which his Department is responsible asked *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Treasury to approve (i) capital projects of £6 million and above, (ii) gifts and non-statutory contingent liabilities of £100,000 and above, (iii) spending which exceeded limits set out in the relevant financial memoranda and (iv) spending which could have potentially set an expensive precedent, caused repercussions for others or which was novel or contentious in each of the last three years. [248884]

Andy Burnham: A survey of the last three financial years to date has indicated that my Department's non-departmental public bodies made the following requests, which are set out in the following tables. This may not be a complete list, however further information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

(a) Requests for which DCMS approval is required

	Spending which exceeded limits set out in the relevant financial memoranda
2006-07	3
2007-08	2
2008-09 (to date)	5

(b) Requests for which HM Treasury approval is required

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09[1]
Capital projects of £6 million and above	5	5	4
Spending which exceeded limits set out in the relevant financial memoranda	0	0	1
Gifts and non-statutory contingent liabilities of £100,000 and above	0	0	0
Spending which could have potentially set an expensive precedent, caused repercussions for others or which was novel and contentious	21	12	24

[1] To date.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* summits, *(b)* conferences and *(c)* seminars his Department has hosted since January 2008 at which a primary subject of discussion was the effect of the economic situation on matters within his Department's responsibility. [259751]

Andy Burnham: The Department has held regular internal discussions on responding to the economic situation, including discussions with its Advisory Board. The Department is also working closely with its sponsored bodies to help our sectors continue to function effectively and manage the risks which the present economic situation presents.

Recent external meetings on this issue included a tourism summit in Liverpool on 9 January 2009 convened by VisitBritain, which considered ways to help support the tourism industry through the downturn and beyond. The Creative Economy Programme Ministerial Steering Board received a presentation by Will Hutton in December on the impact of the economic downturn on the Creative Economy.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her Office's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public was in each year since its establishment. [251450]

Tessa Jowell: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members correspondence. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Information for 2008 is currently being collated and will be published as soon as it is ready. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House. General correspondence to the Minister for the Olympics on Olympic issues is responded to by officials at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport aims to respond to letters from the public within 20 working days of receipt. Statistics on the percentage responded to within this target are available in the Department's annual reports. I am informed that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport could provide information on average response times to letters from the public only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much has been spent by her Office on staff reward and recognition schemes in each year since its inception. [248721]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office the hon. Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) to him on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 578W.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much *(a)* her Office and *(b)* the Olympic Delivery Authority has spent on recruitment agencies in each of the last three years. [250268]

Tessa Jowell: In each of the last three financial years, Government Olympic Executive (GOE) has spent the following on recruitment agencies. This has supported the recruitment of six senior managers, including the director general and the director of build and finance:

	£
April 2008-20 January 2009	55,787.83
April 2007-March 2008	63,728.67
April 2006-March 2007	119,618.64

Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA)

The ODA's spend on recruitment reflects the requirement to recruit quickly at all levels to a newly established organisation while maintaining the delivery programme for the venues and infrastructure for the London 2012 Olympic Games and Puralympics Games. In each of the last three financial years, the ODA has spent the following on recruitment agencies, for the recruitment of 220 personnel at all levels of the organisation:

	£
April 2008-December 2008	194,366.22
April 2007-March 2008	825,714.62
April 2006-March 2007	892,447.98

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on estimates by the World Health Organisation and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities on the number of people who died as a result of illegal abortions in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [259039]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

In 2007 the World Health Organisation (WHO) published estimates, on behalf of all UN agencies, of the incidence of unsafe abortion and associated deaths for the year 2003. This report which includes detailed information on the methodology used in calculating estimates can be found on the WHO website:

http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/unsafe abortion/

Given the clandestine nature of abortion in many settings and the difficulties in collecting data, it is likely that the true levels of unsafe abortion and related mortality are higher than estimated.

Worldwide an estimated 19-20 million unsafe abortions are estimated to occur each year. Millions of women and girls suffer complications following unsafe abortion and around 67,000 die as a result of these complications. Most of these abortions, complications and deaths could be prevented if people who wished to had access to family planning and if abortion services had been legally available and affordable everywhere. Progress to achieve Millennium Development Goal number five, Improve Maternal Health, cannot be made unless we are prepared to do something to reduce the death and disability caused by unsafe abortion.

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made towards the eradication of poppy growing in Afghanistan. [259396]

Bill Rammell: The Afghan Government's poppy eradication campaign was launched on 5 February 2008 in Helmand province through the deployment of the poppy eradication force, followed by Governor-led eradication, which started on 15 February 2008.

So far 2,000 hectares of poppy has been destroyed, which represents good progress.

Eradication forms a key pillar of the Helmand food zone programme, led by Governor Mangal, whereby farmers have been informed that poppy grown within this area should be eradicated. Governor-led eradication efforts have commenced elsewhere and will continue until July 2009. However it is too early to predict what the final national eradication figure will be.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what UK armed forces are currently based in *(a)* Belize, *(b)* the British Indian Ocean Territory and *(c)* Ascension Island. [259328]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have been asked to reply.

The number of armed forces personnel in each location, rounded to the nearest five, is as follows:

Location	*Number*
Belize	60
British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)	40
Ascension Island	15

Binyam Mohamed

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has had discussions with the government of Ethiopia on the return of Mr Binyam Mohamed to that country. [259027]

Bill Rammell: We have kept the Government of Ethiopia informed of the progress of Mr. Binyam Mohamed's release and return to the UK but we have not made representations on his transfer to Ethiopia. Our goal has been to contribute to US Government efforts to close Guantanamo Bay by securing the release and

return to the UK of those who were legal residents in the UK prior to their detention. Mr. Binyam Mohamed's return does not constitute a commitment by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary that he may remain permanently in the UK.

Birtukan Mideksa

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has made representations to the government of Ethiopia on the detention of Birtukan Mideksa; and if he will make a statement. [258690]

Gillian Merron: We have raised the detention of Birtukan Midekssa with the Ethiopian authorities on a number of occasions since her arrest on 29 December 2008. On 2 February 2009 my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. the Lord Malloch-Brown did so with the Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, pointing out the potential damage to Ethiopia's image of imprisoning an opposition leader politician.

We will continue to urge the Ethiopian government to resolve this issue quickly.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of the decision by Miroslav Lajcak, High Representative for Bosnia-Herzegovina, to step down from that post; and if he will make a statement. [253958]

David Miliband: The international community will need now to find a credible successor to Miroslav Lajcak who can continue to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina in moving away from ethnic divisions towards a better future for all its citizens.

A decision on this appointment is expected later this month.

Eventual closure of the Office of the High Representative will remain dependent on the fulfilment of the conditions set by the Peace Implementation Council, namely the so-called five objectives and two conditions. The Peace Implementation Council will meet again on 25-26 March 2009 to consider progress against those conditions.

Brussels: Visits Abroad

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times he has visited Brussels on official business in the last 12 months. [259537]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has visited Brussels 17 times on official business in the last 12 months.

Colombia: Drugs

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of allegations of links between Colombian President Alvaro Uribe and drug traffickers. [260003]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer of 2 March 2009]:* No reports have been received to support any such allegations.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what mechanisms are in place to ensure that counter-narcotics assistance provided by the Government to the Colombian security forces is not used for counter-insurgency purposes. [260004]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer of 2 March 2009]:* We scrupulously monitor all UK engagement with the government of Colombia on counter-narcotics. Our work continues to meet the highest standards of probity and effectiveness. We do not provide any counter-insurgency assistance.

We fully endorse the efforts of the Government of Colombia to legitimately tackle the influence of illegal, criminal and terrorist groups in a manner consistent with international humanitarian law.

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [256209]

Caroline Flint: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCO Services employ only UK nationals in permanent civil service positions (of which there are currently 5,935) in the UK or overseas.

Our missions overseas employ a total of approximately 10,000 locally-recruited staff of various nationalities, both EU and non-EU. We do not hold records centrally of the nationalities of these staff.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on *(a)* pot plants and *(b)* flowers in each of the last three years. [254877]

Gillian Merron: Spending on plants and flowers in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) UK estate in the last three years is as follows:

Plants	£
February 2008 to January 2009 (includes replacement of large external plants in the Old Admiralty Building, London)	5,343.13
February 2007 to January 2008 (includes replacement of deteriorated wooden plant boxes in Carlton Gardens)	4,114.00
February 2006 to January 2007	1,599.00

Flowers[1]	£
February 2008 to January 2009	27,750.15
February 2007 to January 2008	34,285.00
February 2006 to January 2007	32,962.63

[1] Spending on flowers includes that incurred by Government Hospitality, part of the Protocol Directorate in the FCO. Government Hospitality have responsibility for the organisation of official ministerial hospitality for all Government Departments.

Information on how much is spent on plants and flowers at the FCO's overseas posts is not held centrally and would incur a disproportionate cost to collate.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what opportunities for work experience directorates of his Department offer to university students who are not *(a)* entitled to a full maintenance grant and *(b)* eligible for work experience schemes offered to those from a minority ethnic background. [258627]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers an Undergraduate Placement Scheme to all UK university undergraduate students who are not in their final year at university and who fulfil the minimum nationality and residency eligibility criteria.

The FCO also participates in the Cabinet Office run Summer Placement Scheme. This is a work placement scheme for undergraduates/graduates who have a registered disability in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

More information on the Undergraduate Placement Scheme can be found at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/working-for-us/work-experience/undergraduate

More information on the Summer Placement Scheme can be found at:

http://diversity.faststream.gov.uk/index.asp?txtNavID=133

Family Planning

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports his Department has received on coercive family planning policies in other countries; and if he will make a statement. [259056]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for International Development (DFID) does not hold records on reports of coercive family planning overseas.

The UK government's policy on population and sexual and reproductive health in the developing world is about providing choice, not coercion. Couples and individuals should be able to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children, and have access to the information and services to be able to do so. DFID actively works to promote and uphold the principles of free and informed choice as set out in at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994.

Foreign Students

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what research his Department conducted on likely levels of demand for its Partner University Placement Scheme among eligible groups prior to the scheme's inception. [258547]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office used a Higher Education Standards Agency report to identify 10 universities that performed highest across three key standards: academic performance, social inclusion and ethnic diversity. We did not conduct specific research among the eligible groups into the likely levels of demand for the scheme.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department's Partner University Placement Scheme was established; and how many students have taken part in the scheme. [258548]

Gillian Merron: The Partner University Placement Scheme was established in 2007. 21 students have taken part in the scheme to date.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the eligibility criteria for students wishing to take part in his Department's Partner University Placement Scheme are. [258549]

Gillian Merron: The eligibility criteria for the Partner University Placement Scheme are that students must be:

either

from a minority ethnic background

or

in receipt of a full university maintenance grant (or Scottish equivalent).

and

from Bath, Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Edinburgh, Nottingham, Oxford, King's College London, University College London or Manchester Universities,

in their penultimate or final year of university,

be 16 years or over at the time of applying,

be a British citizen,

have been resident in the UK for two out of the last 10 years immediately prior to their application, at least one year of which must have been a consecutive 12-month period, unless they have served overseas with HM Forces or in some other official capacity as a representative of our Government, or have lived overseas a result of their parents' or partner's Government employment.

Group of Twenty: London Summit

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate has been made of the cost of accommodation for *(a)* foreign heads of state and government and *(b)* foreign delegations attending the G20 summit to be held in London in April 2009. [259365]

Bill Rammell: Participating countries are responsible for their own accommodation costs. There will be no cost to the Government.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library copies of proposed menus for meals to be provided to participants in the G20 summit in London in April 2009. [259366]

Bill Rammell: The planning for the London summit in April 2009 is still being formulated. Any hospitality offered by the Government during the summit will be commensurate with the nature of the occasion. As such

menus for the hospitality around the London summit will be published, in accordance with normal practice, after the event.

Iran: Christianity

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of *(a)* closures of churches in Iran and *(b)* the treatment of Christians in that country; what recent representations he has made to the Government of Iran on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [259541]

Bill Rammell: We have not received recent reports regarding the closure of churches in Iran, but we do have serious concerns about the treatment of Christians, in particular those who have converted from Islam to Christianity. We regularly raise these concerns with the Iranian authorities, both bilaterally and through the EU. We made over 40 representations in 2008, expressing our firm opposition to all forms of discrimination and oppression. We continue to urge Iran to respect and protect its religious minorities and free all prisoners held due to their faith or religious practice.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with his Turkish counterpart on Gaza since the last meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos. [260000]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed Gaza with his Turkish counterpart since the World Economic Forum in Davos. However, this remains an issue of ongoing concern and we would expect to engage with Turkey when the opportunity arises.

I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2008W.

Pakistan: Christianity

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of *(a)* closures of churches in Pakistan and *(b)* the treatment of Christians in that country; what recent representations he has made to the government of Pakistan on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [259539]

Bill Rammell: We have not received reports of closures of churches in Pakistan. Our officials in London and in Islamabad regularly meet with representatives of civil society and human rights organisations to monitor the treatment of minorities and inform our policy more widely. During these discussions, the closure of churches in Pakistan has not been raised as a concern.

With our EU partners, we regularly raise our concerns over the situation of christians and other religious minorities in Pakistan. We have called for the government of Pakistan to promote tolerance, take measures to protect freedom of religion or belief and repeal or reform discriminatory blasphemy legislation.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers have also met with organisations representing minority groups in Pakistan and have raised human rights concerns with the Government of Pakistan.

Roy Bennett

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to seek the release of Roy Bennett, designated Deputy Minister of Agriculture on the National Unity Government of Zimbabwe to *(a)* the government of Zimbabwe, *(b)* other states in the region and *(c)* international organisations; and if he will make a statement. [258839]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary in his statement of 11 February 2009 called for the immediate release of all political detainees. Our officials made clear to the Zimbabwean embassy in London our concerns about detainees on 16 February 2009 including Roy Bennett.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) brokered the power-sharing agreement, and has responsibility for supporting its implementation. We will continue to work closely with SADC, EU partners and the international community to capitalise on this opportunity to promote reform and human rights in Zimbabwe.

The statement made by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 11 February 2009 is available for viewing at the following internet address:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=PressS&id=13462857

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had recent discussions with representatives of the Sri Lankan government on *(a)* the prevention of civilian casualties and *(b)* protection for displaced people in Sri Lanka. [258466]

Bill Rammell: When my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary telephoned President Rajapakse on 30 January 2009, they discussed the humanitarian situation. He made clear our concerns over the civilians caught up in the fighting in northern Sri Lanka.

In a statement on 2 February 2009, which is available for viewing on the internet at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=PressS&id=13166258,

he urged both the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers Tamil of Eelam to respond appropriately to the deteriorating humanitarian situation, in particular by allowing the wounded to receive medical treatment; civilians to leave the conflict area; and unrestricted access for humanitarian agencies.

We continue to raise these issues with the Sri Lankan Government at the highest level.

Sri Lanka: Religious Freedom

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Sri Lankan government on the provisions of the Prohibition of Forcible Conversions Bill restricting religious conversions. [254830]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* We have expressed our concern over religious freedoms to the Sri Lankan Minister of Human Rights and Disaster Management through our high commission in Colombo.

We will continue to raise our concerns over the Prohibition of Forcible Conversions Bill and any other legislation that reduces freedoms protected by international human rights law with the Sri Lankan Government.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had recent discussions with representatives of the Sri Lankan government on freedom of religious expression in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [258467]

Bill Rammell: Our high commission in Colombo recently expressed our concerns over religious freedoms to the Sri Lankan Minister of Human Rights and Disaster Management.

In addition, in a statement on 23 February 2009, the EU expressed its concern about a draft Bill relating to religious freedoms, which is currently awaiting further discussion in the Sri Lankan Parliament. We will continue to raise our concerns with the Sri Lankan Government about any legislation that reduces freedoms protected by international human rights law.

Terrorism: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the Prime Minister's Statement of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-72, on national security, what the breakdown is of the £400 million to be spent to tackle radicalisation and promote understanding overseas in each of the next three years by each Government department involved; and if he will make a statement. [258918]

Bill Rammell: The actual figure invested through Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), British Council and the Department for International Development (DFID) to tackle radicalisation and promote understanding overseas during the period 2008-11 is approximately £386 million.

Working with partner Departments, the FCO leads on co-ordinating HMG PREVENT activity overseas, including prioritisation of funding against agreed objectives. The individual Departments' contributions over the three year period are approximately:

FCO - £80 million

DFID - £300 million (exact sum will be determined by assessment of the underlying drivers of poverty, exclusion and radicalisation in relevant countries)

British Council - £6 million

Tibet: Politics and Government

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has held with his Chinese counterpart on the status of Tibet in the last 12 months. [259926]

Bill Rammell: Over the last 12 months, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has discussed the status of Tibet with Foreign Minister Yang on a number of occasions. The issue was discussed during the Foreign Secretary's visit to Beijing in February 2008 and again while they were in New York for the UN General Assembly in September 2008.

The status of Tibet was also discussed when the Foreign Secretary was in China for the Asia-Europe meeting in October 2008, and most recently when the Foreign Secretary met Foreign Minister Yang in London on 1 February 2009 at the UK-China summit. During these meetings, the Foreign Secretary emphasised that the current political difficulties in Tibet can best be resolved through dialogue between the Chinese Government and the representatives of the Dalai Lama.

Turkey: Kurds

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his *(a)* Turkish and *(b)* Iraqi counterpart on the situation of Kurdish people in (i) Turkey and (ii) Iraq in the last 12 months. [259997]

Bill Rammell: Iraq's and in particular the Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) relationship with Turkey has greatly improved over recent months and continues to progress positively. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has raised with Turkish Foreign Minister Mr. Babacan the issues faced by the Kurdish population in Turkey's south-east in the context of its fight against terrorism. We have strongly encouraged an improvement in dialogue between Turkey and the KRG authorities to reach a co-ordinated approach to address the complex socio-economic issues of Turkey's south-east region. The Turkish Government has announced a comprehensive package to address these.

During his recent visit to Iraq and on previous meetings with the Iraqi leadership, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also discussed the continuing efforts of reconciliation among the various communities within Iraq, including the Kurdish population. We continue to encourage both Arab and Kurdish leadership in Iraq to overcome their differences and compromise on issues of national importance.

United States: Visits Abroad

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times he has visited *(a)* the United States, *(b)* Paris and *(c)* India on official business in the last 12 months. [259536]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has visited the US five times, Paris four times and India once on official business in the last 12 months.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to respond to Question 253469, tabled by the hon. Member for Hendon on 27 January 2009 for named day answer on 2 February 2009, on casualties from fighting in Sri Lanka. [258909]

Gillian Merron: Question 253497 was answered on 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 954W.

Zimbabwe: Asylum

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken to ensure the payment of pensions to former Zimbabwean public servants now residing in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [258266]

Gillian Merron: We are concerned about the non-payment of pensions by the Zimbabwean authorities, who have long been failing on their legal commitment to pay the pensions of former employees of the Southern Rhodesian Government and other Zimbabwean pensioners.

We are aware of the severe difficulties this causes to former Zimbabwean public servants now residing in the UK and will continue to remind the Zimbabwean authorities of their legal commitment.

TREASURY

Banks

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* subsidiaries and *(b)* branches each bank regulated by the Financial Services Authority has in (i) Jersey, (ii) Isle of Man, (iii) Guernsey, (iv) the Cayman Islands, (v) the Bahamas and (vi) Bermuda. [259375]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury does not collect or hold this information.

Banks: Finance

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his counterparts in the Dutch government on a contribution from them towards the financial assistance provided by the UK Government to *(a)* ABN Amro and *(b)* other Dutch banks via their parent companies in the UK. [259131]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations and international partners. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he plans to have with his counterparts in other governments on contributions from them towards the financial assistance provided to banks from their countries by the UK Government. [259132]

Ian Pearson: The current financial crises are global problems and require international, as well as domestic, solutions. The UK Authorities have been heavily involved in work at both EU and international level to enhance the stability and resilience of the global financial system.

The Government will continue to work in close co-operation with international partners.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what proportion of the capital provided from UK Government funds via UK Financial Investments Ltd to Royal Bank of Scotland has been used to provide additional capital to ABN Amro; [259133]

(2) what proportion of the capital provided from UK Government funds via UK Financial Investments Ltd to Lloyds HBOS has been used to provide capital to its overseas subsidiaries; [259134]

(3) what proportion of the capital provided from UK Government funds via UK Financial Investments Ltd to Royal Bank of Scotland has been used to provide capital to its overseas subsidiaries. [259124]

Ian Pearson: Under the recapitalisation scheme announced on 8 October 2008, the Government have invested £19.97 billion in Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc (RBS) and £16.96 billion in Lloyds TSB Group plc (Lloyds) and Halifax Bank of Scotland plc (HBOS). The recapitalisation agreements are between the Treasury and RBS, Lloyds and HBOS respectively.

It is a matter for each group to deploy capital where needed to support their businesses.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much public money is invested in fossil fuel exploration, transportation and generation through UK Financial Investments' shareholdings in *(a)* Royal Bank of Scotland, *(b)* Lloyds TSB/Halifax Bank of Scotland, *(c)* Northern Rock and *(d)* Bradford and Bingley. [260453]

Ian Pearson: It is a matter for each of these companies' management to release specific business updates or provide any required disclosures in their audited annual report and accounts.

The Government's investments are managed on a commercial basis by UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI), a company which is wholly owned by the Government. Its overarching objectives are to protect and create value for the taxpayer as a shareholder, with due regard to financial stability and acting in a way that promotes competition.

Child Care Vouchers: Self-employed

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to encourage the use of child care vouchers by people who are self-employed. [260055]

Mr. Timms: Child care vouchers are not available to self-employed persons. Employer supported child care is reliant upon arrangements made between an employer and employee. Self employed persons can receive assistance with child care costs via the child care element of working tax credits, subject to the level of household income.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much his Department has spent on *(a)* creating and *(b)* managing its YouTube channel since June 2007; [260443]

(2) how many civil servants in his Department at each pay band *(a)* were employed in establishing its YouTube channel and *(b)* are employed on managing the channel. [260444]

Angela Eagle: The YouTube channel was launched at Budget 2008 and was established and continues to be managed by the Treasury's existing e-communications team. The team consists of four officials.

The channel was set up using the free tools provided by YouTube so there were no costs associated with creating the channel.

The e-communications team is responsible for developing and maintaining the Treasury's public web presence, intranet and extranet.

Income Tax: Tax Allowances

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of raising income tax personal allowances to provide for those earning no more than the national minimum wage to be exempt from income tax; [259675]

(2) by how much the personal allowance would need to be raised to take those working for 35 hours a week on the national minimum wage out of income tax liability; and what the cost of doing so would be in 2009-10. [260308]

Mr. Timms: The current hourly rate of national minimum wage can be found on the HM Revenue and customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/nmw/

The annual amount received by someone on the national minimum wage will depend on the weekly hours worked, and estimates of the cost of raising the income tax personal allowance to different levels can be approximated from table 1.6 'Direct effects of illustrative tax changes' on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table 1-6.pdf

The figures exclude any estimate of behavioural response.

Mr. Byers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what increase in the personal income tax allowance would be achieved at a cost of £8.6 billion in 2009-10; and how many people would be removed from any income tax liability as a result of such an increase. [260310]

Mr. Timms: Raising the personal allowance by £1,520 to £7,995 for 2009-10 would cost around £8.6 billion and take approximately 1.7 million people out of income tax. This estimate is based on the 2005-06 Survey of Personal Incomes projected forward using pre-Budget 2008 assumptions. It refers only to income tax, not National Insurance contributions, and excludes any estimate of behavioural response.

Members: Correspondence

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead of 12 December 2008 on economic regulation and small businesses. [259686]

Angela Eagle: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Money Laundering

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in respect of what provisions of the Money Laundering Regulations 2007 the management and administration of is outsourced; what controls there are on companies to ensure the protection of data collected under the Regulations; and if he will make a statement. [259290]

Ian Pearson: Certain businesses ("relevant persons") are regulated under the Money Laundering Regulations 2007. Those Regulations transposed the Third Money Laundering Directive into UK law. Relevant persons may, in discharging the legal requirements, source a range of services from third parties.

Firms can, and typically do, subcontract a range of functions, buying in either expertise or access to information from specialist sources. Large retail firms also use information from consumer credit bureaux to help automate their customer identification and verification checks.

Relevant persons may rely on certain other regulated persons to carry out customer due diligence. In all of these cases relevant persons remain legally liable for the discharge of the responsibilities placed on them under the Money Laundering Regulations 2007.

Personal data obtained by relevant persons as a result of checks made under the Regulations are subject to the Data Protection Act, which places a number of requirements on those persons to safeguard those data. This means, for example, that businesses have to keep personal information secure, and ensure it is fairly and lawfully processed.

Regulators (including professional bodies) will also apply a variety of other safeguards to relevant persons who they supervise for money laundering and other purposes in order to monitor compliance with these requirements and relevant guidance.

Mortgages

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of *(a)* the contribution of UK non-bank lenders to the mortgage market and *(b)* the effect on levels of mortgage lending of the levels of activity of UK non-bank and specialist lenders in the last 12 months; [259418]

(2) what response he has made to the recommendation in the Crosby Report on mortgage finance markets for the introduction of a new guarantee scheme for residential mortgage-backed securities available to banks, building societies and specialist lenders; [259419]

(3) how many meetings he has had with representatives of *(a)* banks, *(b)* building societies and *(c)* non-bank lenders to discuss measures to stimulate mortgage lending in the last three months; [259420]

(4) what assessment he has made of the effects of the Government's lending support initiatives on (a) competition among banks, building societies and non-banks in the mortgage market and (b) the availability of mortgage finance to consumers in the last 12 months; [259421]

(5) what steps his Department is taking to encourage a competitive and diverse market for mortgage finance; [259422]

(6) pursuant to the statement of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 483-86, on financial markets, what recent steps his Department has taken to support lending by the non-bank sector; [259519]

(7) pursuant to the statement of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 483-86, on financial markets, which of the lending support facilities announced will be open to non-bank lenders. [259522]

Ian Pearson: The Bank of England publishes statistics relating to lending, which are available at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/index.htm

These statistics include data on the amount of lending by UK banks, building societies and other lenders.

On 19 January, the Government announced measures designed to reinforce the stability of the financial system, to increase confidence and capacity to lend, and in turn to support the recovery of the economy. These build on measures announced on 8 October last year.

This included a guarantee scheme for asset-backed securities to help improve lenders' access to wholesale funding markets. The scheme will commence in April 2009 subject to state aid approval. Further details will be announced by the Debt Management Office in due course.

These measures have raised confidence in the banking sector and helped to stabilise financial markets. This is an essential condition for lenders to develop greater confidence to lend in the future to creditworthy businesses, home owners and consumers.

The 2008 pre-Budget report announced that alongside its normal annual plan, the OFT will set out a specific financial services plan.

Ministers and officials meet with a wide range of representatives from the financial services sector including banks, building societies and non-bank lenders.

Mortgages: Complaints

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints relating to (a) mortgages and (b) mortgage endowments the Financial Ombudsman Service received in each year since 2001; and what percentage of such complaints the Ombudsman investigated. [259676]

Ian Pearson: The Financial Ombudsman Scheme publishes an annual review, which has information on how many complaints relating to (a) mortgages and (b) mortgages endowments the Financial Services Ombudsman received in each year since 2001.

It can be found at:

http://www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk/publications/annual-reviews.htm

Non-domestic Rates: South West

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in each parliamentary constituency in the South West did not pay the full rateable liability for national non-domestic rates in 2008-09. [259597]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not collected by the Department.

Pensioners: Income

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to increase the household incomes of pensioners. [259325]

Ian Pearson: The Government are committed to continuing to support pensioner incomes. To provide help to pensioners on the lowest incomes, the 2008 pre-Budget report announced an above indexation increase to the standard minimum income guarantee in pension credit in April 2009. This means no single pensioner need live on less than £130.00 a week in 2009-10 and no pensioner couple on less than £198.45.

A full basic state pension will increase by £4.55 to £95.25 a week in April 2009. To provide additional support sooner, an additional one-off payment of £60 for each pensioner is being made, equivalent to bringing forward the uprating of the basic state pension from April to January. To support those pensioners who pay income tax, the age-related tax allowances will rise in April 2009 to £9,490 for people aged 65 to 74 and to £9,640 for people aged over 75.

This support is in addition to other measures taken by the Government to assist pensioners, including the introduction of winter fuel payments, free eye tests and local off-peak bus travel, and free TV licences for households with someone aged over 75. The Chancellor keeps all tax and benefit rates under review as part of the Budget process.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to protect pensioners from the effects of recent reductions in interest rates on savings income. [259592]

Ian Pearson: The Government are committed to supporting pensioners through the global economic slowdown, providing support for all, but more for those who need it most. A range of measures was announced at PBR 2008 to support pensioners including an extra £60 payment, an increase in the pension credit by more than indexation, and further winter fuel payments of £200 for those aged 60+ (£300 for 80+). This is on top of the additional support announced in last year's Budget.

Private Finance Initiative

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value was of each (a) private finance initiative and (b) public private partnership which was approved in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008 and (v) 2009 to date, broken down by location of project. [260280]

Angela Eagle: The full list of all signed PFI projects can be found on HM Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

For each PFI project, this list details the project name, the capital value, the annual cost, the constituency and the procuring authority.

Royal Bank of Scotland

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assumptions he made about *(a)* the state of the economy over the next five years and *(b)* the likely level of default on Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) assets when setting the fee for RBS's participation in the asset protection scheme. [260304]

Ian Pearson: The consideration for the asset protection scheme takes into account a number of factors including the nature and risk of the assets protected, the interests of taxpayers, and the objective of ensuring financial stability.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Royal Bank of Scotland plans to use losses which it made in its last accounting year to reclaim corporation tax which it has already paid. [260311]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether tax losses Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) incurred in 2008 will be available for offset against tax paid by RBS in previous years in the context of the asset protection scheme. [260305]

Ian Pearson: RBS have agreed not to claim certain UK tax losses and allowances for a number of years, meaning that when they do return to profitability, they will not be able to benefit from the losses accrued in the intervening period.

Stocks and Shares: Taxation

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward legislative proposals to provide for a tax of one per cent. on all derivative products written by banks regulated by the Financial Services Authority. [259674]

Ian Pearson: All taxes are kept under review and the Chancellor announces any changes as part of the Budget process.

From a regulatory standpoint, the Government agree that it is important to take steps to make the derivatives infrastructure more robust and support efforts by the European Union and other international bodies to increase transparency and liquidity in the derivatives market.

Tax Avoidance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax avoidance schemes are marketed by banks regulated by the Financial Services Authority. [259619]

Ian Pearson: Under the Disclosure of Tax Avoidance Schemes Regime, promoters are required to provide information to HMRC about avoidance schemes falling within certain statutory descriptions. This must be done within five days of the schemes being made available or implemented.

Disclosure Statistics are published six-monthly on the HMRC website. The statistics can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/avoidance/avoidance-disclosure-statistics.htm

Valuation Office: Standards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 829W, on the Valuation Office: standards, if he will place in the Library a copy of the updated version of the customer services manual. [258273]

Mr. Timms: The further updated version of the agency's customer service manual is available on the agency's website at:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/instructions/chapters/Customer-Service-Manual/Frame.htm

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Arms Trade: Exports

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average length of time of each stage of the export licensing process was for licences in respect of exports to each country in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [258697]

Ian Pearson: The Government publish information on the average (median) number of days taken to process all Standard Individual Export Licences applications, by destination. The Government do not break this down into times taken for individual stages of the process.

The information can be viewed on the BERR website at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/europeandtrade/strategic-export-control/statistics/process-times/index.html

The latest date for which information is available is 30 June 2008. Officials will shortly be publishing the information for the quarter ending 30 September 2008.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Binley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made against the Government's target announced in the 2006 Budget to reduce the 3,000 business support schemes to 100 by 2010; and how many of those 3,000 schemes have been *(a)* ended and *(b)* merged with other schemes. [254002]

Ian Pearson: My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform announced on 23 October 2008 that a streamlined portfolio of 30 national support products within the 'Solutions for Business' portfolio would be in place by March 2009. This portfolio draws on the best of existing and new

schemes and represents a substantial reduction from the estimated 3,000 publicly-funded business support schemes that were previously available.

By March 2010 all Government business support products will either have closed, or been given notice to close or migrated to the portfolio. As products wind down businesses will be steered to Solutions for Business products according to need.

Credit

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assistance is provided by his Department to help individuals obtain *(a)* loans and *(b)* credit; what plans he has to assist individuals in obtaining finance over the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259066]

Mr. Thomas: The Government recognise the difficulties that many individuals as well as businesses are having in obtaining credit at the moment. The Government are particularly concerned about access to credit for low income families.

The Government have implemented a number of measures to support low income families during these difficult times. We are investing £80 million in the Growth Fund to support the expansion of affordable credit alternatives through credit unions. The Growth Fund is tackling financial exclusion in England, Scotland and Wales and has already supported more than 130,000 loans to financially excluded people, worth over £56 million.

We have also acted decisively and without delay taking action to stamp out unfair treatment of borrowers to ensure access to credit for all is maintained throughout the downturn. Following the credit card summit in November 2008 we secured agreement from credit card lenders to develop fair principles for any interest rate increase they introduce on reviewing an individual's risk profile. These came into force in January 2009 and provide extra protections when a customer or group of customers' interest rate is changed as a result of a perceived change in their ability to repay their debts.

Where a lender increases their rates customers will be given the option to close down their account and repay their remaining balance at the existing rate of interest. Lenders also agreed not to increase rates for customers who have failed to make two or more consecutive minimum payments, where an agreed repayment plan is in place for the account, or where lenders have been notified by a not-for-profit debt advice agency that the customer is in serious discussion with it.

Credit card lenders will also give a breathing space of up to 60 days to borrowers in difficulty. During this time lenders will not commence debt collection proceedings, giving borrowers time to agree a repayment plan with the help of a not-for-profit debt advice agency.

I have established the Consumer Finance Forum to allow the Government a platform to continue to monitor the credit market closely throughout the downturn. The forum will regularly bring together representatives from the financial services industry, consumer groups and Government to address issues facing borrowers during the downturn.

Credit: Insurance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the level of claims on credit insurance has been in each of the last five years. [260018]

Mr. Thomas: This Department does not currently collate or distribute this information.

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [256217]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 668W.

Departmental Gifts

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many members of staff in his Department and its predecessor have received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties in each of the last three years; what these gifts were; and from whom they were received. [242023]

Mr. McFadden: The rules and guidance on receipt of gifts by civil servants are set out in the Civil Service Management Code, and in BERR's Staff Handbook. The following table shows gifts staff have received valued at £100 or higher over the last three years.

	Gifts	*Estimated value (£)*	*From*
2007	Nintendo Lite with two games	200	Science Museum—one part of the public sector accepting a gift from another part
2008	Nano Ipod combined with marketing items	120	Virgin Media

Gifts valued at more than £50 are surrendered to the Department unless the individual pays for the value of the gift. None of the above items were kept by the individual recipients but retained by the Department.

Drugs: Industry

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of the recession on the pharmaceutical industry; and if he will make a statement. [260019]

Ian Pearson: This Department is monitoring closely the impact of the recession on all business sectors. The immediate effects of the downturn on large pharmaceutical companies has not been as pronounced as those in many other manufacturing sectors. However ongoing restructuring and cost-cutting programmes which have been established over the last few years by large

multinational pharmaceutical companies are leading to an overall loss of pharmaceutical jobs in the UK and globally.

On 27 January 2009, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister chaired a meeting of Government and biopharmaceutical business leaders. The overarching aim of the meeting was to identify a long-term framework to help the UK maintain its world class bio-pharmaceutical industry. Government and industry agreed to work together to develop a strategy for the biosciences industry. Action to drive this work forward is being taken forward through the Office for Life Sciences.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations his Department has received on the effect of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive on business costs; what his latest estimate is of those costs; how many businesses met the deadline for compliance with the Directive's provisions in the UK; how many fines have been imposed for failure to comply; and if he will make a statement. [258698]

Ian Pearson: The Department has regular discussions with a range of stakeholders on the impact of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE) in the UK. These discussions have included the costs incurred by business. A full Regulatory Impact Assessment was published alongside the UK WEEE Regulations 2006.

Under the UK WEEE Regulations all producers of Electrical and Electronic Equipment have an obligation to register with a Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS) to discharge their obligation. 4,348 producers were registered with PCSs for the 2007 compliance period. This has risen to 5,190 for the 2008 compliance period. All PCSs met their obligations on behalf of their producer members for the 2007 compliance period. No fines have been imposed for failure to comply.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment has been made of levels of compliance with the provisions of the EU Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [259288]

Ian Pearson: The responsibility for enforcement and on-going monitoring of compliance under the UK Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations lies with the Environment Agency (England and Wales), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), and the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland. All producer compliance schemes discharged their members obligations for the 2007 compliance period.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will estimate the cost of introducing a de minimis rule in relation to business compliance with the requirements of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [259654]

Ian Pearson: There is currently no scope to offer a de minimis in relation to business compliance within the requirements of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE).

Environment Protection

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the comparative strengths of different subsectors of the UK's environmental industries. [256466]

Ian Pearson: This Department published on 23 June 2008 a study commissioned from Ernst and Young on 'Comparative Advantage and Green Business'.

The main conclusions were that a green economy will be one in which lower carbon and resource efficiency will permeate all products and services throughout the entire economy, and that more focus should be given to the sectors where the UK currently has comparative advantage.

Ernst and Young identified the following specific key sub-sectors where the UK currently exhibits comparative advantage and could develop green business opportunities: software, electronic equipment, business services, financial services and machinery equipment.

The full report can be accessed at http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file46793.pdf.

Gulf Co-operation Council

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's policy is on negotiations on a free trade agreement between the EU and the Gulf Co-operation Council; and if he will make a statement. [258954]

Mr. Thomas: The UK would support the completion of negotiations for a free trade agreement between the EU and the Gulf Co-operation Council, which have been ongoing since 1989. Progress was made in the technical negotiations at the end of last year, and the UK supports continuation of this effort. However, there remain outstanding issues, which we would need to see resolved before negotiations are completed, in particular with regard to the key political clauses, and with regard to the imposition of export duties in Gulf States.

Supermarkets: Complaints

Tim Farron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of a supermarket ombudsman in each of the next six years. [257434]

Mr. Thomas: The Department has made no such assessment. The Competition Commission (CC) is continuing to pursue implementation of all aspects of the Groceries Supply Code of Practice. Should no voluntary agreement be possible and the matter be referred to Government, we would need to consider the costs and benefits of a range of options before deciding on a way forward.

However, in its report the CC produced some initial annual costs associated with this remedy which were in the region of £3.9 million to £5.4 million comprising £3 million retailer costs and £0.9 million to £2.4 million

costs for the Office of Fair Trading (OFT). There may be additional costs incurred by the Ombudsman driven largely by the number of disputes.

Television: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what restrictions there are on the export of television sets forming part of a local authority's household waste under the provisions of the EU Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [259287]

Ian Pearson: Article 6 of the waste electrical and electronic equipment directive (WEEE) requires that the shipment of any WEEE, including waste television sets, between member states or out of the Community for treatment should be in compliance with the EC Waste Shipments Regulation (EC/2006/1013). The controls that apply depend on the classification of the waste and the destination country. In practice, waste televisions may be sent for recovery only to other countries which are members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ("OECD countries").

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Allowances

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many staff are engaged in processing hon. Members' Additional Cost Allowance claims. [260006]

Nick Harvey: Staff in the Department of Resources typically have responsibilities for functions which deal with more than one parliamentary allowance. Over 6,000 claims for Additional Costs Allowance are processed each year and it is estimated that this requires the equivalent of some four full-time staff.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality: Prosecutions

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality which public bodies have been prosecuted for failing in their statutory equality duties in each of the last four years; and if she will make a statement. [257452]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is the Government agency responsible for promoting and enforcing the statutory equality duties. It is not within the Commission's remit to prosecute public bodies, however they have a range of legal powers set out in the Equality Act 2006, which they can and do use to enforce the public sector duties.

The EHRC can issue a compliance notice where they are satisfied a public authority has failed to meet its specific duties. If a public authority fails to comply with a requirement of the notice either to comply with the duty or provide further information, the EHRC may apply for a court order requiring compliance.

The court may grant the order in the terms that the EHRC applied for or in more limited terms. If the court makes an order and the authority does not abide by it, the authority may be held in contempt of court.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan and Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officers of each rank have served in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each year since 2003. [258432]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Data on the numbers of officers who have served in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each year during the period 2003-07, broken down by rank are not held centrally in individual level databases and as such could only be provided a disproportionate cost.

Due to ongoing validation of data from the joint personnel administration (JPA) system, data on the numbers of officers who have served in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in 2008, broken down by rank are not available and as such could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British armed forces personnel are stationed in Kabul and the surrounding area. [259922]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Some 500 UK Service Personnel are currently stationed in and around Kabul, although the precise number fluctuates on a daily basis. This is for a variety of reasons, including mid-tour rest and recuperation, temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons and the roulement of forces.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of NATO's deployment in Afghanistan was in 2007-08. [259955]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The underlying principle is that costs incurred by nations deploying their forces on NATO-led operations are borne individually by Allies. The net additional cost to the UK of operations in Afghanistan in 2007-08 (i.e. expenditure above that which would have been incurred anyway, such as salaries) was £1,504 million. Other nations' contributions to multinational operations are a matter for them.

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of RAF passenger carrying flights from Brize Norton to Afghanistan have left more than three hours after the scheduled time of departure since 1 January 2009; and if he will make a statement. [260365]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: 10 passenger flights from Brize Norton to Afghanistan were delayed for more than three hours between 2 January 2009 and 26 February 2009. This figure represents 21 per cent. of the total numbers of flights.

Severe winter weather conditions were a factor in many of the delays. Additionally, minor technical faults, which were quickly corrected, lead to some flights losing their departure or arrival slot, which had a disproportionate effect on departure times.

Aircraft Carriers

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the cost to his Department of the two aircraft carriers under construction; and what change this represents from estimates made in 2006. [259920]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Defence, gave on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 76W to the hon. Members for Aldershot (Mr. Howarth) and Dunfermline and West Fife (Willie Rennie).

Armed Forces: Casualties

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria the armed forces use to determine whether to report and make public instances of individual service personnel who have been *(a)* wounded, *(b)* seriously wounded and *(c)* killed. [259665]

Mr. Hutton: It is MOD policy to publish casualty statistics. These statistics, which cover all those admitted to field hospitals with serious injuries and diseases, are updated on a fortnightly basis. They do not include minor treatments. They are available openly on the MOD website.

The MOD releases the names of deceased personnel after their Next of Kin have been informed. The names of those who have been wounded, whether seriously or otherwise, are not publicized, unless specifically requested by the individual concerned, in order to preserve the privacy of the patient and their family during convalescence.

Armed Forces: Compensation

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 328W, of the 38 personnel who were very seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2006 and 2007 and whose claim for compensation had been registered by 13 November 2008, what the *(a)* 10th, *(b)* 25th, *(c)* 50th, *(d)* 75th and *(e)* 90th percentiles were for the amount awarded in respect of the claims that were settled by 13 January 2009; and how many of the claims had been determined by 13 January 2009. [249580]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Unfortunately Defence Analytical Services and Advice are currently unable to provide information on compensation amounts paid out to personnel that were very seriously injured in Afghanistan during 2006 and 2007. However, I will write to the hon. Member when the information is available.

Of the 38 personnel who were very seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2006 and 2007, and whose claim for compensation had been registered by 13 November 2008, all have had their claims determined as at 13 January 2009.

Letter from Kevan Jones, dated 3 March 2009:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 3 February, (Official Report, column 111W) about the 42 personnel who were seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2006 and 2007 and whose claim for compensation had been registered by 13 November 2008. You requested information on the 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th and 90th percentiles for the amounts awarded in respect of the claims that were settled by 13 January 2009; and how many of the claims had been determined by 13 January 2009.

Of the 42 personnel who were seriously injured in Afghanistan during 2006 and 2007, and whose claim for compensation had been registered by 13 November 2008, 40 have had their claims determined as at 13 January 2009.

Table 1 presents the 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th and 90th percentiles for total lump sum payments awarded to the 40 personnel with a determined claim.

Table 1: Lump sum amounts awarded to seriously injured personnel, percentiles[1]

	£
10th percentile	8,000
25th percentile	13,000
50th percentile	20,000
75th percentile	67,000
90th percentile	102,000

[1] Figures are rounded to nearest £1,000

In addition to a lump sum award, two personnel that had left Service were also in receipt of an ongoing tax-free, index-linked Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP) as at 13 January 2009. Rounded to the nearest one thousand, the total GIP paid to these personnel over the next forty years will average £503,000.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 327-8W, of the 42 personnel who were seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2006 and 2007 and whose claim for compensation had been registered by 13 November 2008, what the *(a)* 10th, *(b)* 25th, *(c)* 50th, *(d)* 75th and *(e)* 90th percentiles were for the amount awarded in respect of the claims that were settled by 13 January 2009; and how many of the claims had been determined by 13 January 2009. [249581]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Unfortunately Defence Analytical Services and Advice are currently unable to provide information on compensation amounts paid out to personnel that were seriously injured in Afghanistan during 2006 and 2007. However, we will write to the hon. Member when the information is available.

Of the 42 personnel who were seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2006 and 2007, and whose claim for compensation had been registered by 13 November 2008, 40 have had their claims determined as at 13 January 2009.

Letter from Kevan Jones, dated 3 March 2009:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 3 February, (Official Report, column 110W) about the 38 personnel who were very seriously injured in Afghanistan in 2006 and 2007 and whose claim for compensation had been registered by 13 November 2008. You requested information on the 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th and 90th percentiles for the amounts awarded in respect of the claims that were settled by 13 January 2009; and how many of the claims had been determined by 13 January 2009.

Of the 38 personnel who were very seriously injured in Afghanistan during 2006 and 2007, and whose claim for compensation had been registered by 13 November 2008, all have had their claims determined as at 13 January 2009.

Table 1 presents the 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th and 90th percentiles for total lump sum payments awarded.

Table 1: Lump sum amounts awarded to very seriously injured personnel, percentiles[1]

	£
10th percentile	13,000
25th percentile	34,000
50th percentile	118,000
75th percentile	245,000
90th percentile	396,000

[1] Figures are rounded to nearest £1,000

In addition to a lump sum award, four personnel that had left Service were also in receipt of an ongoing tax-free, index-linked Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP) as at 13 January 2009. Rounded to the nearest one thousand, the total GIP paid to these personnel over the next forty years will average £623,000.

Armed Forces: Hearing Impaired

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many one-off payments were made to people discharged from the armed forces since 1980 due to defective hearing; and what the average amount of such payments was. [259865]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 2 March 2009]:* Information is not held in the format that identifies how many one-off payments were made under the War Pensions Scheme (WPS) to people discharged from the armed forces between 1980 and 1994 due to defective hearing; and what the average amount of such payments was. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Defence Analytical Services and Advice hold data for personnel medically discharged between 1 January 1995 and 31 December 2007. However, it is not possible to relate medical discharges to awards made under the WPS.

Personnel medically discharged due to defective hearing caused by service on or after 6 April 2005 are considered under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS). Successful applicants who have hearing loss in both ears of 50 decibels or more will be awarded a lump sum tariff payment.

Rounded to the nearest five, five of the 75 personnel medically discharged with hearing loss between 6 April 2005 and 31 December 2007 were awarded a lump sum tariff payment for hearing-related conditions under the AFCS. The amount of that payment depends on the nature and extent of the hearing loss—for example hearing loss in both ears of between 50 and 75 dB attracts a tariff award at level 13, current value £5,775.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people have been discharged from the armed forces owing to defective hearing in each year since 1980; and what percentage of those people had hearing loss of *(a)* over 20 per cent. and *(b)* between 15 and 19 per cent. at time of discharge. [259866]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 2 March 2009]:* Information for those discharged from service due to defective hearing between 1980 and 1994 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The number of service personnel medically discharged each year between 1995 and 2007 with the principal reason for discharge due to hearing loss is contained in the following table. All numbers presented have been rounded to the nearest five to avoid disclosure of individual identities.

Table 1: Naval service, Army and RAF medical discharges due to hearing loss[1]*, 1995 to 2007*

	Service		
	Naval service	*Army*	*RAF*
1995	[2]	5	[2]
1996	[2]	10	[2]
1997	[2]	15	[2]
1998	[2]	10	5
1999	5	5	5
2000	5	[2]	[2]
2001	[2]	5	[2]
2002	[2]	10	5
2003	[2]	10	5
2004	[2]	10	[2]
2005	[2]	10	[2]
2006	[2]	30	[2]
2007	[2]	20	[2]
All	40	145	45

[1] Numbers may not add up to the sum of their parts due to rounding.
[2] Indicates less than five personnel have been discharged in this subgroup.
Note:
Includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines

Information on the percentage of hearing for these personnel is not held electronically and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces pensions have been awarded to people who were discharged from the armed forces with defective hearing since 1980. [259867]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 2 March 2009]:* The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what compensation is payable to a member of the armed forces discharged with hearing loss of under 20 per cent. if the hearing loss increases subsequently. [259868]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 2 March 2009]:* Under War Pension Scheme and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme legislation there is no compensation payable to personnel with noise induced hearing loss of less than 20 per cent. The body of medical opinion confirms that hearing loss caused by excessive noise does not increase once exposure to the source of the noise ceases. Any subsequent hearing loss cannot therefore be due to service.

Armed Forces: Languages

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British military personnel have received training in the *(a)* Farsi or Dari, *(b)* Arabic, *(c)* Urdu and *(d)* Pashto languages in each year since 2007. [258874]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held in the format requested. The numbers of exams taken in the years 2007-09, however, are as follows:

	Total
Arabic	
2006-07	329
2007-08	230
2008-09[1]	195
Dari/Farsi	
2006-07	103
2007-08	84
2008-09	91
Pashtu	
2006-07	160
2007-08	188
2008-09	209
Urdu	
2006-07	3
2007-08	6
2008-09	9

[1] Figures for 2008-09 are to date as the training year is not yet complete.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current *(a)* trained requirement, *(b)* actual strength and *(c)* numbers fit for duty is for each regiment of the (i) Royal Logistics Corps, (b) Royal Artillery, (c) Royal Signals and (d) Royal Engineers. [258878]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Mental Illness

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many and what percentage of armed forces personnel who have served in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan have been diagnosed with a mental health condition; [253720]

(2) how many service personnel who have served in *(a)* Afghanistan since 2001 and *(b)* Iraq since 2003 his Department has recorded as having a mental health condition of each type in each year since 2001. [258871]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* Since July 2007 the Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) organisation has reported on the Psychiatric Morbidity of the UK armed forces. Quarterly reports for the whole of 2007 are available to view both in the Library of the House and on the DASA website at:

www.dasa.mod.uk

Equivalent verified data prior to 2007 are not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The morbidity report shows the number of new attendances at military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMHs) during each quarter and the results of the initial mental health assessment. The figures shown in the following table are extracted from the morbidity report and show initial assessments of mental disorder broken down by operational deployment for the calendar year 2007.

Initial mental disorder assessments in 2007: ICD-10 groupings by deployment

	Deployment: theatres of operation			
	Iraq and/or Afghanistan[1]	*Iraq/Afghanistan*[2]		*Not known*[2]
ICD-10 description	*Patients seen*	*Patients seen*	*Patients seen*	*Patients seen*
All patients seen	2,562	2,176	464	271
All patients assessed with a mental disorder	1,898	1,725	375	155
Psychoactive substance use	216	198	38	13
disorders due to alcohol[3]	150	140	27	8
Mood disorders	395	365	57	34
Depressive episode	314	288	51	33
Neurotic disorders	1,188	1,071	265	86
PTSD	145	124	48	6
Adjustment disorders	705	639	148	31
Other mental and behavioural disorders	99	91	15	22
No mental disorder	501	451	89	116
No assessment details	163	147	37	0

[1] Does not include personnel deployed to Afghanistan during the period January 2003 to October 2005.
[2] Records supplied without identifiers.
[3] Data for disorders due to use of alcohol are not available for the period January – March 2007.

DASA's statistics show that the total number of new patients assessed with a mental health disorder during their first appointment at MOD's out-patient DCMHs during 2007 is 19.9 per 1,000 strength of the armed forces, or 1.99 per cent. This figure covers all patients, including those who had not deployed operationally. Of the 190,400 regular members of the armed forces in service on 1 January 2008, 56 per cent. had previously deployed on operations to Iraq, Afghanistan or both theatres.

Armed Forces: Pay

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people in *(a)* the armed forces and *(b)* his Department receive the X-factor adjustment to military pay, broken down by rank. [258428]

Mr. Kevan Jones: X-Factor is paid in addition to base pay to reflect the relative disadvantage between the conditions of service experienced by members of the armed forces over a full career and conditions in civilian life. It is only paid to service personnel and is for the duration of their Service career regardless of where they are serving.

All Regular, mobilised reserve and full-time reserve service personnel receive full X-Factor, which is currently 14 per cent. of base pay, up to the rank of lieutenant colonel and equivalent. Beyond this point it tapers in recognition of the diminishing impact of the X-Factor components on higher ranks. The level of X-Factor for other reserve personnel is set at either 0 per cent. or 5 per cent. of base pay depending on their level of commitment.

The following table gives approximate numbers, by rank, of personnel who receive X-Factor. For simplicity, NATO ranks have been used.

Officers	
OF0	7,263
OF1	5,458
OF2	14,366
OF3	11,407
OF4	4,313
OF5	1,224
OF6	335
OF7	97
OF8	25

Other ranks	
OR2	91,526
OR3	19,383
OR4	30,976
OR6	20,480
OR7	14,357
OR8	5356
OR9	3162

Defence: Procurement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost of the Support Vehicle programme was on 31 March *(a)* 2002, *(b)* 2003, *(c)* 2004, *(d)* 2005, *(e)* 2006, *(f)* 2007 and *(g)* 2008, broken down by (i) direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), (ii) indirect resource DEL and (iii) capital DEL. [257776]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is shown in the following table. The figures include the cost of the assessment, demonstration and manufacture phases. There are no records of support vehicle project costs prior to 2003.

£ million

	As at 31 March each year						
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Direct Resource DEL	n/a	4	9	12	6	5	4
Indirect Resource DEL	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital DEL	n/a	1392	1378	1350	1332	1258	1268
Total	n/a	1396	1387	1362	1338	1263	1272

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2009 to the hon. Member for Chesterfield, (Paul Holmes) *Official Report*, column 872, on departmental data protection, in what format his Department records information on staff dismissal for loss of departmental property. [259599]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Central records have been held since 2002 of all civilian staff dismissals and the disciplinary cases which lead up to them. Cases are recorded electronically under general classification headings, but those are not sufficiently detailed to enable identification of cases specifically related to loss of property. More detail about each case is recorded as free text of varying length which can be individually examined and which would include more detail about the precise nature of the offence.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons his Department's departmental expenditure limit for 2008-09 was increased in the Winter Supplementary Estimates. [260122]

Mr. Hutton: The principal reason for the increased MOD departmental expenditure limit (DEL) was the net increase in the RfR2 of £2.302 billion direct resource DEL, £1.063 billion capital DEL, and indirect resource DEL of £0.350 billion to reflect the forecast costs of peacekeeping operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans.

Details of the 2008-09 Winter Supplementary Estimate increased DEL request are set out in my written ministerial statement on 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 59-60WS. Further explanation can be found in the Winter Supplementary Estimates Memorandum, published in the House of Commons Defence Select Committee Report in the 2008-09 Winter Supplementary Estimate Evidence Section (HC52).

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which external organisations his Department has engaged to provide training for fast stream civil service staff in the last three years; and how many civil servants in his Department have participated in provision of training for external organisations in that period. [252226]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Over the past three years, the MOD Fast Stream has sourced training from the following external providers: Eclipse Management, Common Purpose, University of Central London, Westminster Explained, Alistair Grant and Co., BPP Professional Education Ltd., University of London (School of Oriental and African Studies), University of London (Birkbeck), Institut Francais, Cactus language, Alliance Francais, Goethe Institute, King's College London.

In the last three years, 83 civil servants were involved in the 87 training courses that the Defence Academy ran for external organisations.

Detainees

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his statement of 26 February 2009, whether officials in his Department had been informed in 2004 of the transfer of detainees to which he referred. [260501]

Mr. Hutton: There is evidence that a piece of related correspondence from another Government Department was copied to an MOD official on 7 October 2004, some months after the transfer had taken place, although detailed searches have not found this document within MOD records and the individual in question has no recollection of it. I am satisfied that those officials within my Department who advised Ministers on these issues were unaware of the case and that they acted in good faith at all times.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when officials in his Department first became aware that the answer given to the hon. Member for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr of 7 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1083W, on extraordinary rendition, was inaccurate. [260518]

Mr. Hutton: The case of the two detainees transferred from Iraq to Afghanistan by the US outlined in my statement of 26 February, was brought to my attention on 1 December 2008, during the final stages of an MOD review of records of detentions. I directed that MOD officials conduct follow-up work to establish the facts and in doing so it became clear to them that inaccurate answers had been given to earlier questions in the House. This led to my statement on 26 February 2009.

Future Large Aircraft

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the contract specification for delivery dates for the A400M aircraft is; and what penalty clauses there are for late delivery in the contract. [259667]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The A400M contract specifies delivery of the 25 A400M UK aircraft at agreed dates starting in March 2010 and ending in April 2015. The contract does not include penalty clauses but does include provisions for liquidated damages for late delivery against the contractually specified delivery dates.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of *(a)* the total helicopter fleet in service and *(b)* the helicopter forward air fleet were fit for purpose in each year since 2001, broken down by service and type. [259156]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The percentages of the total helicopter fleet and the forward helicopter fleet which are fit for purpose are not recorded as a matter of course, and are not therefore available from 2001 in all cases.

"In Service" has been taken to mean the Effective Fleet, which covers all aircraft barring those which are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal.

"Forward Fleet" aircraft are those that are available to the Front Line Commands for operational and training purposes, including those that are classed as "short term unserviceable"; aircraft undergoing scheduled depth maintenance, or planned routine fleet maintenance are excluded.

"Fit for Purpose" aircraft are those in the Forward Fleet considered capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date.

Service and Helicopter	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Percentage 2008-09*
Royal Navy								
Merlin HM1								
Effective Fleet	20	16	17	10	24	29	29	29
Forward Fleet	44	35	37	21	48	48	46	52
Lynx Mk 3/8								
Effective Fleet	36	38	42	44	40	40	38	40
Forward Fleet	56	56	60	66	62	58	55	61
Sea King Mk2/7								
Effective Fleet	—	35	38	55	45	47	44	45
Forward Fleet	—	75	69	67	62	58	54	61
Sea King Mk5								
Effective Fleet	37	35	39	39	37	43	43	42
Forward Fleet	70	65	65	66	56	59	59	57
Sea King Mk 4 and 6c								
Effective Fleet	—	—	—	45	41	38	36	38
Forward Fleet	—	—	—	59	59	55	52	55
Army								
Apache								
Effective Fleet	—	—	—	—	28	31	34	30
Forward Fleet	—	—	—	—	54	54	50	40

Service and Helicopter	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Percentage 2008-09
Lynx								
Effective Fleet	..	..	..	75	75	75	75	75
Forward Fleet	..	..	..	75	75	75	75	75
Gazelle								
Effective Fleet	..	..	..	55	46	38	37	35
Forward Fleet	..	..	..	96	102	88	90	83
Lynx Mk 7 and 9								
Effective Fleet	..	..	..	38	41	40	36	39
Forward Fleet	..	..	..	59	60	64	65	66
Royal Air Force								
Chinook								
Effective Fleet	..	..	..	63	58	60	65	59
Forward Fleet	..	..	..	55	56	59	62	69
Merlin Mk 3/3a								
Effective Fleet	..	..	..	14	36	36	36	39
Forward Fleet	..	..	..	29	53	57	53	65
Puma								
Effective Fleet	..	..	..	66	66	66	58	65
Forward Fleet	..	..	..	68	69	72	68	76
Sea King Mk 3/3a								
Effective Fleet	..	..	..	..	..	36	36	32
Forward Fleet	..	..	..	..	..	53	53	47

Effective Fleet figures are as at 1 April of each year.

Fit for Purpose and Forward Fleet figures are an average across each year.

Navy: Piracy

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the assistance of the Royal Navy has been requested by individuals whose vessels have been involved in incidents of piracy or attempted piracy in the last three years. [259564]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 27 February 2009]:* There are no records held centrally of the Royal Navy having received any direct requests for assistance by individuals whose vessels have been involved in incidents of piracy or attempted piracy.

However, RN vessels have responded to incidents through recognized channels in the Gulf of Aden, acting on behalf of the international counter-piracy operations. Comprehensive statistics are not available.

Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the cost of operations in Iraq, broken down on the same basis as note 2.3 of his Department's Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08, was in *(a)* 2002-03 and *(b)* 2003-04; [258865]

(2) what the cost of operations in Afghanistan, broken down on the same basis as note 2.3 of his Department's Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08, was in each financial year from 2001-02 to 2003-04. [258866]

Mr. Hutton: The costs for Afghanistan in 2001-02 were not compiled in the format now used in our annual reports and cannot be reproduced on the same basis. The major cost areas for that year were:

	£ million
Resource expenditure	187
Capital expenditure	34
Total	221

The breakdown of costs in 2002-03 and 2003-04 for Iraq and Afghanistan is:

£ million

	2002-03		2003-04	
	Iraq	Afghanistan	Iraq	Afghanistan
Service pay	30	17	196	10
Civilian pay	5	12	18	1
Infrastructure costs	53	6	75	5
Stock consumption	170	33	115	4
Equipment support costs	161	128	264	9
Other costs and services	134	32	209	6
Receipts and other income	3	(6)	9	1
Total direct resource Del	556	224	886	36
Stock Provisions/Write off	0	0	0	0

£ million

	2002-03		2003-04	
	Iraq	Afghanistan	Iraq	Afghanistan
Provisions	(27)	8	(5)	0
Depreciation	100	4	132	0
Cost of capital	1	0	18	0
Total indirect resource DEL	74	12	145	0
Total capital DEL	218	75	266	10
Total all DELs	848	311	1,311	46

Somalia: Piracy

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* ships and *(b)* other units of the Armed Forces have been committed to the protection of merchant shipping from pirate attack in the Gulf of Aden. [258014]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As part of Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 (SNMG2), HMS Cumberland provided protection to vulnerable vessels, including World Food Programme shipping, when it transited through the gulf of Aden between October and December 2008.

The EU counter-piracy mission Operation Atalanta took on this protection role as its primary objective when SNMG2 left the region. As part of this, HMS Northumberland carried out World Food Programme shipping support between January and February 2009.

We are providing a frigate—currently HMS Portland—to conduct broader maritime security operations within the Combined Maritime Forces in the gulf of Aden. RFA Wave Knight continues to provide shipping and refuelling support to military vessels involved in counter-piracy activities in the region.

The UK takes the protection of merchant shipping very seriously and many personnel both in the UK and overseas are engaged in activities relating to the provision of maritime security. This includes co-ordination of, and support to, merchant shipping, as well as the provision of command and control functions for both UK and international military vessels.

Territorial Army: Fulham

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department plans to make funds available for the refurbishment of the proposed Territorial Army Centre in Rylston Road, Fulham. [259371]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Initial funding has already allowed works to be carried out to make the proposed Territorial Army Centre in Rylston Road, Fulham, safe and secure.

Funding for development works such as the provision of office and stores accommodation has been allocated for Financial Years 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Territorial Army: Pay

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much back pay was owing to Territorial Army soldiers who have seen active service in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan on the latest date for which figures are available; what steps are being taken to make payments which are owed; and if he will make a statement. [259408]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 2 March 2009]:* The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

There are no known systematic problems with any back pay owed to TA soldiers who have undertaken active service in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Tornado Aircraft: Weapons

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the 3P233 runway denial munition carried by RAF Tornado aircraft is a cluster munition within the meaning of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. [260222]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK withdrew the JP233 from service in 1998 in order to meet its obligations under the Ottawa Convention. JP233 would also have been rendered prohibited under the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Veterans Advice Unit: Manpower

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department worked in the Veterans Advice Unit in each of the last five years for which figures are available; how many currently work in the Unit; and how many he estimates will work in the Unit in the next financial year. [260371]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Veterans Advice Unit (VAU) was staffed by three service personnel from 1999 until 2002 providing veterans with dedicated information and advice. In 2002, its responsibilities were transferred to the Veterans Agency now the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency providing a fully integrated set of 'through life' personnel services to both service and ex-service personnel. It has a single point of access through its free helpline on 0800 169 2277 and website, www.veterans-uk.info.

The helpline employs a total of 26 staff (21 in whole-time equivalent posts) and its veterans advice team answering written inquiries employs four staff. Manning levels for the next financial year are not yet available.

Warships

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* in-service dates and *(b)* current out-of-service dates are for each (i) submarine, (ii) frigate and (iii) destroyer in the Royal Navy. [258922]

Mr. Quentin Davies: It is departmental policy to release in-service dates only for those vessels for which the main investment decision has been taken. Our present planning assumptions, which are routinely updated as required, are as follows:

Submarines

The MOD currently plans to procure seven Astute submarines. Four submarines are on contract, and in various stages of production at BAE Systems Submarine Solutions facilities at Barrow-in-Furness. The planned in-service dates for HMS Astute, the First of Class, Ambush, Artful and Audacious are subject to continuing detailed review by MOD, BAE Systems and other key stakeholders.

Frigates

The Royal Navy's current Type 22 and Type 23 frigates will be replaced by the Future Surface Combatant but the programme has not yet reached the main investment decision stage. However, on current plans, we expect the first vessel to enter service around the end of the next decade.

Destroyers

Type 45

Name	*In-service date*
HMS Daring	2010
HMS Dauntless	2011
HMS Diamond	2012
HMS Dragon	2012
HMS Defender	2013
HMS Duncan	2014

Our present planning assumptions for out-of-service dates are as follows:

Submarines

Vanguard class

It is not possible to give precise out of service dates for the four Vanguard class submarines. As indicated in the December 2006 White Paper on the future of the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent we believe that we can extend the original design life by around five years and that accordingly the first Vanguard class submarine would go out of service around 2022 and the second around 2024 and work is ongoing to determine the optimum out of service dates for the remaining two.

Swiftsure class

Name	*Out-of-service date*
HMS Sceptre	2010

Trafalgar class

Name	*Out-of-service date*
HMS Trafalgar	2009
HMS Turbulent	2011
HMS Tireless	2013
HMS Torbay	2015
HMS Trenchant	2017
HMS Talent	2019
HMS Triumph	2022

Frigates

Type 22

Name	*Out-of-service date*
HMS Cornwall	2019
HMS Campbeltown	2020
HMS Cumberland	2021
HMS Chatham	2022

Type 23

Name	*Out-of-service date*
HMS Argyll	2023
HMS Lancaster	2024
HMS Iron Duke	2025
HMS Monmouth	2026
HMS Montrose	2027
HMS Westminster	2028
HMS Northumberland	2029
HMS Richmond	2030
HMS Somerset	2031
HMS Sutherland	2033
HMS Kent	2034
HMS Portland	2035
HMS St. Albans	2036

Destroyers

Type 42

Name	*Out-of-service date*
HMS Exeter	2009
HMS Nottingham	2010
HMS Manchester	2011
HMS Gloucester	2011
HMS Liverpool	2012
HMS York	2012
HMS Edinburgh	2013

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Servants: Pensions

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many retired civil servants receive a Civil Service pension of less than *(a)* £1,000 and *(b)* £2,000 per annum. [258363]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* As at 24 February 2009 the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme is paying 40,191 pensioners a gross pension of less than £1,000 a year and a further 60,830 pensioners are receiving a gross pension of between £1,000 and £2,000 a year. "Pensioners" includes retired officers but not those in receipt of a dependant's pension.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to page 5 of his Department's Civil Superannuation Resource Accounts 2007-08, HC 60, for what reason the decision was taken to close the Standard Life and Scottish Widows With-Profits Civil Service Additional Voluntary Contribution Scheme funds. [258727]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office, as manager of the Civil Service Additional Voluntary Contribution Scheme (CSAVCS), has commissioned Hewitt Associates Financial Services Limited to advise it on the suitability of the

CSAVCS providers and the funds they offer. An Annual Review, which covers all aspects of the scheme, including fund performance, forms part of this advice.

In its 2006-07 review report, Hewitt confirmed that Standard Life and Scottish Widows remained suitable AVC providers but raised concerns about the suitability of the With-Profits funds for CSAVCS investors. In line with Hewitt's advice Cabinet Office closed all With Profits funds to new investors from November 2007. Cabinet Office also wrote to existing investors in With Profits, giving these members the choice of transferring to another fund or leaving their accumulated fund in With-Profits and continuing to make contributions.

Departmental Data Protection

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) on what date his Department's policy on the management of its electronic records first took effect; and on what dates it has subsequently been reviewed; [259389]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's policy statement on the management of its electronic records. [259388]

Mr. Watson: A Records Management Policy Statement governing the management of electronic records in the Cabinet Office was published in August 2006. This information has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will publish a copy of his Department's website accessibility plan. [257229]

Mr. Watson: The Department has not yet finalised its website accessibility plan. The plan will be published by May 2009. The Department's web accessibility statement

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/terms_and_conditions.aspx

states that we adhere to COI guidance

http://www.coi.gov.uk/guidance.php?page=188

and W3C guidelines

http://www.w3.org/WAI/

We use several services and forms of specialist software to incorporate better accessibility for people with cognitive, hearing, visual and physical disabilities.

Departmental Staff Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Cabinet Office spent on staff surveys in each of the last five years; and which company was contracted to conduct each such survey. [259682]

Mr. Watson: The following table sets out Cabinet Office's contracted price on staff surveys in each of the last five years and which company was contracted to conduct each survey:

£

	Spent on survey	*Company contracted*
2008-09	13,226	ORC International
2007-08	25,000	Towers Perrin ISR
2006-07	15,505	ORC International
2005-06	15,120	ORC International
2004-05	15,810	ORC International

The additional costs for the contract in 2007-08 reflected a change in methodology to provide more in-depth employee engagement analysis for the first time.

In 2008-09, the Cabinet Office is participating in a pilot of a single civil service survey, alongside nine other Departments, resulting in significantly reduced costs for the Department.

Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what proportion of the increase since 1997 in the number of people of working age in employment is accounted for by *(a)* UK-born workers, *(b)* workers from outside the UK and *(c)* workers from outside the EU; and how many people there were in each category on the latest date for which figures are available; [257366]

(2) what proportion of the increase since 1997 in the number of people aged over 16 in employment is accounted for by *(a)* UK-born workers, *(b)* workers born outside the UK and *(c)* workers born outside the EU; and if he will express these figures (i) in numbers and (ii) as a percentage. [257388]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated February 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking:

What proportion of the increase since 1997 in the number of people of working age in employment in the UK is accounted for by (a) UK-born workers, (b) workers from outside the UK and (c) workers from outside the EU; and how many people there were in each category on the latest date for which Figures are available. (257366)

What proportion of the increase since 1997 in the number of people aged over 16 in employment in the UK is accounted for by (a) UK-born workers, (b) workers born outside the UK and (c) workers born outside the EU; and if he will express these figures (i) in numbers and (ii) as a percentage. (257388)

The requested information is shown in the attached tables.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently the 2008 estimates are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, or the migrant workers figures published every quarter, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

People of working age[1] in employment by country of birth—three month period ending December, 1997 and 2008 United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand and percentage

	UK born workers	Non-UK born workers	Non-EU born workers	Total[2]
1997	23,947	1,959	1,411	25,908
2008[3]	*24,372	*3,719	*2,495	*28,099
Change between 1997 and 2008	425	1,759	1,084	2,192
Change as percentage of total	19	80	49	100

Source:
Labour Force Survey

People aged 16 and over in employment by country of birth—three month period ending December, 1997 and 2008 United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand and percentage

	UK born workers	Non-UK born workers	Non-EU born workers	Total[2]
1997	24,681	2,013	1,442	26,695
2008[3]	*25,612	*3,823	*2,567	*29,443
Change between 1997 and 2008	931	1,810	1,125	2,748
Change as percentage of total	34	66	41	100

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[2] Includes those whose country of birth was not known.
[3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical robustness
* 0 = CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 = CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Note:
The estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.).

Source:
Labour Force Survey

Government Departments: ICT

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate the Cabinet Office has made of the number of Government IT projects initiated in the last five years which are *(a)* over budget and *(b)* behind schedule. [258595]

Mr. Watson: During the past five years, we have initiated eight major IT projects in the Department. Of these one is currently behind schedule and two were delivered one month late. No major IT project initiated in this period is currently over budget.

Each Government Department is responsible for the management of its own IT projects. The Cabinet Office does not keep information centrally about IT projects managed by other Departments.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Public Relations

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many Government special advisers there were whose primary role was in dealing with the media *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the most recent date for *which information* is available; [258606]

(2) with reference to paragraph 72 of his Department's memorandum to the House of Lords Select Committee on Communications of 14 October 2008, who the 13 special advisers were in post at 17 September 2008 who were employed primarily in the area of communications; [258714]

(3) with reference to paragraph 72 of his Department's memorandum presented to the House of Lords Communications Select Committee inquiry into Government communication of 14 October 2008, how many special advisers were employed primarily in the area of communications in 1996. [258715]

Mr. Watson: The Government are committed to publishing an annual statement on the names and cost of special advisers. Information for the financial year 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 99WS. Information for 2008-09 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the financial year.

The most up to date information held in respect of special advisers who are employed primarily in the area of communications remains as set out in the Cabinet Office memorandum to the House of Lords Select Committee in October 2008. Information on the numbers of special advisers employed primarily in the area of communications in 1996 and 1997 is not held centrally.

Non-departmental Public Bodies: Recruitment

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what information his Department holds on numbers of people resident in Northern Ireland who have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been appointed by Ministers to posts in UK-wide non-departmental bodies in each of the last three years. [259726]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 27 February 2009]:* This information is not held by Government. The Government are, however, committed to promoting diversity in public appointments and ensuring that people from all parts of the UK have an equal opportunity to serve on the boards of UK public bodies.

Voluntary Organisations: Government Assistance

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which elements of the Recession Action Plan for the Third Sector are funded from existing budgets of Government departments and non-departmental bodies. [260487]

Kevin Brennan: All elements of Real Help for Communities: Volunteers, Charities and Social Enterprises have been funded from existing budgets across Government in order to invest in the sector now.

This includes funding from the Department of Work and Pensions, up to £10 million and £11.5 million from the Department of Health. The remaining funding is a £13.5 million draw down on end-year flexibility and £7.5 million from within existing Office of the Third Sector budgets.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many women were referred by national health service GPs to the British Pregnancy Advisory Service for an abortion in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by the *(a)* age of the woman, *(b)* length of gestation of the pregnancy at referral and *(c)* region of residence of the woman; [259041]

(2) how many early medical abortions were performed by the British Pregnancy Advisory Service at the request of the national health service in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by the *(a)* age of the woman, *(b)* length of gestation of the pregnancy and *(c)* region of residence of the woman. [259042]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on referrals for abortion by general practitioners is not collected.

The information requested on national health service funded abortions is shown in the following tables.

Total NHS funded abortions at British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) clinics, England, 2007

Age	*Number*
Under 15	281
15	756
16	1,483
17	2,132
18	2,652
19	2,865
20	2,772
21	2,606
22	2,561
23	2,372
24	2,119
25	2,011
26	1,861
27	1,738
28	1,469
29	1,319
30	1,157
31	1,146
32	1,137
33	1,008
34	934
35	859
36	856
37	744
38	683
39	577
40	464
41	353
42	281
43	193
44	119
45 and over	139
Total	41,647

Gestation weeks	*Number*
5 and under	1,571
6	3,906
7	8,617
8	7,934
9	4,616
10	3,562
11	2,368
12	2,235
13	1,597
14	1,158
15	789
16	642
17	572
18	487
19	394
20	413
21	334
22	254
23	198
Total	41,647

Strategic health authority of residence of woman, 2007

	Number
East of England	1,285
East Midlands	1,972
London	8,976
North West	3,367
North East	45
South Central	4,719
South East Coast	4,753
South West	3,627
West Midlands	9,841
Yorkshire and The Humber	3,062
Total	41,647

Total NHS funded medical abortions performed under nine weeks gestation at BPAS clinics, England, 2007

Age	*Number*
Under 16	136
Under 18	754
18	514
19	581
20	590
21	580
22	625
23	579
24	528
25	513
26	472
27	451
28	390
29	337
30	338
31	276
32	311
33	290
34	287
35 and over	1,506
Total	9,922

Gestation weeks	*Number*
5 and under	1,456
6	3,014
7	3,295

Gestation weeks	Number
8	2,157
Total	9,922

Strategic health authority of residence of woman, 2007

	Number
East of England	[1]
East Midlands	326
London	1,706
North West	349
North East	[1]
South Central	844
South East Coast	1,407
South West	1,013
West Midlands	2,811
Yorkshire and The Humber	1,143
Total	9,922

[1] Suppressed totals less than 10 (between 0 and 9) and values where a presented total would reveal a suppressed value.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the areas are with *(a)* high abortion and *(b)* repeat abortion rates, referred to in paragraph 5.31 of Healthy lives brighter futures: The strategy for children and young people's health; and if he will make a statement. [259050]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Primary care organisations with abortion rates for age under 18 higher than England average, 2007

	Primary care organisation	Under 18 rate
	England	20
5NY	Bradford and Airedale Teaching	20
5A9	Barnet	20
5JE	Barnsley	20
5NQ	Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale	20
5LC	Westminster	20
5PV	West Essex	21
5H8	Rotherham	21
5KM	Middlesbrough	21
5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching	21
5NJ	Sefton	21
5EM	Nottingham City	21
5NH	East Lancashire Teaching	21
5M3	Walsall Teaching	21
5P2	Bedfordshire	21
5PN	Peterborough	21
5N3	Wakefield District	22
5E1	North Tees	22
5EF	North Lincolnshire	22
5QJ	Bristol	22
5KL	Sunderland Teaching	22
5ET	Bassetlaw	22
5A4	Havering	22
5N1	Leeds	22
5HQ	Bolton	22
5A7	Bromley	22
5KG	South Tyneside	22
5LQ	Brighton and Hove City	22
5HG	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	22
5D9	Hartlepool	23
5K7	Camden	23
5D7	Newcastle	23

Primary care organisations with abortion rates for age under 18 higher than England average, 2007

	Primary care organisation	Under 18 rate
5P8	Hastings and Rother	23
5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching	23
5NN	West Cheshire	23
5JX	Bury	23
5M7	Sutton and Merton	23
5PE	Dudley	23
5NM	Halton and St. Helens	24
5PF	Sandwell	24
5L3	Medway	24
5MV	Wolverhampton City	24
5AN	North East Lincolnshire	24
5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney	24
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	24
5PG	Birmingham East and North	24
5PJ	Stoke on Trent	25
5LH	Tameside and Glossop	25
5NX	Hull Teaching	25
5K5	Brent Teaching	25
5N4	Sheffield	25
5NK	Wirral	25
5D8	North Tyneside	26
5N5	Doncaster	26
5J4	Knowsley	26
5AT	Hillingdon	27
5NL	Liverpool	27
TAL	Torbay	27
5C4	Tower Hamlets	28
5M1	South Birmingham	29
5HY	Hounslow	29
5F5	Salford Teaching	29
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham	29
5C1	Enfield	30
5J9	Darlington	30
5K9	Croydon	31
5LG	Wandsworth	31
5NT	Manchester	32
5MD	Coventry Teaching	32
5C2	Barking and Dagenham	32
5K8	Islington	34
5NC	Waltham Forest	35
5C3	City and Hackney Teaching	37
5C9	Haringey Teaching	38
5A8	Greenwich Teaching	38
5LF	Lewisham	40
5LD	Lambeth	44
5LE	Southwark	47

Notes:
1. Rates for PCOs are based on 2006 mid year population estimates.
2. Rates for under 18 are based on populations 15-17.

Primary care organisations with repeat abortion rates for age under 19[1] higher than England average, 2007

	Primary care organisation	Percentage of abortions that were repeat abortions in women aged under 19
	England	10
5QG	Berkshire East	10
5NY	Bradford and Airedale teaching	11
5F5	Salford Teaching	11
5A9	Barnet	11
5NL	Liverpool	11
5PG	Birmingham East and North	11
5P5	Surrey	11

Primary care organisations with repeat abortion rates for age under 19[1] higher than England average, 2007

	Primary care organisation	Percentage of abortions that were repeat abortions in women aged under 19
5LH	Tameside and Glossop	11
5L3	Medway	11
5GC	Luton	12
5EM	Nottingham City	12
5PE	Dudley	12
5N5	Doncaster	12
5M1	South Birmingham	12
5NK	Wirral	12
5QE	Oxfordshire	12
5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching	12
5QF	Berkshire West	12
5J9	Darlington	12
5MK	Telford and Wrekin	12
5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent	12
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	13
5PD	Northamptonshire Teaching	13
5P1	South East Essex	13
5A8	Greenwich Teaching	13
5C2	Barking and Dagenham	13
5M7	Sutton and Merton	13
5P4	West Hertfordshire	13
5MD	Coventry Teaching	13
5P9	West Kent	13
5A3	South Gloucestershire	13
5LG	Wandsworth	14
TAM	Solihull	14
5LQ	Brighton & Hove City	14
5LC	Westminster	14
5CC	Blackburn and Darwen Teaching	14
5K5	Brent Teaching	14
5MV	Wolverhampton City	14
5NC	Waltham Forest	14
5HX	Ealing	14
5NT	Manchester	15
5J2	Warrington	15
5K3	Swindon	15
5HY	Hounslow	15
5PV	West Essex	15
5P3	East and North Hertfordshire	15
5LF	Lewisham	15
5C5	Newham	15
5LD	Lambeth	17
TAL	Torbay	17
5LE	Southwark	17
5K9	Croydon	17
5C9	Haringey Teaching	17
5K6	Harrow	17
5C4	Tower Hamlets	18
5A7	Bromley	18
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham	18
5AT	Hillingdon	18
5C1	Enfield	19
5K7	Camden	19
5K8	Islington	19
5NA	Redbridge	19
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea	21
5C3	City and Hackney Teaching	22

[1] Data provided are for women aged under 19. A table for women aged under 18 by PCT would result in a large number of PCTs with suppressed data.

Autism: Durham

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* schoolchildren and *(b)* adults have been diagnosed with autism in (i) County Durham and (ii) Easington constituency; and if he will make a statement. [260179]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally. It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to plan, develop and improve services according to the healthcare needs of their local populations, and this includes services for people with autism.

Breast Cancer: Health Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of women in Hemel Hempstead with suspected breast cancer saw a specialist within two weeks of referral in each of the last five years. [260104]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number and percentage of women with suspected breast cancer seeing a specialist within two weeks of referral in Hertfordshire.

	West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust		*East and North Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust*	
	Number seen within two weeks	*Percentage seen within two weeks*	*Number seen within two weeks*	*Percentage seen within two weeks*
2004-05	811	99.4	531	99.4
2005-06	886	99.9	566	100.0
2006-07	1,142	100.0	679	100.0
2007-08	1,173	100.0	792	100.0
2008-09 Q1-Q3	963	100.0	785	100.0

Note:
2008-09 Q3 is the most recent period for which cancer waiting times data is available - figure for 2008-09 above is therefore for Q1-Q3 performance.
Source:
Department of Health, cancer waiting times database.

Contraceptives

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department defines long acting reversible methods of contraception act as abortifacient; and if he will make a statement. [259040]

Dawn Primarolo: No form of contraception, including long acting reversible methods is an abortifacient. On 18 April 2002, Justice Mumby ruled that the supply and use of emergency contraception is lawful and that the prevention of implantation, which is brought about by emergency contraception products, which include the insertion of an intrauterine device, does not amount to procuring a miscarriage under the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in each *(a)* age group and *(b)* NHS trust area had subdermal implants removed in each of the last 10 years. [259643]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not currently collected centrally.

Contraceptives: Finance

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will publish the quarterly strategic health authority progress reports on allocation of the £26.8 million funding for contraception; [257369]

(2) how much of the £26.8 million spending on contraception announced by his Department on 6 February 2008 is allocated to each *(a)* primary care trust and *(b)* strategic health authority; and whether any of the funding was re-allocated from other budgets; [257372]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1934-40W, on teenage pregnancy, if he will assess the effectiveness of programmes intended to reduce the number of teenage pregnancies since 2005. [257447]

Dawn Primarolo: We expect to have a standard format that provides sufficient information without over-burdening the NHS for the next set of returns due in March. Once we have agreed the standard reporting arrangements, we will place the reports in the Library as they become available.

Of the £26.8 million additional contraceptive funding £12.8 million was included in the Primary Care Trusts' (PCT) overall general allocations. These are not ring-fenced. PCTs have the flexibility to decide how best to use their resources in delivering the national requirements and local priorities as set out in the NHS Operating Framework.

The 10 strategic health authorities (SHAs) were allocated funding based on a formula of a flat £0.5million each then an allocation based on the weighted capitation formula used for the PCT allocations. The individual SHA allocations are set out in the following table:

Strategic health authority	*£000*
North East Strategic Health Authority	780,000
North West Strategic Health Authority	1,210,000
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	1,010,00
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	900,000
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	1,000,000
East of England Strategic Health Authority	1,000,000
London Strategic Health Authority	1,300,000
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	900,000
South Central Strategic Health Authority	900,000
South West Strategic Health Authority	1,000,000

£1 million was allocated to SHAs (£100,00.00 per SHA) for work with further education colleges to improve contraceptive services for students.

£0.5 million was used for the development of a national contraception awareness campaign.

£1.5 million was used to support the 'You're Welcome programme', to make health services more young-people friendly, particularly contraceptive services.

£0.5 million was used to set up the 'Healthy Further Education Programme', which will put in place a framework to improve the contribution of colleges to health and well-being, with priority this year for sexual health.

£0.5 million was used to support more schools to gain 'Healthy School Status', including satisfying the criteria for delivering good quality Sex and Relationship Education.

None of the £26.8 million additional contraceptive funding was reallocated from any other budget.

England's under-18 conception rate is 41.7 per 1,000 and has fallen by 10.7 per cent, since the launch of the teenage pregnancy strategy. The under-16 rate is 8.3 per 1,000 and has fallen by 6.4 per cent, over the same period.

Statistics published on 26 February 2009 by the Office of National Statistics show that in 2007 the under-18 conception rate rose by 2.6 per cent. Despite the rise in national figures in 2007 the long-term trend is still downward.

The success of the teenage pregnancy strategy relies on all local areas applying it effectively. However, there is still significant variation at a local level, with some areas achieving reductions of over 30 per cent. whereas in other areas, rates have increased.

We have identified a range of factors that are in place in the areas where they have made most progress, which are either absent or being delivered less intensively in areas performing less well. These are highlighted in the document Teenage Pregnancy Next steps - guidance for Local Authorities and Primary Care trusts on effective delivery of local strategies a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

We have asked all local areas to ensure that they take account of these key ingredients and to update their local strategies as necessary. In addition, the NHS was reminded of the importance of provision of the full range of contraception to reduce teenage pregnancy in the NHS Operating Framework for 2009-10. An additional £20.5 million has been allocated for 2009-10 to support this work.

Dementia: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people resident in *(a)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London have been diagnosed with dementia in each of the last five years. [259506]

Phil Hope: The national Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) for England gives the number of people recorded on practice disease registers with a diagnosis of dementia. This register count is available only for the two latest releases of QOF, covering 2006-07 and 2007-08.

This information is available for health areas only; in this instance Bexley care trust and the London strategic health authority (SHA).

The number of people recorded on practice disease registers with a diagnosis of dementia for these organisations is shown in the following table:

	2006-07	2007-08
Bexley care trust	878	900
London SHA	23,023	23,871

Note:
QOF was introduced as part of the new general medical services contract on 1 April 2004. The published QOF information was derived from the Quality Management Analysis System which is a national system developed by NHS Connecting for Health.

Dental Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cost to the General Dental Council of administering the annual registration fee for dental technicians was *(a)* in total and *(b)* per technician in 2008; [259776]

(2) what the net cost incurred by the General Dental Council in licensing each registered dental technician annually was in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [259777]

Ann Keen: This information is not held by the Department. The information may be available from the General Dental Council which is an independent, statutory body.

Dental Services: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists were operating under *(a)* general dental services contracts and *(b)* personal dental services agreements in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. [260081]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

The number of national health service dentists, by contract type, in England as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006, are available in table 4 of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006".

The number of NHS dentists, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 are available in annex E of the above report. Information is available by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT). Annex G contains information by parliamentary constituency.

This measure counted the number of NHS dentists recorded on PCT lists as at 31 March each year. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

Information by contract type at a regional level is not available under the old contractual arrangements.

The number of dentists with NHS activity, by contract type, during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 are available in table G2 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007/08" report. Information is provided by SHA and by PCT but is not available by constituency. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published work force figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

Further work is currently being undertaken to determine whether the new definition used under the new dental contractual arrangements can be applied to the years under the old contractual arrangements to produce a consistent time series.

Both sets of published figures relate to headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much NHS funding has been allocated to dentistry provision in Hemel Hempstead in each year since 2004. [260105]

Ann Keen: Prior to April 2006, most primary dental services were provided under former General Dental Service (GDS) arrangements. These were demand led services where the pattern of dental expenditure was largely determined by where dentists chose to practice, and how much national health service work they chose to undertake.

The former GDS arrangements were replaced with effect from 1 April 2006, when primary care trusts (PCTs) were given responsibility for planning and commissioning primary dental services and provided with local, devolved, dental budgets. The primary dental service funding allocations made to West Hertfordshire PCT for each of the three years since PCTs assumed full responsibility for primary dental care services are in the following table. These are net of income from dental charges paid by patients, which are retained locally to supplement the resources available for dentistry. Actual expenditure levels are determined by the pattern and type of services commissioned by each PCT. PCTs may also dedicate some of their other NHS resources to dentistry if they consider this an appropriate local priority. Allocations are not apportioned by individual constituencies or towns; PCTs determine the distribution of resources within their area on the basis of local needs and priorities.

Primary dental service net funding allocations for West Hertfordshire PCT

	Allocation (£000)
2006-07	19,217
2007-08	20,439
2008-09	22,659

Notes:
1. The allocation figure for 2006-07 is the aggregate of the allocations made initially to the Dacorum, Hertsmere, St. Albans and Harpenden, and Watford and Three Rivers PCTs before they merged to form the West Hertfordshire PCT with effect from 1 October 2006.
2. PCTs are awarded separate funding allocations to meet the cost of any dental vocational trainees who may be placed with dental practices in their area.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which works of art from the Government Art Collection each Minister in his Department has selected for display in a private office. [259443]

Mr. Bradshaw: Ministers have the following works from the Government Art Collection displayed in their offices:

Artist	*Title*
Secretary of State for Health	
Carel Weight	Ponte della Victoria, Verona (1945)
Ceri Richards	Trafalgar Square (1957)
Vanessa Bell	Asters and Hydrangeas
Philip Sutton	Heather in a Green Dress
Kwo Da-Wei	Kim (1959)
Alistair Grant	Fête Champêtre (1996)
Howard Hodgkin	You and Me (1978)
Minister of State for Health	
Andre Bicat	Tuscan Church (1965-66)
Andre Bicat	Tuscan Landscape (1965-66)
Tadek Beutlich	Sunset II
Julian Trevelyan	Rhinos (1966-67)
Samuel and Nathaniel Buck	London and Westminster 4: Fleet Ditch to Basingshaw
Will Maclean	Legendary Predator (1976)
John Piper	Milton Ernest Hall (1977)
Graham Sutherland	Les Sirenes (The Sirenes) (1979)
Minister of State for Public Health	
Michael Buhler	Seated Figure (1966)
Josef Herman	Dusk (1965)
Josef Herman	Figure Against Dark Sky (1965)
Allen Jones	Question Time (1982)
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Health Services)	
Gordon House	Black Matrices (1967)
Mark Francis	Untitled (1999)
James Ireland	Untitled
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lords)	
Helena Markson	William Brown Street (1964-65)
Helena Markson	Albert Dock (1964-65)

The Minister of State for Care Services does not currently have any works from the Government Art Collection on display in his office.

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department uses WPA2 encryption protocol on all its wireless networks. [259717]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department uses Wi-Fi Protected Access encryption on all its wireless networks.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what auditing his Department undertakes to ensure that IT security policies are being followed; and on how many occasions *(a)* IT security policies have been breached by employees and *(b)* a member of staff has been sanctioned for a breach of such policies in the last 12 months. [259718]

Mr. Bradshaw: Compliance audits are routinely and regularly undertaken. These include but are not limited to checks for removable computer media being left unsecured, passwords not carelessly written down and that accounts are being used in accordance with the Acceptable Use of information technology (IT) policy. These are either promoted in advance, but without giving a specific time or area, or carried out without warning. There are three types of compliance audit, one type focuses on IT security and six of these were performed in the last year. The Department is regularly reviewed against the Information Security Management Standard, ISO 27001.

On 154 occasions there were minor breaches of the IT security policies such as storing personal photographs or poor housekeeping. None warranted referral to HR. However, on each of these occasions the individual concerned was notified of the area of concern via their section head, was reminded of the relevant security policy and asked to modify their future behaviour.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's IT security hierarchy. [259719]

Mr. Bradshaw: Following is an organisational list showing the Department's information technology (IT) security hierarchy. The Departmental Security Officer reports both to the Director of Information Services and to the Permanent Secretary as appropriate, for instance for leak inquiries.

Department of Health Security Organisational List:

Permanent Secretary
Director General of Finance, Chief
Operating Officer and Senior Information Risk Officer
Director of Information Services
Departmental Security Officer
IT Security Office

Eating Disorders

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to increase levels of awareness amongst GPs of bulimia and anorexia. [259400]

Phil Hope: We take the issue of eating disorders, especially among young people, very seriously. To help general practitioners (GPs) and other practitioners we commissioned clinical guidelines from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the core interventions in the treatment and management of anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and related eating disorders. We expect GPs to refer to this guidance.

We have also increased funding for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services by over 60 per cent. in three years and, to provide better support for adults with common mental health problems, including anorexia, we announced a £170 million expansion of psychological therapies.

Foetal Anti-convulsant Syndrome

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults have been diagnosed with foetal anti-convulsant syndrome resulting from their mothers receiving sodium valproate treatment during pregnancy; and if he will make a statement. [259374]

Dawn Primarolo: Foetal anticonvulsant syndrome describes a group of disorders in which birth defects and developmental disorders occur in association with a characteristic facial appearance in children whose mothers took antiepileptic drugs during pregnancy. Information on the total number of individuals diagnosed in the United Kingdom with foetal anticonvulsant syndrome is not available, however epidemiological studies suggest that the incidence of birth defects in babies born to mothers receiving antiepileptic medicines is approximately two to three times higher than the background rate in the general population.

The UK Epilepsy and Pregnancy Register was established in 1996 in order to gather further information on the outcomes of pregnancies in women receiving antiepileptic medicines. All pregnant women taking antiepileptic medicines are encouraged to notify their pregnancy or allow their clinician to notify their pregnancy to this register. Findings from this register were published in 2005 and suggested that almost 96 per cent. of live-births born to women with epilepsy did not have a major birth defect. It also confirmed that the likelihood of a baby being born with a birth defect is increased if the woman is taking more than one antiepileptic medicine (polytherapy).

The best established risk of abnormalities is associated with sodium valproate. An increased incidence of birth defects (including head and face deformities, deformities of the bones, malformations of the arms and legs and defects of the spinal cord and spine such as spina bidifia) has been shown in children born to mothers who took sodium valproate during pregnancy. For sodium valproate taken as monotherapy, the report from the UK Epilepsy and Pregnancy Register suggests that approximately five babies are born with a major birth defect for every 100 women taking this drug. This risk increases to approximately nine in 100 at higher doses (over 1,000 mg per day).

The authorised product information on sodium valproate for prescribers and the patient information leaflet contain clear advice about its safety of use during pregnancy. This includes information about the potential for birth defects and recommends that any woman taking sodium valproate who is likely to become pregnant should receive specialist advice on these risks. There is also a recommendation that if taken during pregnancy sodium valproate should be used as monotherapy at the lowest effect dose. Folic acid supplementation prior to pregnancy is also recommended as this may reduce the risk of having a baby with spina bifida.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has published a clinical guideline covering the diagnosis, treatment and management of epilepsies in adults and children. This clinical guideline specifically covers the treatment and management of epilepsy in pregnancy.

Great Western Hospital: Waiting Lists

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum waiting time for (i) in-patient and (ii) day case admissions was at the Great Western Hospital in each year since 1997. [259490]

Mr. Bradshaw: The data for the Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, formerly known as the Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust, as at March for each specified year, are given as follows.

In-patient and day case waiting list data—Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust[1]

	Median waiting time (in weeks)			*Maximum waiting time*		
Period ending	*In-patient (ordinary) admission*	*Day case*	*All patients waiting*	*In-patient (ordinary) admission*	*Day case admission*	*All patients*
March 1997	22.8	14.2	19.0	15-18 months	15-18 months	15-18 months
March 1998	21.4	15.9	18.3	15-18 months	15-18 months	15-18 months
March 1999	26.6	18.8	22.6	15-18 months	15-18 months	15-18 months
March 2000	22.6	17.5	19.9	15-18 months	15-18 months	15-18 months
March 2001	19.2	11.0	13.9	15-18 months	15-18 months	15-18 months
March 2002	16.5	9.7	12.0	12-15 months	12-15 months	12-15 months
March 2003	17.0	9.3	11.8	9-12 months	9-12 months	9-12 months
March 2004	15.8	9.6	11.5	6-9 months	6-9 months	6-9 months
March 2005	13.4	9.2	10.4	8-9 months	8-9 months	8-9 months
March 2006	9.8	8.6	9.0	5-6 months	5-6 months	5-6 months
March 2007	11.4	10.5	10.8	25-26 weeks	25-26 weeks	25-26 weeks
September 2007	7.8	6.5	6.9	19-0 weeks	18-19 weeks	19-20 weeks
March 2008	n/a	n/a	5.9	n/a	n/a	19-20 weeks
December 2008	n/a	n/a	5.5	n/a	n/a	17-18 weeks

[1] Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust, March 1997-March 2008, in December 2008 it became Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Notes:

1. Figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting for admission at the end of the period stated.
2. In-patient waiting times are measured from the decision to admit by the consultant to the admission to hospital.
3. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.
4. Data no longer collected by in-patient/day case split after 30 September 2007
5. Waiting times data collected in weekly time bands from 1 April 2007 and the maximum time band show the patient with the longest wait at the end of that period
6. Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust was in existence until December 2008, it then became the Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Source:

Department of Health Quarterly Waiting Times KH07 and MMRPROV

Health Services: Complaints

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many responses his Department received to its consultation on proposed changes to the legislative framework for health and social care complaints; [258322]

(2) in what ways the proposed new social care complaints procedure for adults will differ from the procedure for complaints in social care for children; [258469]

(3) what mechanisms there are in the proposed new social care complaints procedure to enable a director of adult care to highlight faults in the system; [258470]

(4) whether complainants will retain their right to independent scrutiny of their complaint under the proposed new social care complaints procedure; and if he will make a statement; [258471]

(5) what assessment he has made of the merits of the proposed changes to the social care complaints system whereby complaints would be dealt with by front line staff who provide the complainant's care. [258474]

Ann Keen: There were 191 responses to the consultation on "Reform of health and social care complaints: Proposed changes to the legislative framework". Prior to this the Department ran a consultation on the policy and principles of the new approach to complaints handling in the national health service and social care in 2007, entitled "Making experiences count: a new approach to responding to complaints". There were 376 written responses to this earlier consultation, the majority of which were positive and supportive of the new approach.

Under the new approach as provided for in the forthcoming legislative framework the Local Authority Social Services and National Health Service Complaints (England) Regulations 2009 laid before Parliament on the 27 February and coming into force on 1 April 2009, every local authority, NHS body, and primary care provider must designate a complaints manager to be responsible for managing the procedures for handling and considering complaints in accordance with the complaints regulations. Front line staff who provide the complainant's care may be required to contribute to investigations of complaints and provide explanations or reports as necessary, but not to take responsibility for managing complaints.

Under the new system, complainants will retain the same rights as now to take their complaints either to the parliamentary and health service ombudsman for NHS complaints, or to the local government ombudsman for social care complaints for independent investigation, where they are dissatisfied with the response they have received from the local organisation. In addition the flexibility of the new system allows for local independent investigation of complaints where appropriate.

In social care this will give adult social care complaints managers greater freedom to determine whether their handling will contain a single response, or stages, and at what point senior managers will become involved in considering the complaint. They will also decide whether and how independent consideration of the complaint will be addressed (i.e. whether there will be investigating officers conducting an investigation, and whether these will be independent of the organisation, and also whether there will be independent advocacy).

The procedures for complaints about social care for children are remaining separate and unchanged under the Children Act 1989, and complainants will continue to receive a three stage procedure. This features an automatic right to advocacy for any young person, independent consideration of all stage 2 complaints through an independent person, and also a review panel (with a minimum of two independent people on it) for all stage 3 complaints. The director of children's services will normally become involved with complaints that reach stage 3 (though s/he will be briefed on complaints in general and all significant cases by the complaints manager).

Under the Children Act, the complaints manager must be a direct employee of the local authority; this is no longer a feature of the reforms for adult services.

The new system for the NHS and adult social care will require chief executives of local authorities and NHS bodies to be responsible for ensuring compliance with the new arrangements and in particular ensuring that action is taken if necessary in the light of the outcome of a complaint. It is envisaged that in local authorities chief executives may delegate this role to directors of adult social services.

Health Visitors: Manpower

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many trained health visitors there are in each primary care trust in England. [260267]

Ann Keen: The number of health visitors employed by each primary care trust is outlined in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: qualified health visiting staff in England by strategic health authority area and by organisation as at 30 September 2007

		Headcount	Full-time equivalent
England		11,569	9,056
North East Strategic Health Authority area		698	575
County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	RXP	2	1
County Durham PCT	5ND	130	109
Darlington PCT	5J9	28	21
Gateshead PCT	5KF	47	40
Hartlepool PCT	5D9	15	13
Middlesbrough PCT	5KM	19	18
Newcastle PCT	5D7	86	69
North Tees PCT	5E1	41	37

NHS hospital and community health services: qualified health visiting staff in England by strategic health authority area and by organisation as at 30 September 2007

		Headcount	Full-time equivalent
North Tyneside PCT	5D8	63	51
Northumberland Care Trust	TAC	112	83
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	5Q8	31	27
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	RE9	0	0
South Tyneside PCT	5KG	46	39
Sunderland Teaching PCT	5KL	78	68
North West Strategic Health Authority area		1,897	1,516
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	5HG	104	82
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	5CC	53	44
Blackpool PCT	5HP	54	48
Bolton PCT	5HQ	80	67
Bury PCT	5JX	46	40
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	5NP	97	68
Central Lancashire PCT	5NG	115	96
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	RW3	4	3
Cumbria PCT	5NE	111	87
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	RXR	3	2
East Lancashire PCT	5NH	107	89
Halton and St. Helens PCT	5NM	64	49
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	5NQ	61	54
Knowsley PCT	5J4	69	59
Lancashire Care NHS Trust	RW5	0	0
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RXN	2	2
Liverpool PCT	5NL	108	93
Manchester PCT	5NT	138	116
North Lancashire PCT	5NF	61	49
Oldham PCT	5J5	60	50
Salford PCT	5F5	59	46
Sefton PCT	5NJ	66	53
Stockport NHS Trust	RW7	2	2
Stockport PCT	5F7	99	61
Tameside and Glossop PCT	5LH	75	58
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	RM4	6	5
Trafford PCT	5NR	56	44
Warrington PCT	5J2	45	34
West Cheshire PCT	5NN	63	47
Wirral PCT	5NK	89	67
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority area		1,301	1,022
Barnsley PCT	5JE	52	44
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	5NY	158	123
Bradford District Care Trust	TAD	0	0
Calderdale PCT	5J6	65	48
Doncaster PCT	5N5	92	74
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	5NW	70	56
Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust	RCD	1	0
Hull Teaching PCT	5NX	78	65
Humber Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust	RV9	3	3
Kirklees PCT	5N2	77	64
Leeds PCT	5N1	166	131
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	RP8	1	1
North East Lincolnshire PCT	5AN	43	36
North Lincolnshire PCT	5LF	44	37
North Yorkshire and York PCT	5NV	168	123
Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust	RJL	0	0
Rotherham PCT	5H8	66	54
Sheffield Children's Hospital NHS Trust	RCU	1	1
Sheffield PCT	5N4	126	92
Wakefield District PCT	5N3	90	72
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority area		925	716
Bassetlaw PCT	5ET	23	16

NHS hospital and community health services: qualified health visiting staff in England by strategic health authority area and by organisation as at 30 September 2007

		Headcount	Full-time equivalent
Derby City PCT	5N7	61	45
Derbyshire County PCT	5N6	177	130
Leicester City Teaching PCT	5PC	85	69
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	5PA	104	76
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	5N9	135	107
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	RNS	4	3
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	5PD	133	108
Nottingham City PCT	5EM	83	63
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	5N8	120	91
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area		1,209	904
Birmingham East and North PCT	5PG	110	77
Coventry Teaching PCT	5M0	52	37
Dudley PCT	5PE	67	50
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	5M8	90	72
Herefordshire PCT	5CN	32	25
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust	RLY	1	1
North Staffordshire PCT	5P0	48	39
Sandwell PCT	5PF	72	64
Shropshire County PCT	5M2	58	46
Solihull Care Trust	TAM	60	49
South Birmingham PCT	5M1	63	53
South Staffordshire Healthcare NHS Trust	RR0	3	2
South Staffordshire PCT	5PK	141	107
Stoke on Trent Teaching PCT	5P1	70	57
Telford and Wrekin PCT	5M8K	42	31
Walsall Teaching PCT	5M3	52	47
Warwickshire PCT	5PM	108	78
Wolverhampton City PCT	5M9	62	48
Worcestershire PCT	5PL	140	108
East of England Strategic Health Authority area		1,095	847
Bedfordshire PCT	5P2	84	66
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	RT1	1	1
Cambridgeshire PCT	5PP	77	61
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	5P3	103	75
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	RW0	9	7
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	RDH	4	3
Great Yarmouth and Waveny Teaching PCT	5PR	40	30
Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust	RWR	0	0
James Paget Healthcare NHS Trust	RGP	1	1
Luton PCT	5QC	34	29
Mid Essex PCT	5PX	60	46
Norfolk and Norwich Health Care NHS Trust	RM1	1	1
Norfolk and Waveney Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	RM0	1	1
Norfolk PCT	5PQ	129	108
North East Essex PCT	5PW	47	39
Peterborough PCT	5PN	53	41
South East Essex PCT	5P1	73	63
South West Essex Teaching PCT	5PV	92	75
Suffolk PCT	5PT	103	71
West Essex PCT	5PV	50	38
West Hertfordshire PCT	5P4	125	89
London Strategic Health Authority area		1,613	1,335
Barking and Dagenham PCT	5C2	36	30
Barnet PCT	5A9	31	25
Bexley Care Trust	TAK	52	40
Brent Teaching PCT	5K5	48	43
Bromley PCT	5A7	88	59
Camden PCT	5K7	27	22
City and Hackney PCT	5C3	40	40
Croydon PCT	5K9	71	57

NHS hospital and community health services: qualified health visiting staff in England by strategic health authority area and by organisation as at 30 September 2007

		Headcount	Full-time equivalent
Ealing PCT	5HX	67	57
Enfield PCT	5C1	50	41
Great Ormond Street Hospital For Sick Children NHS Trust	RP4	0	0
Greenwich Teaching PCT	5A8	57	49
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	5H1	59	48
Haringey Teaching PCT	5C9	46	38
Harrow PCT	5K6	41	31
Havering PCT	5A4	41	33
Hillingdon PCT	5AT	57	40
Hounslow PCT	5HY	31	27
Islington PCT	5K8	35	32
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	5LA	37	28
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	RAX	1	1
Kingston PCT	5A5	30	23
Lambeth PCT	5LD	40	39
Lewisham PCT	5LF	79	68
Newham PCT	5C5	46	42
North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	RAT	1	1
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	RV8	4	4
Redbridge PCT	5NA	36	32
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	5M6	42	35
Southwark PCT	5LE	82	73
St. Mary's NHS Trust	RJ5	1	1
Sutton and Merton PCT	5M7	105	81
Tower Hamlets PCT	5C4	53	49
Waltham Forest PCT	5NC	45	37
Wandsworth PCT	5LG	60	52
Westminster PCT	5LC	65	57
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area		778	583
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	5P7	72	53
Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching PCT	5QA	146	112
Hastings and Rother PCT	5P8	40	33
Medway NHS Trust	RPA	1	1
Medway PCT	5L3	65	53
South Downs Health NHS Trust	RDR	81	57
Surrey PCT	5P5	179	131
West Kent PCT	5P9	49	39
West Sussex Teaching PCT	5P6	145	105
South Central Strategic Health Authority area		856	626
Berkshire East Teaching PCT	5QG	94	66
Berkshire West PCT	5QF	109	75
Buckinghamshire PCT	5QD	106	82
Hampshire PCT	5QC	217	158
Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT	5QT	16	13
Milton Keynes PCT	5CQ	64	53
Oxfordshire PCT	5QE	149	109
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	5FE	53	36
Southampton City PCT	5L1	48	34
South West Strategic Health Authority area		1,137	843
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	5FL	46	33
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	5QN	73	53
Bristol Teaching PCT	5QJ	122	89
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	5QP	107	87
Devon Partnership NHS Trust	RWV	2	1
Devon PCT	5QQ	125	97
Dorset PCT	5QM	91	64
Gloucestershire PCT	5QH	129	98
North Somerset PCT	5M8	38	28
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	RK9	3	2
Plymouth Teaching PCT	5F1	65	47

NHS hospital and community health services: qualified health visiting staff in England by strategic health authority area and by organisation as at 30 September 2007

		Headcount	Full-time equivalent
Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RDZ	1	1
Somerset PCT	5QL	112	83
South Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	RA9	2	1
South Gloucestershire PCT	5A3	55	38
Swindon PCT	5K3	43	36
Torbay Care Trust	TAL	26	20
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	RA3	2	2
Wiltshire PCT	5QK	95	65

Note:
Full-time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors have been employed in the NHS in each year since 1997; and how many have been employed under what organisational code in each NHS organisation in each of the last three years. [259387]

Ann Keen: The number of health visitors employed by the NHS from 1997 to 2007 is shown in the following table.

	Headcount	Full-time equivalent
1997	12,410	10,025
1998	12,572	10,068
1999	12,800	10,161
2000	12,827	10,046
2001	13,053	10,186
2002	12,774	9,912
2003	12,984	9,999
2004	13,303	10,137
2005	12,818	9,809
2006[1]	12,034	9,376
2007	11,569	9,056

[1] More accurate validation in 2006 has resulted in 232 headcount duplicate records being identified and removed from the non-medical census.
Source:
NHS Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census.

A table showing the number of health visitors employed under each organisational code from 2005 to 2007 has been placed in the Library.

HIV Infection

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people infected with HIV there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* Sefton in each year since 1996. [259562]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table:

Number of diagnosed, HIV-infected individuals accessing NHS care by area of residence

	Area of residence	
	England	Sefton primary care trust
1997	14,532	20
1998	16,157	26
1999	18,183	23
2000	20,572	28
2001	23,894	33
2002	28,816	38
2003	33,724	58
2004	38,277	53
2005	43,353	75
2006	48,062	75
2007	52,138	85

Notes:
1. Data are available from 1997 to 2007. Primary care trusts (PCT) did not exist until 2002 but data have been mapped retrospectively.
2. Data do not include HIV-infected individuals who have not yet been diagnosed.
3. Estimates of undiagnosed HIV infection, and therefore the total number of HIV-infected individuals, are not available by PCT.
Source:
Health Protection Agency.

Hospital Beds

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2079W, on hospital beds, if he will make it his policy to collect and hold information from each NHS hospital trust on how many days each trust has been placed on its highest level of alert because of a shortage of beds; and if he will make a statement. [259289]

Ann Keen: It is not the Department's policy to collect and hold information from each national health service hospital trust on how many days each trust has been placed on its highest level of alert because of a shortage of beds. It is for individual trusts to ensure they have the necessary bed capacity to treat patients.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department and NHS organisations took to improve levels of hospital cleanliness in (a) 2006-07 and (b) 2007-08; and how much was spent on such activities in each year. [259995]

Ann Keen: Patients have a right to clean safe care and the national health service is working hard to ensure that hospitals are clean and safe for patients. The results of the most recent Healthcare Commission in-patient survey reflect this hard work with the NHS achieving its highest ever cleanliness rating.

During the two years in question, the Department took a number of key steps to improve hospital cleanliness including:

the provision of £62.6 million funding for a deep clean of all hospitals in 2007-08;

the requirement that trusts' strategic and operational cleaning plans make provision for on-going deep clean activity;

all NHS bodies being subject to Health Act 2006 Code of Practice on the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections, which came into force on 1 October 2006;

Healthcare Commission inspections against the duties set out in the code which require NHS bodies to have appropriate management and clinical governance systems in place to deliver effective infection control;

a national cleanliness summit held in February 2008, hosted by the NHS Chief Executive to discuss key national issues related to hospital cleaning;

an increase in the number of matrons, to 5,000 in May 2008, with more powers over cleaning and matrons and clinical directors reporting to Trust boards on a quarterly basis on infection control and cleanliness;

publication of 'Board to Ward' guidance highlighting the commitment needed to ensure that all staff understand the role they play in preventing infections and providing a clean environment. A copy has been placed in the Library;

the revision of the national specifications for cleanliness in the NHS setting the standard of cleanliness expected across a range of elements that need cleaning, together with suggested cleaning frequencies;

enhancement of patient environment action teams (PEAT) assessment of hospital cleanliness to contain an element relating to year round cleanliness; and

the publication of the strategy document , Clean Safe Care Reducing Infections and saving lives drawing together key initiatives to tackle healthcare associated infections (HCAIs) and cleanliness. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

During the period in question, the NHS spent a total of £1.383 billion on cleaning and cleaning services with expenditure of £663 million in 2006-07 rising to £720 million in 2007-08.

Hospitals: ICT

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many hospitals are connected to the national NHS IT system; [259942]

(2) what timetable has been set for hospital trusts to introduce the national NHS IT system. [259943]

Mr. Bradshaw: The NHS IT programme is delivering front-line systems and services that are providing major benefits for national health service organisations in England, staff and patients, enabling significant changes in the way the NHS operates, and delivering major system reform. All acute trusts have at least one system which has been delivered through the programme.

As at the end of February 2009, a total of 146 patient administration systems had been deployed as part of the programme to 45 acute, 24 mental health and 77 primary care trusts. Information on which of the organisations concerned include a hospital site, and which may have more than one hospital site, is not held centrally.

It is not possible to provide comprehensive details of the future number, location and sequencing of future deployments. This is because meeting the needs and priorities of individual trusts that are maintaining normal business operations requires flexibility in deployment planning, and inevitably means that plans will always be subject to potential change. Detailed implementation planning became the responsibility of individual trusts and the chief executives of strategic health authorities from April 2007. Taking the country as a whole, however, as reported in the National Audit Office 16 May 2008 report on the programme, it is likely to be 2014-15 before all trusts have fully-deployed care records systems, though some should receive the final releases of the software in late 2009.

Learning Disability

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what basis the sum to be transferred from his Department to local authorities when they take responsibility for support for learning disabled people will be calculated. [259566]

Phil Hope: From April 2011 the intention is that allocations of social care resources will be made directly from the Department to local authorities. We will consider the best way of achieving the allocation beyond 2011 once primary care trusts and local authorities have reported the outcome of their local agreements and the results have been analysed at a national level. The Department will consult on the determination of these allocations before its intention to allocate directly to local authorities is implemented.

Lung Cancer: North West

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1497-8W, on cancer, what steps his Department is taking *(a)* to reduce the incidence of lung cancer and *(b)* to reduce the incidence of smoking by young people under the age of 16 years in the North West. [259469]

Ann Keen: The cancer reform strategy, published in December 2007, sets out guidance to the local national health service on how to improve cancer prevention, speed up the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, reduce inequalities, improve the experience of people living with and beyond cancer, ensure care is delivered in the most appropriate settings and ensure patients can access effective new treatments quickly. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to use the funds made available to them and work in partnership with strategic health authorities, local services, cancer networks and other local stakeholders to deliver these aims. Information on the work being done in the north-west can be obtained from the individual PCTs directly.

Through the cancer reform strategy's national awareness and early diagnosis initiative, the Department, in partnership with Cancer Research UK, is co-ordinating a programme to support local interventions to increase cancer symptom awareness, and encourage people to seek help early.

'High Quality Care for All', the final report of the NHS next stage review, said that every PCT will commission comprehensive wellbeing and prevention services, in partnership with local authorities, with personalised services offered to meet the specific needs of their local populations. It stated that efforts must be focused on a number of key goals, including reducing smoking rates.

Reducing smoking among young people is a priority for the Government. Much has already been achieved in this area, including raising the age of sale of tobacco products and legislation to strengthen sanctions available against retailers who persistently sell tobacco to children and young people. Smoking is also addressed in the national curriculum and through the healthy schools programme.

Protecting children and young people from smoking was one of four key aspects of the Department's consultation on the future of tobacco control published on 31 May 2008. Responses to the consultation are informing the development of a new strategy on tobacco control, which will include action to continue to tackle the uptake of smoking by young people.

The Government this year are taking forward tobacco control legislation intended to protect and support young people in the Health Bill. The Health Bill includes a prohibition on the display of tobacco products, which will help to eliminate the marketing of tobacco products, to which young people are susceptible. The Bill will also provide powers to restrict or ban the sale of tobacco from vending machines, removing a major source of tobacco for young people.

Local stop smoking services are able to provide a range of support options to anyone wanting to quit smoking, including young people. Resources are also available that can be accessed by smokers direct on smoking cessation, these include the national health service 'gosmokefree' website and from the general NHS smoking helpline (0800 169 0169).

Maternity Services

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of pregnancies where a home birth had been requested resulted in a hospital delivery in 2007-08; [259991]

(2) what proportion of births were home deliveries in *(a)* 2000-01 and *(b)* 2007-08; [259992]

(3) how many maternity beds there were in England in *(a)* 2000 and *(b)* 2008. [259993]

Ann Keen: The Office for National Statistics publishes home birth statistics. The latest available data are for the calendar year 2007 and can be found in Birth Statistics, Series FM1, table 8.1.

The information in the table is summarised as follows.

Number and percentage of women giving birth at home[1], England and Wales, 2000-07

	Number of women giving birth at home	Total number of women giving birth	Percentage of women giving birth at home
2000	12,803	598,580	2.1
2001	12,115	588,868	2.1
2002	12,697	590,453	2.2
2003	13,590	615,787	2.2
2004	14,506	633,728	2.3
2005	16,501	639,627	2.6
2006	18,100	662,915	2.7
2007	19,594	682,999	2.9

[1] The figures provided show the number and percentage of women who gave birth at home i.e. home maternities, rather than the number of babies born at home. A maternity is a pregnancy resulting in the birth of one or more live-born or stillborn babies.

Source:
Office for National Statistics

The numbers of planned home births that resulted in a hospital delivery are not collected centrally.

The average daily number of available maternity beds in England was 10,203 in 1999-2000, 9,767 in 2000-01 and 8,441 in 2007-08. This period has seen shorter hospital stays and a growth in maternity day assessment units, where women at high risk can be monitored during the day but are able to return home at night.

Source:
Department of Health form KH03

Maternity Services: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the tariff uplift breakdown for 2009-10, published by his Department on 5 February 2009, and pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1378W, on maternity services: finance, under what tariff headings the additional funding his Department plans to provide for maternity services in 2009-10 is included. [259304]

Ann Keen: Additional funding for maternity services in 2009-10 is not included in the tariff uplift breakdown for 2009-10, as this is the general uplift applied to all tariff prices. Instead, money has been targeted at maternity services, including a £20 million uplift to the maternity out-patient attendance tariff.

Further information on this funding can be found in paragraphs 20 and 21 of the "Payment by Results Guidance for 2009-10", which has been placed in the Library.

Medical Records: Data Protection

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS staff have accessed the NHS spine without appropriate authorisation in each of the last three years. [256787]

Mr. Bradshaw: Access to the national health service care record 'spine' is strictly controlled by the use of smartcards, which are only issued on proof of identity and residence. The smartcards contain role-based profiles that restrict access to patient information depending on the role performed.

There are clear processes for NHS trusts to follow in the administration of smartcards and for adherence to information governance standards. However, legal responsibility for the secure handling and managing of patient data rests with individual NHS organisations.

Details of which staff have been authorised by their employing organisation, and which staff have not been so authorised, are therefore held locally, not by the Department. The cost of collecting and maintaining this information centrally would be considerable and disproportionate to the benefit in doing so. However, there is no evidence that inappropriate access currently happens other than very exceptionally.

Mental Health Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were re-admitted into a mental health hospital in each year since 1997. [260393]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not held centrally.

Mental Health Services: Restraint Techniques

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times restraint was used on a mental health patient in each Strategic Health Authority area in each year since 1997; and on how many such occasions the incident was not logged within 24 hours. [260489]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not held centrally.

NHS Foundation Trusts

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which categories of patient services NHS Foundation Trust hospitals have decided to *(a)* commence and *(b)* terminate since their inception. [259738]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are informed by the chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts (NHS FTs) that his organisation does not hold a list of all services commenced and terminated by NHS FTs. However, all NHS FTs are required to provide details of the services that have been agreed with their primary care trust (PCT). These are listed as 'mandatory services' in the NHS FT's terms of authorisation.

Any changes to the mandatory services listed in the terms of authorisation including termination of specific services requires approval from Monitor and can be done only once those changes have been agreed between the PCT and the NHS FT.

NHS: Legal Costs

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on defending legal proceedings taken against it by private individuals seeking to reverse local decisions on health provision and facilities in 2007-08. [259988]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nurses and *(b)* doctors there were in each NHS Trust in each year from 2000 to 2007, with data adjusted to reflect the current configuration of trusts. [259381]

Ann Keen: The information could be provided in the form requested only at a disproportionate cost. An unadjusted table containing the number of doctors and nurses in each national health service trust for the years requested has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Redundancy Pay

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many senior managers given redundancy payments as part of the last primary care trust reorganisation are working in another part of the NHS. [259948]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Patient Choice Schemes

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of doctors in each health trust have used the choose and book system in each month since the introduction of the scheme. [259940]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect the data on the proportion of general practitioners (GPs) using choose and book. The Department does collect data on the number of GP practices using choose and book, which is shown in the document Percentage of GP Practices using Choose and Book monthly by primary care trust, which has been placed in the Library.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of appointments have been made using the choose and book system in each health trust in each month since the scheme was introduced. [259941]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data on the percentage of appointments made to consultant-led out-patient appointments following a general practitioner (GP) referral using the Choose and Book system in each primary care trust (PCT) in each month since April 2006 are shown in the document, Percentage of GP referrals to first outpatient appointments made using Choose and Book, monthly by primary care trust, which has been placed in the Library.

Prior to April 2006, the Department did not calculate utilisation at a primary care trust level.

Perinatal Mortality: Research

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has allocated to spending on research into the prevention of stillbirth in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the subsequent three years; which research projects are being funded; where these projects are being carried out; and how much is planned to be spent on each project. [260102]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimated expenditure in 2008-09 by the Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and its Policy Research Programme (PRP) on research related to stillbirth is £2.2 million.[1] Further details are shown in the following table.

[1] Excludes the cost of the one National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit work stream of which stillbirth research forms a part.

Funding stream	*Project title/research theme*	*Principal investigator and location*	*Total cost (£)*
NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme	Antenatal screening for group B streptococcus colonisation—protocol development	Professor Peter Brocklehurst, University of Oxford	30,590

Funding stream	Project title/research theme	Principal investigator and location	Total cost (£)
NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme	Double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled trial of nicotine replacement therapy(NRT) in pregnancy	Dr. Tim Coleman, University Hospital Nottingham	1,355,640
NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme	Accuracy and cost effectiveness of rapid diagnosis of Group-B streptococcus during labour	Dr. James William Gray, Birmingham Women's Health Care NHS Foundation Trust	712,686
NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme	A multicentre randomised controlled trial of an intelligent system to support decision making in the management of labour using the cardiotocogram	Professor Peter Brocklehurst, University of Oxford	5,957,981
NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme	Methods of prediction and prevention of pre-eclampsia—Systematic reviews of accuracy and effectiveness literature with economic modelling	Professor Khalid Khan, University of Birmingham	319,054
NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme	A pragmatic randomized controlled trial of physical activity as an aid to smoking cessation during pregnancy	Dr. Michael Ussher, St. George's, University of London	1,182,613
NIHR biomedical research centres	Women's health and the newborn	Professor I. Jacobs, University College London	4,791,962
NIHR biomedical research centres	Reproductive medicine and development	Professor Nicholas Fisk, Imperial College	2,344,680
NIHR biomedical research centres	Women's health	Gordon C. S. Smith, University of Cambridge	1,060,556
NIHR genetics programme	Exploring the potential of family networks as a resource for genetic testing and counselling in a community with a preference for cousin marriage	A. Darr, University of Bradford	231,000
PRP	The Northern congenital abnormality survey: a collaborative survey of congenital anomalies in the Northern region	Dr. Judith Rankin, University of Newcastle	427,174

Information in respect of Medical Research Council (MRC) expenditure in this area in 2008-09 is not yet available.

The usual practice of the Department's NIHR and of the MRC is not to ring-fence funds for expenditure on particular topics: research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. Future levels of expenditure on stillbirth research will be determined by the success of relevant bids for funding.

Prescription Drugs: Costs

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS of unused prescribed drugs and medicines was in 2007-08. [259924]

Dawn Primarolo: Research to determine the scale and cost of waste medicines is progressing. The research findings are expected later in 2009 and will inform the development of Government policy for influencing both health professionals and members of the public to reduce the amount of unwanted medicines and provide better value for money for the national health service.

The Department currently supports a range of initiatives including repeat dispensing and medicines use reviews, through the contractual framework for community pharmacy, where pharmacists help patients get the most from their medicines, while at the same time minimising wastage by optimising use.

Prescriptions

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many FP10 forms have been lost in transit from pharmacists to the Prescriptions Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority in each year since 1997. [255594]

Dawn Primarolo: The NHS Prescription Services of the NHS Business Services Authority are aware of 241 separate instances, from April 1997 to November 2008, where batches of FP10 prescription forms, submitted for reimbursement by pharmacies in England to NHS Prescription Services, were lost, in transit to NHS Prescription Services.

Where forms have been lost or stolen, NHS Prescription Services or pharmacies followed this up with the postal service, courier or the police as appropriate.

On this basis, the number of FP10 forms estimated by NHS Prescription Services as lost or stolen in transit from pharmacists to the NHS Prescription Services are shown in the following table.

Financial year	Estimated number of FP10 prescribing forms lost or stolen in transit from pharmacies to the NHS Prescription Services (England) (thousand)[1]	Number of FP10 forms processed for pharmacies in England (thousand)	Number of FP10 forms lost as a % of the total number of FP10s processed for pharmacies in England
1997-98	17.0	[2]227,000.0	0.01
1998-99	14.1	[2]234,000.0	0.01
1999-00	17.7	[2]241,000.0	0.01
2000-01	61.5	[2]251,000.0	0.03
2001-02	28.7	[2]267,000.0	0.01
2002-03	11.9	[2]278,000.0	<0.01
2003-04	24.2	[2]306,000.0	0.01
2004-05	55.0	320,995.4	0.02
2005-06	10.1	334,424.1	<0.01
2006-07	30.8	345,053.7	0.01
2007-08	45.8	360,105.4	0.02
2008[3]	46.6	250,770.9	0.02
Total	363.6	3,413,349.5	0.01

[1] This figure is based on FP10 forms from pharmacies in England, but which may include FP10 forms written in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man but dispensed in England
[2] Estimated number of FP10 forms processed for pharmacies in England.
[3] April to November
Source:
NHS Prescription Services

Ritalin: Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children have been prescribed Ritalin in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [259483]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally.

Sickle Cell Diseases

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to build capacity in the voluntary sector to support patients with sickle cell disease. [259335]

Ann Keen: The voluntary sector has an important role to play in the development of services closer to home for people with long-term conditions such as sickle cell and thalassaemia (haemoglobin disorders).

We are already working with key stakeholder organisations, such as the Sickle Cell Society and the UK Thalassaemia Society, to develop a clinical service model for haemoglobin disorders. We will give further consideration to how best we can facilitate support for the voluntary sector to develop capacity in community services.

Social Services

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether care home residents who are in receipt of personal expenses allowance have received *(a)* the one-off payment of £60 and *(b)* the one-off payment of £10 to Christmas bonus recipients; and if he will make a statement. [260454]

Phil Hope: The Department for Work and Pensions pays the Christmas bonus according to entitlement rules in the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992. To be eligible to receive the Christmas bonus for 2008-09, individuals must be living in the United Kingdom or elsewhere in the European Union or the European economic area and be entitled to receive certain benefits in the week commencing 22 December 2008.

The personal expenses allowance (PEA) is not a benefit but the amount of the resident's own money which he or she must be left with after charges for residential care have been deducted. People who get PEA only receive the Christmas bonus if they meet the entitlement rules. However, any care home resident who is eligible to receive the Christmas bonus will receive it in full, as it is disregarded from the financial assessment for charging for residential care.

The Department does not hold information on the number of people receiving PEA who have received the Christmas bonus.

Social Services: Finance

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1349W, on autism, what plans he has to ensure that individual budgets are effective for people with *(a)* sensory impairments and *(b)* autism; [259611]

(2) what steps he plans to take to ensure local authority resource allocation systems for individual budgets reflect the needs of people with *(a)* sensory impairments, *(b)* autism and *(c)* complex needs. [259613]

Phil Hope: As part of the programme to transform adult social care, local authorities are expected to provide personal budgets to all adults eligible to receive social care over the period 2008-11. This will include people with autism and sensory impairments. From April 2009, we will be consulting on a new national strategy for autism. Local authorities will need to take into account any requirements arising from the strategy when providing personal budgets to people with autism.

Practical guides issued by the Department to help local authorities develop resource allocation systems for personal budgets advise councils to consult advocacy groups and other groups representing disabled people

and older people, and representatives of carers. The needs of all service users, including people with autism, sensory impairment and complex needs, should be reflected in the questions included in the self-assessment which forms the basis of the resource allocation system.

Sunbeds

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will bring forward legislative proposals to prevent children from using sun-beds in tanning shops; and if he will make a statement; [259919]

(2) if he will introduce legislation to ban the unsupervised use of sun-bed machines; and if he will make a statement; [260037]

(3) if he will introduce legislation to ban the use of coin-operated sun-bed machines; and if he will make a statement. [260038]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government advise against the use of sunbeds for cosmetic purposes, particularly by minors, including the use of unsupervised or coin-operated sunbeds. The Cancer Reform Strategy commits the Government to reviewing options for possible regulation of the sunbed industry, but firstly to gather information to inform the review. This is currently under way.

Teenage Pregnancy

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department *(a)* has undertaken, *(b)* plans to take and *(c)* has evaluated on the effect of greater access to family planning on numbers of underage (i) conceptions and (ii) abortions; when his Department last undertook an evidential review of the issue that drew on (A) UK and (B) international research; and if he will make a statement. [259045]

Dawn Primarolo: The "1999 Social Exclusion Unit Teenage Pregnancy Report" on which the teenage pregnancy strategy is based references the evidence and research papers that informed the development of the strategy. The teenage pregnancy strategy is multi-faceted and is based on the best international evidence on what works.

One of the priority actions identified in the 1999 report was to ensure effective advice and contraception for young people. The strategy has continued to develop over time and relevant national and international evidence is kept under review to inform the development of the strategy. There is increasing evidence that contraception can have a significant impact on teenage conceptions. Research published in the "American Journal of Public Health" in 2006 found that 86 per cent. of the decline in United States teenage pregnancy rates between 1995 and 2002 could be attributed to improved contraceptive use.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations who were sent copies of Healthy lives brighter futures: The strategy for children and young people's health; at what cost; and if he will make a statement; [259069]

(2) how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* researching and *(b)* producing Healthy lives brighter futures: The strategy for children and young people's health; who his Department consulted before (i) drafting and (ii) publishing it; who drafted the publication; what input Ministers in his Department had; and if he will make a statement. [259070]

Ann Keen: All chief executives of primary care trusts and directors for children and learners at each regional Government offices in England were sent a copy of "Healthy lives, brighter futures: The strategy for children and young people's health" and the "Securing better health for children and young people through world class commissioning" documents. In addition to this we sent a copy of each to a number of organisations. A list of these organisations are shown as follows. Both documents have already been placed in the Library and are also available from the Department of Health and Department for Children, Schools and Families websites, where hard copies may be ordered.

The cost of production of the strategy and the commissioning document, including VAT, totalled £82,879. The cost of packing, handling and posting hard copies of the documents, including VAT, totalled £2,708.91.

"Healthy lives, brighter futures" built on a large body of existing research and no new research was commissioned specifically for the strategy. The Secretaries of State for Health and Children, Schools and Families were involved at key stages in the development of the strategy. Both Secretaries of State hosted a deliberative event for parents and teenagers in June 2008, and further deliberative events were held with other groups, including child health professionals and parents of children with complex health needs. The cost of these events totalled £125,120.07, including VAT. Other work to develop the strategy was carried out by officials from the Department of Health and Department for Children, Schools and Families and through a range of meetings with stakeholders. Costs for this work cannot be identified separately.

Addaction
Adfam
Alcohol Concern
Barnardo's
British Medical Association
Commission for Social Care Inspection
Children's Rights Director for England
Children's Society
The National Child and Maternal Health Observatory
The Institute of Child Health
Local Government Association
Mentor UK
National Childbirth Trust
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
The Royal College of Surgeons
Royal College of General Practitioners
The Royal College of Midwives
The Royal College of Nursing
The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
Unite: Community Practitioners' and Health Visitors' Association
Young Minds
County Durham and Darlington (Family Nurse Partnership Lead)
Cabinet Office
The National Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Support Service
Children's Hospices UK

Fair-Play for Children's Hospices: c/o Shooting Stars children's hospice

Action for Sick Children

Children's Society

Whizz-kidz

National Youth Agency

Family and Parenting Institute

Hull PCT and Local Authority Commissioning Lead for Children and Young People

National CAMHS Strategic Relationships and Programme Manager

Association of Young People's Health (President)

Bradford College: Healthy Further Education Steering Group

Learning and Skills Improvement Service

Youth Sports Trust

Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group

British Heart Foundation (Obesity stakeholder)

Asthma UK

Diabetes UK

Training and Development Agency

ContinYou

Pre-school Learning Alliance (PLA)

Daycare Trust (DCT)

All Local Authority Chief Executives

All Primary Care Trust (PCT) Chief Executives

All regional Government Office Directors for Children and Learners

West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on administration by West Hertfordshire NHS Hospital Trust in each of the last five years. [259181]

Phil Hope: The following table shows the administration costs at West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust for the period 2003-04 to 2007-08 (the last five years for which information is available).

	Administrative costs (£000)
2007-08	19,123
2006-07	19,935
2005-06	18,607
2004-05	19,922
2003-04	17,525

Source:
The administrative costs figures are taken from the financial returns of NHS trusts. The financial returns data is not audited but is validated to the audited summarisations schedules.

Westminster City Council

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what grants his Department has given to Westminster City Council in each year since 2005-06; what sums were awarded in each grant; in what categories the grant has been made; and how much has been allocated for grants in 2009-10. [259754]

Phil Hope: The following table sets out the Adult Personal Social Services grants issued to Westminster local authority by the Department, between 2005-06 and 2009-10.

Grants 2005-06 to 2009-10

£ million

Westminster	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Revenue					
Ringfenced specific grants					
Access and systems capacity	3.093	2.892	2.989	—	—
Aids support	0.397	0.372	0.339	0.405	—
CSCI reimbursement	0.003	0.005	0.005	—	—
Delayed discharges	0.530	0.550	0.556	—	—
Dignity in care	—	—	0.220	—	—
Human resources development strategy	0.450	0.342	0.333	—	—
Individual budget pilots	—	0	0	—	—
Learning disabilities: closure of campuses	—	—	—	0.039	0.086
National training strategy	0.661	0.739	0.719	—	—
Partnerships for older people projects (POPP)	—	0	0	—	—
Preventative technology	—	0.168	0.279	—	—
Residential allowance	0.788	—	—	—	—
Smokefree legislation	—	0.064	0.317	—	—
Social care reform grant	—	—	—	0.508	1.200
Standards fund (healthy schools)	—	—	0.061	—	—
Stroke strategy	—	—	—	0.098	0.098
Support for emergency respite care	—	—	0.166	—	—
Subtotal	5.922	5.132	5.984	1.050	1.384
Contribution to area based grant					
Adult social care workforce	—	—	—	0.818	0.850
Carers	1.296	1.261	1.227	1.380	1.500
Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)	0.811	0.827	0.844	0.614	0.673
Learning disability development fund	—	—	—	0.327	0.333
Local involvement networks (LINks)	—	—	0.010	0.174	0.176
Mental Capacity Act and independent mental capacity	—	—	—	—	—

Grants 2005-06 to 2009-10

Westminster	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*£ million 2009-10*
Advocate service	—	0.086	0.097	0.154	0.196
Mental health	1.093	1.099	1.034	1.043	1.118
Preserved rights	2.051	1.789	1.692	1.616	1.567
Subtotal	5.251	5.062	4.904	6.125	6.413
Total revenue grants	11.173	10.194	10.888	7.175	7.797
Capital					
Single Capital Pot					
Supported capital expenditure (R) single capital pot	0.156	0.160	0.166	—	—
Supported capital expenditure (R) mental health	0.184	0.179	0.174	—	—
Single capital pot - social care element (non-ringfenced)	—	—	—	0.151	0.151
Single capital pot - mental health element (non- ringfenced)	—	—	—	0.163	0.165
Subtotal	0.340	0.339	0.340	0.314	0.316
Ringfenced Specific Capital Grants					
AIDS/HIV	0	0	0	0	[1] —
Common assessment framework	—	—	—	[1] —	[1] —
Extra care housing grant	—	0	0	0	0
Improving information management grant	0.183	0.178	0.173	—	—
Social care information technology infrastructure	—	—	—	0.093	0.100
Subtotal	0.183	0.178	0.173	0.093	0.099987
Total capital grants	0.523	0.517	0.513	0.407	0.416

[1] Not allocated to date

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Darlington

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many new *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* training places are planned to be made available for people in Darlington constituency in the next 12 months. [258255]

Mr. Simon: Information on planned apprenticeship and training volumes is available at national level only.

Table 1 as follows shows FE and skills participation for the Darlington local authority area in 2007-08, the latest complete year for which fully audited information is available. This information is not available by parliamentary constituency.

Table 2 as follows shows apprenticeship starts for the Darlington parliamentary constituency in 2007-08.

Table 1: FE and skills participation, Darlington local authority, 2007/08 (provisional)

Age	*Number*
16-18	2,800
19+	5,900
All learners	8,800

Notes:
1. Volumes are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. These figures include FE, University for Industry, WBL (including apprenticeships, entry to employment), train to gain and adult safeguarded learning.
3. Final 2007/08 data will be published in March 2009.
4. This table uses learner volumes as a measure for comparative purposes. Full-year numbers are a count of the number of learners that participated at any point during the year.
5. Learners that are included in different data collections e.g. a learner undertaking an apprenticeship and a train to gain qualification, will be counted twice in this table.
6. Age is calculated based upon age as at 31 August of the academic year.
7. Local authority is based on home postcode of the learner.

Table 2: Apprenticeship starts in Darlington parliamentary constituency, 2007/08

Age	*Number*
Below 19	290
19+	340
All learners	630

Notes:
1. Volumes are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. These figures include WBL (apprenticeships only).
3. This table uses programme starts as a measure for comparative purposes. Full-year numbers are a count of the number of starts at any point during the year. Learners starting more than one course will appear more than once.
4. Parliamentary constituency is based on home postcode of the learner.

Source:
WBL ILR.

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05. A remarkable achievement.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in 2008-09 to date. [260357]

Mr. Simon: Special advisers have claimed £1,770.74 in reimbursable expenses in 2008-09.

Special advisers are temporary civil servants and are therefore entitled to claim expenses available to other

civil servants. Guidance on claiming expenses can be found in chapter 8 of the civil service guide:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/iam/codes/csmc/online_report/8.asp

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people resident in Manchester, Withington constituency were admitted to universities in England in 2008. [258921]

Mr. Lammy: In the 2007/08 academic year 1,760 students were admitted to English Higher Education Institutions from Manchester Withington parliamentary constituency. This figure covers entrants to higher education courses of all levels and modes and has been rounded to the nearest five. This figure has been taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record and is based on a standard registration population.

Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many residents of the city of Newcastle upon Tyne enrolled in higher education institutions on a *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time basis in (i) 1997, (ii) 2002 and (iii) 2008. [259689]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information is shown in the following table. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Enrolments[1] from Newcastle Upon Tyne local authority by mode of study UK higher education institutions—academic years 1997/98, 2002/03 and 2007/08

	Full-time	*Part-time*
1997/98	3,730	3,335
2002/03	4,370	3,230
2007/08	4,765	3,455

[1] Covers enrolments on all levels of study.

Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* home and EU full-time students, *(b)* overseas non-EU full-time students and *(c)* home and EU part-time students enrolled at higher education institutions in the city of Newcastle upon Tyne in (i) 1997, (ii) 2002 and (iii) 2008. [259690]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information is shown in the following table. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Enrolments at the university of Northumbria and the university of Newcastle by domicile and mode of study: UK higher education institutions—academic years 1997/98, 2002/03 and 2007/08

Institution	*Domicile*	*Mode*	*1997/98*	*2002/03*	*2007/08*
University of Northumbria	UK	Full-time	11,975	13,690	15,425
		Part-time	5,520	6,685	6,925
	EU	Full-time	940	755	700
		Part-time	75	190	165
	Non-EU	Full-time	990	1,655	2,780
		Part-time	80	260	935
University of Newcastle	UK	Full-time	10,185	12,135	14,145
		Part-time	3,800	2,200	1,355
	EU	Full-time	710	745	955
		Part-time	60	135	110
	Non-EU	Full-time	1,135	1,955	2,280
		Part-time	150	195	100

Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been paid to each higher education institution through the Access to Learning Fund in each year since 2005-06. [258546]

Mr. Lammy: Payments to individual higher education institutions for the Access to Learning Fund for academic years 2005/06 to 2008/09 are listed in the following table.

Access to Learning Fund payments to higher education institutions (includes March 2009 scheduled payment)

Institution name	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Anglia Ruskin University	1,116,696	1,063,420	812,139	685,360
Aston University	289,237	241,845	228,461	167,826
University of Bath	278,680	182,141	197,262	162,286
Bath Spa University	500,462	375,394	309,263	262,465
University of Bedfordshire	456,700	578,664	558,312	470,924
Birkbeck College	50,532	339,385	450,994	594,240
University of Birmingham	733,953	679,866	638,096	514,265
Birmingham City University	1,374,943	1,302,098	1,102,614	933,787
University College Birmingham	107,095	162,208	150,085	173,757
Bishop Grosseteste University College, Lincoln	158,674	128,338	101,018	75,127
University of Bolton	519,321	469,456	334,776	346,887

Access to Learning Fund payments to higher education institutions (includes March 2009 scheduled payment)

Institution name	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Arts Institute at Bournemouth	71,341	86,941	78,649	61,565
Bournemouth University	564,214	582,350	495,621	414,161
University of Bradford	485,923	606,857	476,048	400,309
University of Brighton	653,928	818,413	469,634	450,352
University of Bristol	328,942	210,501	301,304	236,070
Brunel University	626,369	439,091	233,993	204,839
Buckinghamshire New University	383,446	342,259	246,524	210,483
University of Cambridge	571,500	309,796	310,616	143,401
Institute of Cancer Research	1,240	2,375	2,022	-3,157
Canterbury Christ Church University	729,503	662,068	516,757	471,743
University of Central Lancashire	1,302,246	661,382	598,355	865,275
Central School of Speech and Drama	57,715	37,916	25,842	27,441
University of Chester	477,729	514,494	510,791	334,972
University of Chichester	308,187	154,880	160,885	170,082
City University, London	345,365	468,653	501,646	294,295
Courtauld Institute of Art	10,153	8,172	8,845	1,716
Coventry University	748,539	728,351	660,725	519,621
Cranfield University	58,813	56,338	51,319	32,590
University for the Creative Arts	290,823	215,726	187,577	163,010
University of Cumbria	0	0	445,666	339,692
Cumbria Institute (now part of University of Cumbria)	51,366	59,645	0	0
St. Martin's College H.E. (now part of University of Cumbria)	470,290	394,837	0	0
Conservatoire for Dance and Drama	45,465	43,236	34,076	20,762
De Montfort University	1,289,337	860,860	751,798	680,616
University of Derby	962,335	870,599	732,608	603,723
University of Durham	427,085	370,968	238,873	195,615
University of East Anglia	433,760	595,360	739,903	586,982
University of East London	1,078,995	1,080,188	940,620	913,088
Edge Hill University	865,326	570,657	586,648	533,737
Institute of Education	169,064	58,509	69,785	48,752
University of Essex	353,687	359,769	286,948	286,053
University of Exeter	474,217	359,713	352,993	260,308
University College Falmouth	195,112	147,758	131,896	118,365
Dartington College of Arts (now part of University College Falmouth)	53,525	38,435	27,976	0
University of Gloucestershire	417,716	287,372	265,475	204,422
Goldsmiths College, University of London	412,786	310,097	272,546	206,315
University of Greenwich	1,207,557	1,174,148	874,673	733,177
Guildhall School of Music and Drama	0	15,773	22,923	16,748
Harper Adams University College	60,338	34,145	42,650	41,941
University of Hertfordshire	479,683	686,428	644,330	502,074
Heythrop College	0	12,384	18,783	20,857
University of Huddersfield	1,050,536	1,073,647	839,096	750,620
University of Hull	987,234	796,213	618,118	535,937
Imperial College London	337,891	193,524	210,831	149,654
Keele University	346,756	256,518	267,549	203,716
University of Kent	649,723	536,643	487,974	409,310
King's College London	558,983	622,746	447,088	324,795
Kingston University	974,362	894,346	753,477	585,854
Lancaster University	371,800	251,217	177,385	163,992
University of Leeds	1,188,086	856,804	760,178	558,472
Leeds Metropolitan University	1,097,250	1,010,919	656,889	632,898
Leeds College of Music	39,321	23,151	20,264	20,006
Leeds Trinity and All Saints	138,028	114,420	106,833	78,034
University of Leicester	485,305	407,419	367,240	302,221
University of Lincoln	808,428	592,583	410,940	339,980
University of Liverpool	762,939	568,826	492,662	376,041
Liverpool Hope University	579,311	533,802	358,844	305,560
Liverpool John Moores University	1,102,333	869,951	796,724	706,936
Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts	0	13,520	18,398	7,233
University of the Arts London	525,534	605,308	479,699	438,301
Wimbledon College of Art (now part of University of the Arts London)	45,249	0	0	0
University of London	8,287	6,552	5,415	3,561

Access to Learning Fund payments to higher education institutions (includes March 2009 scheduled payment)

Institution name	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
London Business School	11,906	27,105	17,817	9,600
London School of Economics and Political Science	83,894	92,001	77,760	52,777
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	4,157	10,725	14,460	10,257
London Metropolitan University	1,378,819	1,153,917	835,003	834,760
London South Bank University	787,410	767,377	900,243	648,460
Loughborough University	424,387	275,832	293,965	206,445
University of Manchester	1,212,946	951,515	891,336	635,577
Manchester Metropolitan University	1,887,620	1,450,274	1,330,281	980,490
Middlesex University	1,055,117	868,101	856,205	624,237
University of Newcastle upon Tyne	380,296	235,228	287,441	206,217
Newman University College	225,682	150,740	92,698	90,094
University of Northampton	496,967	474,649	326,439	356,191
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	1,082,794	1,088,932	836,727	687,785
Norwich University College of the Arts	75,102	58,325	51,778	33,988
University of Nottingham	552,608	673,473	595,251	560,031
Nottingham Trent University	1,173,955	943,582	685,815	563,920
Open University	-1,454,893	5,432,182	5,888,260	7,994,851
School of Oriental and African Studies	149,707	149,088	107,399	77,545
University of Oxford	311,735	203,967	232,155	172,532
Oxford Brookes University	562,662	565,754	508,745	388,205
School of Pharmacy	40,279	31,980	27,354	17,217
University of Plymouth	1,698,965	1,532,704	1,362,969	1,214,415
University College Plymouth St. Mark and St. John	314,431	199,702	175,548	129,740
University of Portsmouth	960,593	705,093	576,800	501,186
Queen Mary, University of London	397,289	362,695	345,176	271,796
Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication	88,953	66,744	48,355	39,004
University of Reading	398,729	332,907	227,971	213,612
Roehampton University	597,032	383,180	327,495	235,745
Rose Bruford College	41,967	33,606	27,093	25,752
Royal Academy of Music	16,884	16,216	17,009	10,418
Royal Agricultural College	19,383	22,876	20,759	15,326
Royal College of Art	31,577	43,079	38,913	30,563
Royal College of Music	14,084	13,448	15,876	8,666
Royal Holloway, University of London	217,887	160,675	183,502	131,776
Royal Northern College of Music	20,461	13,351	17,513	10,503
Royal Veterinary College	49,699	42,250	59,970	43,998
St. George's Hospital Medical School	89,464	86,069	124,004	88,429
St. Mary's University College	152,452	158,590	120,923	96,458
University of Salford	1,224,190	1,058,592	885,208	736,315
University of Sheffield	907,302	699,948	661,560	477,901
Sheffield Hallam University	1,139,500	1,074,061	926,405	769,201
University of Southampton	698,276	690,632	580,140	473,057
Southampton Solent University	489,359	464,540	370,872	295,846
Staffordshire University	860,835	809,291	715,380	603,160
University of Sunderland	878,490	621,997	634,871	496,336
University of Surrey	288,165	285,834	260,224	218,531
University of Sussex	485,935	420,407	369,746	273,962
University of Teesside	1,016,072	913,797	776,041	606,825
Thames Valley University	687,100	692,159	605,120	433,631
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance	31,412	21,659	21,880	19,138
University College London	568,369	451,279	460,256	285,453
University of Warwick	481,367	267,989	256,748	248,994
University of the West of England, Bristol	1,168,222	1,055,928	944,894	736,099
University of Westminster	657,402	772,546	564,054	427,653
University of Winchester	249,395	230,632	181,870	151,415
University of Wolverhampton	1,444,412	1,250,778	1,086,502	841,162
University of Worcester	399,641	374,376	286,536	335,237
Writtle College	52,833	55,363	9,798	26,528
University of York	296,558	288,969	248,308	185,231
York St. John University	263,642	240,486	178,887	121,530

Note:
The figures are the net payments over the academic year; they may differ from the original allocations as they include the reclaiming and redistribution of unused funds. The 2005-06 reclaimed figure includes unspent funds reclaimed from the earlier part-time fee waiver scheme

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many institutions have been overpaid by the Higher Education Funding Council for England in each of the last 10 years; and by how much in each case. [259145]

Mr. Lammy: Overpayments can be identified for a variety of reasons following an audit of an institution's records. There is then a process of mitigation to determine the extent of any repayment. In addition there are ongoing adjustments to grant throughout the year to reflect student recruitment against indicative plans. As a result the information requested is not readily available. It is held across a disparate set of paper and electronic records and would take a considerable amount of time and resource to assemble. This information is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

JUSTICE

Bailiffs: Powers

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the draft regulations for the Tribunals Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 in respect of bailiff powers will be published. [259135]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 372W. The enforcement provisions in the Tribunals, Court and Enforcement Act 2007 are far reaching reforms. The provisions have recently undergone a comprehensive reassessment by Ministers to ensure that they remain appropriate even under this difficult financial climate. This assessment has now been concluded and a statement will be made shortly.

Children: Abuse

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions for child abuse were made in the years ended March *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007 and *(e)* 2008. [256394]

Maria Eagle: The number of persons aged 18 and over proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to child abuse from 2003 to 2007 in England and Wales is shown in the following table. As there is no specific offence of "child abuse" statistics are provided only where the age of the victim can be identified as a child from the description of the offence. Furthermore the term "child abuse" describes harm caused to a child arising from emotional, physical, sexual abuse or neglect caused by a parent or carer. A number of other offences such as offences against the person including physical assault may frequently be used by the police to charge offenders.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of defendants aged 18 and over proceeded against at all courts for offences relating to child abuse in England and Wales, 2004-07[1,2,3]

Statute	*Offence description*	*Proceeded against*			
		2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 S.5	Causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable person.	—	2	5	9
Children and Young Persons Act 1933 Sec 1.	Cruelty to or neglect of children.	915	827	789	782
Offences against the Person Act 1861 Sec 27	Abandoning children under 2 years.	4	4	4	2
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1	Rape of a female aged under 16.	780	669	601	569
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1	Rape of a male aged under 16.	57	58	46	47
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 5	Rape of a female child under 13 by a male	34	112	126	142
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 5	Rape of a male child under 13 by a male	8	15	24	23
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.7	Sexual assault on a female child under 13	91	302	325	303
Sexual Offences Act 2003—S.9(1)(2)(3), S.9(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(2)(3). S.10(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(2)(3).	Sexual activity involving a child	69	289	299	299
Sexual Offences Act 2003S.16(1)(a)(b)(c)(2)(4)(5), S.17(1)(a)(b)(c)(2)(4)(5), S.18(1)(a)(b)(c)(2)(4)(5).	Abuse of a position of trust: Sexual activity with children	4	11	10	16
Total		1,992	2,289	2,226	2,192

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
[3] Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 S.5 came into force on 21 March 2005.
[4] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.
Source:
OCJR – E and A, Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Community Orders

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to inform the public about work being undertaken by convicted criminals serving community service orders. [259561]

Mr. Hanson: Local probation areas promote the work they do locally with offenders serving community sentences and in particular in the case of Community Payback. Nationally, the Ministry of Justice is also working with the cross-Government National Crime and Justice Group on developing communications that will include messages about Community Payback in local areas. Plans will be announced shortly.

The Government are committed to increased public visibility and involvement in Community Payback so that local communities are aware of both offenders being punished and the work that they undertake. A forthcoming Green Paper will outline how the Government intend to give the public more opportunities to propose work for offenders in local areas by, for example, expanding the citizens panels, which are currently being piloted in six areas.

To increase visibility to the public high visibility distinctive clothing for offenders undertaking Community Payback was introduced on 1 December.

Criminal Cases Review Commission

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* complaints and *(b)* items of correspondence have been received by the Criminal Cases Review Commission in relation to historical sex abuse investigations in the UK in each year since 2001. [259302]

Maria Eagle: Since 2001, there has been one complaint made to the Commission in relation to a care home sexual abuse case. This complaint, made in 2001, was by an applicant who had applied unsuccessfully to the Commission for his case to be reviewed in 1999 and who was dissatisfied with the way in which the Commission determined his case. The complaint, which was not upheld, was investigated by the Commission's complaint manager in accordance with the Commission's formal complaints procedure.

Since 2001, the Commission has received 39 applications relating to cases of this nature. By year:

	Number of applications
2001	8
2002	8
2003	7
2004	5
2005	5
2006	1
2007	5
2008	0
2009 to date	0

It has not been possible in the time available to calculate the exact figure, or identify the year in which a particular item of correspondence has been received. The Commission estimates that, since 2001, it has received 1,940 items of correspondence in relation to the 39 cases of this nature.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent changes the Criminal Cases Review Commission has made to the way in which it *(a)* assesses cases and *(b)* determines which cases are (i) eligible and (ii) ineligible for review. [259481]

Maria Eagle: There have been no changes in the way in which the Commission assesses cases. Every case is assessed independently and on its own merits. The Commission reviews applications to decide whether there is a real possibility that the relevant appeal court will quash a conviction or amend a sentence.

There has also been no change in the way in which the Commission assesses which cases are eligible for review. The conditions for eligibility for review are set down in sections 9-12 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1995. As a consequence, the only substantive ground on which the Commission can refuse to accept an application to review a case is where the applicant has not been convicted of a criminal offence in England, Wales or Northern Ireland.

There are other criteria that normally have to be met before an application is accepted such as that the applicant needs to have exhausted the normal appeal processes before applying to the CCRC. However, Section 13 of the Criminal Appeal Act provides that, in exceptional circumstances, conditions other than the requirement to have a relevant conviction can be waived.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1332W, on dangerous dogs: convictions, how many of the offences for which persons were found guilty fell under *(a)* section 1 and *(b)* section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. [259663]

Maria Eagle: Data showing the number of persons found guilty of offences under sections 1 and 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in England and Wales from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) are shown in the following table.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts of offences under sections 1 and 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1, 2]

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*[3]2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Section 1	19	15	12	8	4	7	3	17	11	6	74
Section 3	218	385	412	422	487	487	516	547	605	658	703
Total	237	400	424	430	491	494	519	564	616	664	[m] 777

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform-Evidence and analysis unit.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which works of art from the Government Art Collection each Minister in his Department has selected for display in a private office. [259441]

Mr. Straw: I and Ministers in my Department, have a number of pieces of artwork from the Government Art Collection on display in private offices, the detail of which are as follows:

The Rt. Hon. Jack Straw MP

Trial by Jury, Feliks Topolski, 1949

The Judge and his Clerk, Merlyn Oliver Evans, 1949

Brougham, Walter Richard Sickert, 1930

Procession Attending the Great National Petition of 3,317, 702 to the House of Commons, Anon British 19th Century

The Rt. Hon. David Hanson MP

Interior, Dennis Creffield, 1971

Girl in a Kimono, Dennis Creffield, 1971

Free Range, Edwin La Dell, date not known

The Ruins of Downing Hall, Flintshire, Tony Steele-Morgan, 1977

Marching Out, George Robson, 2001

Maria Eagle MP

"A Midsummer Night's Dream"; What angel wakes me from my flowery bed?, Barbara Brownlee, 1964

"Hamlet": Nymph in thy orisons be all my sins remembered, Sandra Blow, 1964

"Henry IV Part 2": Sir John Falstaff and Mr Justice Shallow recruiting in Gloucestershire, Brian Robb, 1964

Interior with Figures, Francis Bacon, 1975

Icons in a Smoke-filled Room, Claes Oldenburg, 1996: published 1997

William Brown Suite, Helena Markson, 1964-1965

The Rt. Hon. Michael Wills MP

The Bay, David Jones, c1929-1930

Lower Wessex Lane, Spring, Norman Stevens, 1976

Everything Beautiful is Far Away, Mark Titchner, 2003-2005

Tea, David Tindle, 1970-1971

Untitled (Student), Matthew Usmar Lauder, 2006

Bridget Prentice MP

Bray Village, Jeremy King, undated

Kim, Kwo Da-Wei, 1959

Bar-B-Q, Roland Piche, 1972

It was the fourth time that Daddy had fallen for the exploding fork routine, Glen Baxter, 1984

I sensed that Brenda was trying to impress me.... Glen Baxter, 1984

Lord Bach

The South Prospect of Leicester, Samuel and Nathaniel Buck, published 25 March 1743

The War Office, William Monk, c1918

Mine Crater, Hill 60, December 191", Paul Nash, December 1917

Andean Blue, Zoe Hodgson, 1997

Departures, Peter McDonald, 2006

Shahid Malik MP

Shahid Malik MP currently has no artwork from the Government Art Collection on display in his private office, but is in the process of selecting some.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has allocated for staff bonuses in 2008-09. [252252]

Mr. Straw: 'Year end' non-consolidated performance payments are paid to high performing members of the senior civil service (SCS) to reflect their individual contribution during the previous performance year. In the 2008-09 financial year £1,648,000 was paid to SCS staff.

Within the Ministry of Justice there are different methods of reward for former DCA staff and staff in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS).

Payment of non-consolidated pay to former DCA staff below the SCS level may be either 'year end' or 'in year' performance payments. 'Year end' performance payments are paid only to staff who achieve the highest possible performance marking for the previous reporting year, which runs from 1 April to 31 March. The amount of 'year end' payments made in August 2008 to staff in the former DCA was £2,011,200.

'In year' payments are made, at local management discretion, to staff whose performance is exceptional as part of the Department's recognition and reward policy.

For the former DCA, the amount allocated for the period 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2008 was 0.4 per cent. of the 2007-08 paybill of £575,514.

The amount allocated for the period 1 August 2008 to 31 July 2009 is 0.5 per cent. of the 2008- 09 paybill of £597,641.

NOMS operate a performance management system which provides for 'year end' performance payments and recognises outstanding performance with 'in year' payments. It is not possible to give a figure for the total paid in performance payments for the current financial year i.e. 2008-09. However, such payments cannot exceed 0.5 per cent. of the paybill in any unit.

Performance payments are funded within existing paybill controls, have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets, and, as such, do not add to future paybill costs.

Performance payments, which are non-consolidated and non-pensionable, are paid to high performing individuals as part of the Department's reward strategy. Such payments are a cost-effective means of encouraging and rewarding high performance and drives continuous improvement throughout the organisation.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many bonus payments were made to *(a)* senior civil servants and *(b)* other staff working in (i) HM Courts Service, (ii) HM Prison Service, (iii) the National Offender Management Service and (iv) the Youth Justice Board in 2007-08; and how much was paid in such bonuses to people in each category. [254131]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is set out as follows:

HM Courts Service

Across the MoJ, end year non-consolidated performance payments are paid to high performing members of the senior civil service (SCS) to reflect their individual contribution during the previous reporting year. During

2007-08, 54 members of the SCS were paid non-consolidated performance pay amounting to £383,000, in respect of performance during the 2006-07 reporting year.

Payments of non-consolidated performance pay to staff below the SCS may be either 'end of year' payments or 'in year' payments.

'End of year' payments of non-consolidated performance pay are made as part of the annual pay award to staff who have performed beyond expectations throughout the performance year. In HM Courts Service 1,667 staff received end of year non-consolidated performance pay during the 2007-08 financial year for performance in the 2006-07 reporting year. The amount paid was £666,800. This was paid in October 2007 at the time of the implementation of the 2007 pay award for all staff.

'In year' payments of non-consolidated performance pay are one-off payments to staff who have made an exceptional contribution on specific occasions. It is not possible to provide details of payments made to staff in HMCS separate from those working in other parts of the Ministry of Justice, other than at a disproportionate cost.

During the financial year 2007-08 5,327 staff in Ministry of Justice (including HMCS) received 'in year' non-consolidated performance pay totalling £2,665,212.

HM Prison Service

During 2007-08, 25 members of the SCS were paid non-consolidated performance pay amounting to £231,000.

Payments of non-consolidated performance pay to staff below the senior civil service may be either 'end of year' or 'in year' payments of non-consolidated performance pay.

'End of year' non-consolidated performance payments are made as part of the annual pay award to staff who have performed at a level beyond expectations throughout the performance year. In HM Prison Service 4,816 staff received an end of year payment of non-consolidated performance pay in the 2007-08 financial year, totalling £1,096,766.

'In year' non-consolidated performance payments are one-off payments to staff who have made an exceptional contribution on specific occasions. During the financial year 2007-08, 3,888 staff in HMPS received 'in year' payments totalling £1,333,039.

There were no payments of non-consolidated performance pay to any member of staff employed by local probation boards or trusts during the financial year 2007-08.

National Offender Management Service

The National Offender Management Service was established as an agency on 1 April 2008. The NOMS Agency consists of the HM Prison Service and the national probation service. The information contained in (ii) covers both of these parts of the NOMS Agency.

Youth Justice Board

During the financial year 2007-08, one member of the SCS was awarded non-consolidated performance pay of £15,000.

In grades below the SCS, 43 staff were awarded non-consolidated performance pay 'in year' totalling £23,350. There were 21 'end of year' awards of non-consolidated performance pay to staff in relation to annual performance marking. These payments amounted to £18,090.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many public consultations his Department has conducted in the last 12 months; how long each consultation was open for; how many responses were received in each case; and what the cost of conducting each consultation was. [259572]

Mr. Wills: The information requested is shown in the following table, which sets out details of the 37 formal written public consultations, carried out by the Ministry of Justice in the last twelve months. The printing and web publication costs of a standard consultation are met centrally by the Department. The only other cost of a standard consultation is the cost of staff time in preparing individual consultations. No breakdown exists for these costs and to provide one would incur disproportionate cost. But where activity over and above a standard consultation has been carried out and those cost details are available I have provided them.

Consultation	*Consultation period*	*Number of responses*	*Additional costs of consultation (£)*
Closed consultations 2008-09			
1. Administration and Enforcement Restriction Orders	16 January 2008 to 16 April 2008	49	-
2. Local authority charges for property search services	18 January 2008 to 18 April 2008	858	12,000
3. Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007—Court Rules	31 January 2008 to 24 April 2008	9	-
4. Tribunal, Courts and Enforcement Act: Eligibility for Judicial Appointments	5 February 2008 to 29 April 2008	13	-
5. Enhancing procedural rights and cooperation in the EU	28 February 2008 to 10 April 2008	11	-
6. Rome I—Should the UK opt in?	2 April 2008 to 25 June 2008	37	-
7. Best value in probation	9 April 2008 to 2 July 2008	73	9,500
8. Children and Adoption Act 2006—Court Rules	7 May 2008 to 20 June 2008	25	-
9. Certificates of professional competence—amendments to the Transport Tribunal Rules 2008	28 May 2008 to 9 July 2008	2	-
10. Titan prisons	5 June 2008 to 28 August 2008	74	1,210
11. Bail and murder	17 June 2008 to 12 September 2008	30	-
12. Reforming the Legal Aid Family Barrister Fee Scheme	18 June 2008 to 10 September 2008	19	-
13. Election Day—Weekend voting	24 June 2008 to 26 September 2008	941	6,153.95
14. Pleural plaques	9 July 2008 to 1 September 2008	224	-

Consultation	Consultation period	Number of responses	Additional costs of consultation (£)
15. Inspection powers and funding arrangements for the Information Commissioner	17 July 2008 to 27 August 2008	72	[1]—
16. Pandemic Influenza	23 July 2008 to 3 September 2008	24	[1]—
17. Proposal to close Nelson County Court	28 July 2008 to 20 October 2008	11	[1]—
18. Murder, manslaughter and infanticide: Proposals for reform of the Law	28 July 2008 to 20 October 2008	74	10,254
19. Claims management regulation: Fee	4 August 2008 to 28 October 2008	3	[1]—
20. Section 57 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act: draft regulations	26 August 2008 to 18 November 2008	3	[1]—
21. Civil Procedures Rules: Cost capping orders	12 September 2008 to 24 October 2008	64	[1]—
22. Rules for mandatory polygraph tests for sex offenders	19 September 2008 to 21 November 2008	7	300
23. The future of Camden and Islington Youth Work	5 September 2008 to28 November 2008	20	[1]—
24. Pandemic flu—Planning guidance for Agencies and others in the Justice System	5 September 2008 to28 November 2008	16	[1]—
25. Reducing re-offending in London	8 October 2008 to 30 January 2009	[2]—	13,995.26
26. Reviewing the Mental Capacity Act 2005: Forms supervision and fees	23 October 2008 to 15 January 2009	76	6,300
27. Old enough to make a Mark? Should the voting age be lowered to 16?	20 October 2008 to 20 January 2009	500	[1]—
28. Publication of Candidate's addresses at UK parliamentary Elections	26 November 2008 to28 January 2009	65	[1]—
29. Crown court means testing	6 November 2008 to29 January 2009	49	[1]—
30. The award of costs from central funds in criminal cases	6 November 2008 to 29 January	96	[1]—
31. Proposed closure of Telford Hearing Centre	10 November 2008 to6 February 2009	10	643.69
Open consultations			
32. Proposed Closure of Social Security and Child Support Agency Hearing Centre Portsmouth	1 December 2008 to28 February 2009	[3]—	[1]—
33. Civil court fees 2008	10 December 2008 to4 March 2009	[3]—	[1]—
34. Proposal to merge the Dudley and Stourbridge and Halesowen Local Justice Areas	19 January 2009 to 13 April 2009	[3]—	[1]—
35. Proposed Merger of the Warley and West Bromwich Local Justice Areas	27 January 2009 to 21 April 2009	[3]—	[1]—
36. Fees in the United Kingdom Supreme court	10 February 2009 to 5 May 2009	[3]—	[1]—
37. Controlling costs in defamation proceedings	24 February 2009 to 6 May 2009	[3]—	[1]—

[1] Standard consultation.
[2] 49 to the paper155 plus through workshops and stakeholder events.
[3] Not yet available.

Emergency Calls: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many non-emergency calls were made to *(a)* the English language telephone number and *(b)* the Welsh language telephone number in each police force in Wales in the last year for which figures are available. [256429]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

Data for the period from April 2008 to January 2009 are shown in the following table.

Non emergency calls to Welsh Police forces from April 2008 to January 2009

Police force	English language	Number Welsh language
Dyfed Powys Police[1]	311,458	8,127
Gwent Police	185,170	[2]—
North Wales Police	513,579	12,583
South Wales Police[3]	59,547	1,385

[1] Dyfed Powys Police began collecting data for Welsh language calls in November 2008.
[2] English only used.
[3] South Wales Police do not collect force-wide data. The data shown here are for Cardiff only.

Howard League for Penal Reform

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department has received from the Howard League for Penal Reform in the last 12 months; in respect of how many a substantive response has not been provided to date; what the date of the oldest such request is; and if he will make a statement. [259363]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has received six requests from the Howard League for Penal Reform in the last 12 months. One—made in August 2008—remains outstanding. I can assure the hon. Member that this request is being treated with the utmost priority, and that the requester will receive a response in the near future.

Legal Aid: Children

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for legal aid the Legal Services Commission received from firms working on behalf of persons under 16 in each year since 1997; and how many were accepted in each such year. [259678]

Mr. Malik: The information is being collated and I will write to the hon. Member when it is available.

Legal Aid: Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for acts of assistance relating to housing the Legal Services Commission (LSC) received in each of the last five years; and what percentage of the total number of requests to the LSC relating to housing each figure represents. [259677]

Mr. Malik: Applications for acts of assistance by way of legal help are received by the supplier, for example the solicitor or advice bureau, and central records are not kept by the Legal Services Commission (LSC). However, the LSC does have records of applications granted in terms of the number of new matters started, as reported to it by suppliers. Table 1 as follows shows the number of housing new matters started in each of the last five financial years. These figures include matters started under Community Legal Service Direct telephone advice scheme introduced in July 2004.

The LSC directly receives applications for acts of assistance by way of civil representation. The number of such applications received for housing matters, and the proportion granted are shown as follows at table 2.

Table 1: Legal help

	Housing new matters started	*Proportion of all new matters started (percentage)*
2007-08	127,257	15.8
2006-07	133,311	15.7
2005-06	110,315	14.1
2004-05	83,193	12.7
2003-04	80,260	11.3

Table 2: Civil representation

	Housing applications	*Applications granted*	*Proportion of total civil representation applications (percentage)*
2007-08	14,402	11,743	8.4
2006-07	15,130	12,021	8.0
2005-06	15,786	12,374	8.1
2004-05	14,406	11,834	7.5
2003-04	14,405	12,066	7.0

Mentally Disturbed Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 474W, on the Bradley Review, when he expects to receive Lord Bradley's report. [260452]

Mr. Hanson: Lord Bradley has now submitted his report and the Government expect to be able to publish it, along with the response, before the end of April 2009.

Policing and Crime Bill 2008-09

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what sanctions would apply for the non-payment of fines imposed under the provisions of Clause 26 of the Policing and Crime Bill 2008-09. [257037]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

Non-payment of this particular fine will be treated no differently to the non-payment of any other fine.

The Courts Act 2003 introduced a series of measures aimed at improving fine collection. These included making it mandatory that a Deduction from Benefits Order or an Attachment of Earnings Order be the first form of enforcement to be applied following default or history of default. It introduced clamping of vehicles, fines payment work (currently being piloted), fine increases and the registration of financial credit (which may affect their ability to obtain credit). Other enforcement tools include warrants of execution, delivery and/or possession (where a bailiff may seize goods, money and land to the value of the debt). Imprisonment is the ultimate sanction for the non-payment for financial penalties, where the court has exhausted all other enforcement options.

Prison Sentences: Ethnic Groups

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the comparative rates of imprisonment of *(a)* black males and *(b)* white males; how these rates compare with the proportions in the overall population; and if he will make a statement. [259554]

Maria Eagle: The most recent assessment of the comparative rates of imprisonment for both males and females together are as follows.

For British nationals, the proportion of black prisoners on 30 June 2007 relative to the population was 7.4 per 1,000 compared to 1.4 per 1,000 for white persons. For the overall population it was 1.5 per 1,000.

The latest data therefore indicates that black people are over five times more likely to be in prison than their white counterparts.

Data are not currently available for males alone.

Prisoners Transfers

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average daily number of prisoners transferred from each prison in England and Wales to another prison in England and Wales solely as a result of overcrowding was in 2008. [260446]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the reasons for every movement of a prisoner is not kept. Information will be held by the Inter Prison Transfer monitor on the total number of transfers carried out using the IPT fleet but no breakdown is available on the reasons for these transfers.

Prisoners: Expenditure

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much money has been spent on rehabilitating prisoners who had been considered to be violent and a threat to society since 1991. [260450]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service delivers a broad range of interventions to address the particular risks and needs of offenders. There are a number of accredited offending behaviour programmes

which address violence including thinking skills, anger management, domestic and other types of violent crime as well as sexual offending. A range of interventions is available for prisoners with an alcohol problem. Other regime activities such as training, education, work, non accredited courses and resettlement also have a significant part to play in reducing risk and preparing a prisoner for release. This work is delivered as part of prison baseline funding and it is not possible to disaggregate accurately the costs. NOMS is currently undertaking a specifications, benchmarking and costings exercise which will provide costings of the interventions delivered.

Reoffenders

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will commission research on the effects on the re-offending rate of *(a)* penal custody, *(b)* restorative justice programmes and *(c)* local authority secure accommodation. [259559]

Mr. Hanson: The Ministry of Justice has an ongoing research and analysis programme which addresses a wide range of interventions. The programme for 2009-10 is currently being agreed.

On *(a)* penal custody: Reoffending statistics are published regularly by the Department. The proven re-offending rate for offenders discharged from prison was 46.5 per cent. in 2006.

On *(b)* restorative justice: Between 2001 and 2004 the Government invested around £5 million in the crime reduction programme restorative justice pilots and their evaluation, including a two-year reconviction study. Four reports were published. Restorative justice has proven itself as a way of increasing victim satisfaction with the criminal justice process, and may also help to reduce reoffending for adults.

On *(c)* local authority secure accommodation: The Youth Justice Board commissioned a research study in 2008 which aims to explore reoffending rates of different types of custodial provision, including local authority secure accommodation.

References:

(a) Ministry of Justice (2008) Reoffending of adults: results from the 2006 cohort, England and Wales. Statistics bulletin

(b) Shapland, J., Atkinson, A., Colledge, I., Dignan, J., Howes, M., Johnstone, J., Pennant, R., Robinson, G., and Sorsby A. (2004) "Implementing restorative justice schemes (Crime Reduction Programme). A report on the first year". Home Office Online Report 32/04

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Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of offenders re-offended within *(a)* six months, *(b)* one year, *(c)* two years and *(c)* three years of release from a custodial sentence in each of the last five years. [259616]

Mr. Hanson: Table 1 shows the one year reoffending rates for adults leaving custody in the first quarter of the years 2002 to 2006. The table shows the number and proportion of offenders that committed at least one further offence. The number of offences committed per 100 reoffenders is now the headline measure of reoffending—this has also been included in the table.

Table 1: one year reoffending rates, offenders leaving custody 2002-2006

Cohort	Number of offenders	Number of reoffenders (1 year)	Percentage proportion of offenders offending (1 year)	Number of offences per 100 offenders (1 year)
Quarter 1				
2002	15,578	8,574	55.0	288.2
2003	14,358	7,738	53.9	279.1
2004	15,761	8,185	51.9	253.1
2005	14,595	7,165	49.1	228.5
2006	14,380	6,686	46.5	208.4

Two year reoffending rates are available for the 2000 to 2005 cohorts. The number and proportion of offenders that committed at least one further offence are shown in table 2.

Table 2: two years reoffending rates, offenders leaving custody 2000-2005

	Number of offenders	Number of reoffenders (2 years)	Percentage proportion of offenders offending (2 years)
Quarter 1			
2000	16,527	10,709	64.8
2002	15,887	10,708	67.4
2003	15,305	10,071	65.8
2004	16,385	10,601	64.7
2005	14,713	9,140	62.1

It should be noted that comparisons between the one and two year rates should be interpreted with caution. This is due to a slight improvement in the method used to count offenders released from custody (or starting court orders under probation supervision) when we moved to measuring reoffending over one year rather than two.

Data on six month and three year reoffending rates are not currently available. The Ministry of Justice is currently undertaking a programme of work to investigate reoffending rates over longer time periods. This will include analysis of three year reoffending rates.

Further information on the one year rates of reoffending can be found in:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Further information on the two year rates can be found in:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb2505.pdf

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to his Department's report,

Re-offending of adults: new measures of re-offending 2000-05, how many offenders have had multiple offender entries in each of the last five years; [259617]

(2) with reference to his Department's report, Re-offending of adults: new measures of re-offending 2000-05, how many individual offenders entered the cohort and committed a further offence and were discharged from prison or commenced a community sentence within the same quarter in each of the last five years. [259618]

Mr. Hanson: A multiple offender entry (MOE) is an individual offender who, after entering the cohort (by either being discharged from prison, or commencing a court order under probation supervision), commits a reoffence and is further discharged from prison or commences a court order within the same 1st quarter period in a given year. MOEs are excluded from our analysis of reoffending, in order to ensure that there is no double-counting in each cohort.

The following table shows the number of offenders who are MOEs and their respective number of entries between 2000 and 2006 (the latest available data). Most MOE offenders appear twice in the cohort and the number of MOEs has been constant, at around 2.5 per cent. of the entire cohort of offenders since 2000.

Q1

Multiple offender entries (MOEs)	*2000*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
2x	1,018	1,006	1,088	1,239	1,040	1,307
3x	31	34	36	75	38	52
4x	5	2	3	5	3	6
5x	—	—	—	1	—	—
6x	—	—	—	—	3	—
Total MOEs	1,054	1,042	1,127	1,320	1,084	1,365
Percentage of total cohort	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.8	2.4	2.7

Note:
Data are not available for 2001 due to a problem with archived data on court orders. Since it will not substantially increase knowledge on the current progress on reoffending, no resources have been allocated to fix this problem.

We have assumed that the second question is also related to multiple offender entries, and that the term 'within the same quarter' refers to the quarter in which the cohort is compiled (between 1 January and 31 March of a given year). A break down of these figures by prison and court orders is not available.

Further information on multiple offender entries can be found in Annex C of the publication Reoffending of Adults: results from the 2006 cohort:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Suicide: Internet

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions inquests have identified internet sites as a contributory cause of suicide in each of the last five years; and in how many such cases the suicide was committed by someone under the age of *(a)* 15, *(b)* 18, *(c)* 21 and *(d)* 25 years. [259491]

Bridget Prentice: Information collected by the Ministry of Justice relates solely to the number of verdicts of suicide returned: no information is collected regarding the circumstances of each case. Although the Ministry of Justice is collecting from coroners, as part of the annual statistical return, data on the age at death of those persons whose deaths have been the subject of inquests, the information collected will not reveal the age profile relating to suicide, or any other particular verdict.

The total number of verdicts of suicide returned at inquests by coroners in England and Wales in each of the last five years for which data are available is, as follows:

Total number of verdicts of suicide returned by coroners in England and Wales

	Number
2003	3,255
2004	3,368
2005	3,235
2006	3,220
2007	3,007

Note:
Statistics for 2008 are not available.

Young Offender Institutions

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of inmates in young offender institutions are taking part in programmes to rehabilitate them into society. [259860]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service delivers a broad range of interventions to address the particular risks and needs of offenders. This includes a number of accredited offending behaviour programmes and interventions that address drug misuse. These are a key element of the Service's work to reduce re-offending. The number of individual prisoners accessing interventions is not collated centrally. However, the number of intervention commencements is recorded.

In 2007-08 there were 1,246 offending behaviour programme commencements in establishments whose primary role was a young offender institution (YOI).

All YOIs provide a comprehensive drug treatment framework, based on the National Treatment Agency's revised models of care, to address the different needs of drug-misusers. The interventions available are designed to meet the needs of low, moderate and severe drug misusers—irrespective of age, gender or ethnicity.

Interventions include:

Clinical services (detoxification and/or maintenance prescribing)—available in all YOIs in England and Wales.

Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare services (CARATs)—available in all YOIs in England and Wales.

Intensive Drug Rehabilitation programmes:

The Short Duration programme is available in six YOIs (1)

P-ASRO (prisons Addressing Substance Related Offending)—available in seven YOIs.

Young People's Substance Misuse Service (YPSMS)—a non-clinical service for those under the age of 18 in custody in England and Wales, combining education and prevention with treatment.

The following table shows the number of drug interventions delivered in establishments whose primary role was a YOI in 2007-08.

	2007-08
Clinical treatment (detoxification or maintenance)	1,370
CARATs initial assessments	6,040
YPSMS Initial assessments	7,380
Intensive Drug Rehabilitation programmes	1,250
Total	16,040

Notes:
1. NOMS categorises establishments by their main role only. Establishments that have more than one role are placed in the category that represents the primary or dominant function of the prison. Some young offenders—including all young female prisoners—are held in separate Young Offender units in adult establishments.
2. Individuals could access more than one type of intervention or more than one of the same intervention in any one year.

All figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Young Offenders: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persistent young offenders were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* sentenced for a criminal offence at (i) magistrates' courts and (ii) the Crown Court in (A) the London Borough of Bexley and (B) London in each year since 1997. [259511]

Mr. Hanson: Statistics on persistent young offenders (PYOs) are only available for those offenders that are arrested and then found guilty. These statistics, split by court type as requested in the question, are only available from 1999 onwards. The figures for Bexley are only available from 2002.

The PYO figures are designed to measure the speed and efficiency of the youth justice system; through monitoring the pledge to halve the average time from arrest to sentence for dealing with PYOs in England and Wales from 142 days in 1996 to 71 days. They are not designed to measure overall trends in youth crime, and will give a misleading picture of the true trend if used for this purpose.

The table following on this response shows the number of PYOs dealt with in England and Wales, London and for the London borough of Bexley. The counts of this type of offender are split by court jurisdictions for England and Wales and the London area. The figures for Bexley are very small and therefore subject to year-on-year volatility.

On 10 December 2008, the Secretary of State for Justice announced in a written ministerial statement that the PYO pledge would be dropped with effect from the end of 2008. This is therefore the last year for which PYO statistics will be published and compiled.

Number of persistent young offenders in England and Wales, London (Metropolitan police force area) the London borough of Bexley, by court jurisdiction

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
England and Wales											
Magistrates courts	8,189	9,297	9,815	11,961	12,889	13,218	13,297	13,511	13,894	14,476	15,414
The Crown court	1,423	1,514	2,160	1,264	961	1,024	941	974	924	1,043	1,095
Total	9,868	11,079	12,014	13,233	13,854	14,244	14,244	14,492	14,827	15,528	16,512
London (Metropolitan police force area)											
Magistrates courts	541	622	856	948	1,176	1,200	1,129	1,199	1,208	1,325	1,593
The Crown court	182	192	228	148	121	124	121	125	121	161	175
Total	864	1,003	1,091	1,100	1,297	1,325	1,251	1,324	1,329	1,486	1,768
London borough of Bexley											
Magistrates courts	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
The Crown court	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	44	36	28	38	26	52

Notes:
1. The Police National Computer data can contain records where the type of court in which the case was heard was unknown. This missing information only impacts a very small minority of cases, and was more a feature of the data in the past than in the present. Thus, the sum of cases heard in magistrates courts and the Crown court in each year is less than all cases heard in England and Wales.
2. The counts of persistent young offenders for the London borough of Bexley are very small subsets of the overall London and England and Wales populations, and as such are subject to year-to-year volatility.
3. The counts for 2008 are based on provisional (incomplete) data and are therefore subject to being revised. Any revision should not result in a substantial increase in these counts.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Vara: To ask the Leader of the House which works of art from the Government art collection each Minister in her Office has selected for display in a private office. [259450]

Chris Bryant: The Office of the Leader of the House has 10 works of art on loan from the Government art collection. These are listed as follows:

Leader of the House of Commons

Rock Descent IV; painting by Anne Madden

Three Cadmiums, Four Discs; painting by Patrick Heron

Untitled; painting by Marta Marce

Romantic Landscape; painting by William Johnstone

Deputy Leader of the House of Commons

London Blitz 1943; photograph by George Rodger

Pontllyfni in Snow; print by Kyffin Williams

Ploughed Field and Haystacks from A Private World; photograph by Paul Nash

Boat on the Shore, South of France from A Private World; photograph by Paul Nash

Sustenance 101; photograph by Neeta Madahar

Sustenance 104; photograph by Neeta Madahar

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Vara: To ask the Leader of the House how many public consultations her Office has conducted in the last 12 months; how long each consultation was open for; how many responses were received in each case; and what the cost of conducting each consultation was. [259688]

Chris Bryant: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons conducted one public consultation in the last 12 months, on the Draft Legislative programme. The consultation began on 14 May 2008 and concluded on 6 August 2008.

With regard to the responses and cost of the consultation, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1016W. £32,035 was spent on publishing the Government's Draft Legislative programme for 2008-09. The cost of the consultation exercise on the Government's Draft Legislative programme for 2008-09 was £30,922.38.

The Government's Draft Legislative programme for 2008-09 received the views of around 1,900 people and organisations. These comprised 566 responses to the Leader of the House of Commons' website, at least 1,200 people and organisations who participated in the 62 regional events and 115 individuals and organisations who responded by post.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on developing a carbon accounting framework. [255139]

Joan Ruddock: We are developing a carbon accounting system for UK carbon budgets pursuant to sections 26, 27 and 28 of the Climate Change Act 2008. A consultation on our proposals for this system closed on 19 January, and we are currently analysing responses. We plan to lay regulations implementing the system in the spring, alongside the regulations setting the level of the first three carbon budgets.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the objectives are of developing a carbon accounting framework. [255140]

Joan Ruddock: A carbon accounting system is required to determine compliance with the carbon budgets and targets in the Climate Change Act 2008. It will set out the detailed rules for calculating the "net UK carbon account", which must not exceed the budget at the end of each budget period. This will include determining which types of carbon units can count towards the account, the circumstances when carbon units can be credited to and debited from it, and the system that will keep track of the units.

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will encourage local authorities to switch from burning fossil fuels to burning wood pellets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. [258277]

Joan Ruddock: The Government's Biomass Strategy, published in 2007, and the 2008 consultation document on the Government's Renewable Energy Strategy, issued by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, discuss the potential impacts on air quality from the use of biomass for local heating. These recognise the benefits in carbon reduction from the use of biomass, such as wood pellets, over fossil fuels such as coal or fuel oil, but that in some cases, this would result in increased emissions of air pollutants. The consultation document sets out ways the Government are seeking to facilitate uptake of biomass heat without compromising air quality or public health. A final strategy is due to be published later this year.

Copies of the published documents are available on the Department's websites:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/ENVIRONMENT/climatechange/uk/energy/renewablefuel/pdf/ukbiomassstrategy-0507.

http://renewableconsultation.berr.gov.uk/

Climate Change

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what climate models his Department *(a)* has access to and *(b)* uses, with particular reference to the climate model used by Lord Stern in his Review on the Economics of Climate Change. [255977]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has access to and utilises the findings from the suite of climate models that have been developed and continue to be refined by the Met Office Hadley Centre (MOHC), through its Integrated Climate programme. The Department, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, jointly funds this programme which aims to monitor, understand and predict climate change. As part of its climate modelling

work, the MOHC collaborates with other research centres in the UK and internationally in the development of these models.

The outputs from the MOHC's climate models are a key element of the scientific evidence base that underpins our policy development and international negotiations on climate change. My Department also uses the findings from the international set of climate models and associated modelling work that contributed to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The simple model for climate policy assessment (SiMCaP) climate model was used to provide mitigation trajectories for the global carbon finance (GLOCAF) model, developed by the Office of Climate Change to look at the costs to different countries of moving to a low carbon global economy, and the kind of international financial flows this might generate.

Climate Change: International Cooperation

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to meet *(a)* the US Energy Secretary and *(b)* the White House Energy Co-ordinator to discuss (i) the outcome of the UN Climate Change Conference in Poznan, (ii) a funding mechanism for the UN Climate Change Adaptation Fund and (iii) the transfer of carbon-neutral and clean technologies to the developing world; and if he will make a statement. [255733]

Joan Ruddock: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had initial discussions with both the US Energy Secretary and White House staff. He will have further discussions with the US Administration during his visit to the United States in March.

Combined Heat and Power: Oils

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to encourage the use of combined heat and power generated from cooking oil recycled by means of gravity separation and filtration techniques; and if he will make a statement. [258815]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Good quality combined heat and power benefits from a number of support mechanisms, such as exemption from the climate change levy and enhanced capital allowances. Combined heat and power produced from a renewable fuel meeting the legal requirements also benefits from the operation of the renewables obligation.

Departmental Foreign Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [256211]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information that has been requested is not held centrally by BERR or DECC HR and is not therefore available to us without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Appointments

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to appoint a Chief Engineering Adviser in his Department. [255160]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC currently has no plans to appoint a Chief Engineering Advisor. The Chief Scientific Adviser for DECC, who will be appointed shortly, will deal with issues relating to science, engineering and technology—as does the Government Chief Scientific Adviser and Chief Scientific Advisers in other Departments.

Energy Supply

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of the UK's power is generated by *(a)* wind farms, *(b)* solar, *(c)* nuclear power stations, *(d)* coal-fired power stations, *(e)* clean coal-fired power stations, *(f)* gas-fired power stations, *(g)* oil-fired power stations, *(h)* tidal sources and *(i)* geo-thermal power stations. [259544]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Separate data are not yet available for tidal, geo-thermal, because of the small number of sites using these technologies. For 2007, the percentages of UK generation by the other sources requested are given in the following table. Corresponding figures for 2008 will be published on 30 July 2009.

	Generation (GWh)	*Share of total UK generation (percentage)*
Gas	164,473	41.5
Coal	136,685	34.5
Nuclear	63,028	15.9
Oil	4,693	1.2
Wind	5,274	1.3
Solar	11	<0.1
Other fuels	21,978	5.5
Total	396,142	100.0

Source:
Digest of UK Energy Statistics, 2008, Tables 7.4 and 5.6, available at: http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/statistics/publications/dukes/page45537.html

Energy: Prices

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average amount billed for fuel consumption for *(a)* a one-bedroom flat, *(b)* a two-bedroom flat, *(c)* a three-bedroom house and *(d)* a four-bedroom house in (i) North Wiltshire constituency, (ii) Wiltshire, (iii) London and (iv) England in the last 12 months. [258280]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC does not hold data on energy bills split by size of property, or on a constituency or county basis.

However, DECC does hold information on the average annual gas and electricity bills a household is likely to incur in each PES (public electricity supplier) area and gas LDZ (local distribution zone). These bills are based on standard consumption levels of 3,300 kWh for electricity and 18,000 kWh for gas.

The latest data, published by DECC in Quarterly Energy Prices, suggest that in 2008 customers paying their bill on receipt (standard credit) would pay:

	Electricity	*Gas*	£ *Total*
Wiltshire[1]	380	571	951
London[2]	392	572	964
England	405	570	975

[1] For Wiltshire the PES electricity area is southern and the LDZ for gas is south west.
[2] For London the PES electricity area is London and the LDZ for gas is North Thames.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average amount billed for fuel consumption for a *(a)* one-bedroom flat, *(b)* two-bedroom flat, *(c)* three-bedroom house and *(d)* four-bedroom house in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire in the last 12 months. [260086]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC does not hold data on energy bills split by household size, or on constituency or county basis.

However, DECC does hold information on the average annual gas and electricity bills a household is likely to incur in each PES (Public Electricity Supplier) area and gas LDZ (Local Distribution Zone). These bills are based on standard consumption levels of 3,300 kWh for electricity and 18,000 kWh for gas.

The latest data, published in Quarterly Energy Prices, suggest that in 2008 customers paying their bill on receipt (standard credit) would pay:

Hemel Hempstead (Eastern PES/LDZ)

	£
Electricity	393
Gas	575
Total	968

Fines

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether any administrative financial penalties may be levied by his Department. [253595]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was formed on 3 October 2008, bringing together policy responsibility for energy (formerly with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR)) and climate change (formerly with the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)).

Fuels: Prices

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of trends in the pump price of *(a)* liquefied petroleum gas and *(b)* other motor fuels in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [258687]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC does not hold disaggregated data on the retail price of liquid petroleum gas. Petrol and diesel prices are published weekly and are available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/statistics/source/prices/page47818.html

A more extensive assessment can be found in DECC's 'Quarterly Energy Prices' publication, which is available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/statistics/publications/prices/index.html

Home Energy Conservation Act 1995

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to improve the implementation of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995. [255166]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DEFRA consulted on the future of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) in late 2007 and set out possible options for its future, which included repeal. Policy responsibility for HECA now rests with the Department of Energy and Climate Change and there will be an announcement on its future shortly.

Marine Renewables Deployment Fund

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1379W, on Marine Renewables Deployment Fund, which projects are being supported by the Marine Renewable Deployment Fund; and how much the Fund has provided for each such project in each year since the Fund was established. [257672]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A breakdown of funds provided and in each financial year for the six research related projects and one infrastructure project supported by the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund since the Fund was established is given as follows:

		Financial year (£)			
Contractor	*Description*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Total*
Edinburgh University	Wave energy device performance assessment protocol	25,000	—	—	25,000
Edinburgh University	Tidal current device performance assessment protocol	22,000	—	—	22,000
EMEC Ltd.	Draft performance measurement standard for tidal stream devices	—	24,000	10,000	34,000

Contractor	Description	Financial year (£) 2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total
EMEC Ltd.	Rewrite of wave performance testing standard			11,000	11,000
EMEC Infrastructure	EMEC wave facility	197,000			197,000
EMEC Infrastructure	EMEC tidal facility (incl. extension)	634,000	300,000		934,000
Sustainable Development Commission	SDC Tidal Study		132,000		132,000
Hartley Anderson Ltd.	W&T environmental research		235,000	725,000	960,000
Total		870,000	691,000	747,000	2,315,000

Members: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 20 October 2008 on behalf of Mr. Peter Kendall regarding Government grants for home insulation. [259080]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I replied to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon the (Steve Webb) on behalf of Mr P Kendall on 26 February.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect of the economic recession on the renewable energy sector; and if he will make a statement. [258313]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The current global economic climate is one of a number of factors determining investment in renewable energy projects. The Government are working to create the right conditions for rapid deployment of renewable energy—both to meet challenging climate change goals and maintain energy security.

The global recession will affect availability and cost of capital to all firms, not just renewables. For the most part vertically integrated companies are well placed to manage their own capital requirements. Smaller companies may find it harder to raise capital but Government are providing a range of financial help in addition to the main financial support provided through the renewables obligation.

We also have a range of measures already in place to bring on more renewables development, including onshore and offshore wind, in order to meet our targets. Our Renewable Energy Strategy, due to be finalised in spring 2009, will build on these to provide an attractive framework for investment. Furthermore, the Secretary of State announced in the pre-Budget report that we would be extending the renewables obligation (RO) until 2037. This will ensure that investors can plan with confidence for the future so that over the next decade the market will continue to deliver the renewables projects that we need to achieve our 2020 target.

We take very seriously the concerns that some developers have raised regarding renewable energy developments in the current economic climate. We are maintaining a close dialogue with developers and stand ready to consider any evidence they bring to our attention.

Renewable Energy: Public Sector

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make it his policy to increase the proportion of energy used in public sector buildings which comes from renewable sources. [258982]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are making it a priority to increase the proportion of renewable energy in the public sector estate and have commissioned the Sustainable Development Commission to come up with a series of recommendations on how we should do this. They will report in early April.

Renewable Energy: Scotland

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) whether he has had recent discussions with Scottish Executive Ministers on the effect of the National Policy Statements for Renewable Energy on marine spatial planning in *(a)* waters out to 12 nautical miles off the Scottish coast and *(b)* the renewable energy zone off the Scottish coast; [259200]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy on the operation of Marine Scotland; [259208]

(3) whether he has had recent discussions with Scottish Executive Ministers on the effect of the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy on their consenting powers for *(a)* offshore and *(b)* onshore renewables under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. [259209]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: To date there have been no assessments of the effects of National Policy Statements (NPSs) on Marine Scotland nor have there been discussions with Scottish Executive Ministers on NPSs as they are at early stage of drafting. However, there will be public consultation on my Department's NPSs later in 2009 and my Department will want to engage with the Scottish Executive on them before then.

With the exception of certain oil and gas pipelines that cross into Scotland, the IPC will only have powers to determine applications for nationally significant energy

infrastructure projects in England and Wales and the territorial sea adjacent to England and Wales and the Renewable Energy Zone (except those parts where Scottish Ministers have functions), where a relevant NPS is in place. Therefore, the NPSs only directly apply to decisions for new infrastructure in those areas. However, energy policy is generally a reserved matter and the Scottish Executive must have regard to policy statements on energy as a relevant consideration in decisions. NPSs are, for these purposes, a statement of Government policy, so we expect that NPSs will be a relevant consideration for decisions by Scottish Ministers on energy infrastructure in Scotland.

Sight Impaired

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what guidelines his Department follows in respect of making printed materials and forms accessible to people suffering red/green colour blindness. [245714]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) follows the Central Office of Information (COI) recommendation that the use of red and green together as text/background should be avoided. DECC also follows the COI recommendation that using yellow and blue together should also be avoided.

Warm Front Scheme

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to using installers approved by the manufacturers of central heating boilers for installations under the Warm Front scheme. [255633]

Joan Ruddock: Eaga selects installers based on a competitive tendering process, in line with European public procurement regulations. Installers are chosen according to a range of criteria, including price tendered, customer service, health and safety procedures and financial probity.

At present Warm Front does not limit procurement to installers specifically approved by manufacturers, as this would lead to a restricted installer base. This could potentially result in higher prices and could disadvantage small and medium-sized enterprises.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was *(a)* budgeted for and *(b)* paid out in grants to individual households for (i) renewable energy installations and (ii) energy efficiency measures in each year since 1997; and what the equivalent figures are for 2008-09 to date. [257666]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 23 February 2009]*: Under previous grant programmes which started in 2002 the following grants were paid to householders:

Major PV Demonstration Programme with a budget of £31 million committed £11.5 million to small scale projects including householders.

Major PV Demonstration

Financial year	£
2002-03	875,828.57
2003-04	1,913,572.82
2004-05	2,884,563.52
2005-06	4,052,158.18
2006-07	1,864,398.91
Total	11,590,522.00

Out of a budget of £12.5 million the Clear Skies scheme paid the following household grants:

Household grants paid by Clear Skies

	£
2003-04	559,000
2004-05	1,559,650
2005-06	1,329,400
2006-07	806,810
Total	4,254,860

Currently under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme a £2,500 maximum grant amount can be claimed per household for up to three technologies and grant levels vary according to the technology installed. Out of a total budget of £36 million the Low Carbon Buildings Programme phase 1 has paid out the following amount in household grants:

Low Carbon Buildings Programme grants paid to householders

	£
2006-07	2,610,246.01
2007-08	4,208,018.62
2008-09 (to date)	2,477,108.64
Total	9,295,373.27

Wind Power

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many wind farms he expects to begin being constructed in each of the next five years. [259459]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In order for the UK to meet its share of the EU renewables target, we expect new wind farm projects to begin construction in the next five years. However, it is not possible at this stage to predict the exact number and timings.

There are currently 176 onshore and offshore wind developments (7855.1 MWe) which have received consent and are awaiting construction in the UK. The years in which these projects will begin construction depend on developers' plans.

Additionally, there are 224 onshore and offshore wind projects (7261.7 MWe) currently in the planning system. These may not all receive consent. However, a number of those that do receive consent may begin construction in the next five years. Further projects not currently in planning may also come forward in this timeframe.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many wind turbines he expects to begin being constructed in each of the next five years. [259507]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to his question 259459 today regarding the number of wind farms expected to begin construction in the next five years. It is not possible to provide a precise figure for the number of turbines as this will vary by site according to factors such as location and wind speed. In addition, larger turbines are being developed, meaning fewer turbines may be needed.

However, taking an average turbine size of 3 megawatts (MW) it is possible to estimate the number of turbines which may be built for projects awaiting construction and those presently in the planning system.

For example, there are currently 7855.1 MWe of onshore and offshore wind developments awaiting construction. This would be equivalent to 2618 3MW turbines. For those in planning, 7261.7 MWe of onshore and offshore wind would be equivalent to 2420 3MW turbines. However, not all of these projects may receive consent.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Catering

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks suppliers have been used by his Department in each of the last three years; and how much his Department paid to each such supplier in each of those years. [248388]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department authorises the expenditure of public funds on food and drink only where it is in the public interest and conducive to the conduct of public business. Such expenditure is in the context of a Department of over 100,000 staff dealing, on a daily basis, with many thousands of employers, suppliers and other partners.

In 1998 the Department entered into a 20 year Private Finance Initiative deal with Trillium, known as the PRIME Contract, for the provision of fully serviced accommodation, including catering, for which the Department pays a fully inclusive unitary charge. Services are delivered through a network of Service Partners and Trillium's Service Partner for catering is Eurest. Local suppliers are used where Eurest is unable to provide a service at a particular site. Expenditure with Eurest for the three years and with the other suppliers for 2006-07 and 2007-08 is provided in the following table.

Non-Eurest expenditure information for 2005-06 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Detail is provided for the top five suppliers only, as there are almost 400 other suppliers.

	Supplier	*Expenditure[1] (£)*
2005-06	Eurest	540,000
Total		540,000
2006-07	Eurest	590,000
	O'Briens Sandwich Bar	40,000
	Le Mange Tout	20,000
	Northern Land and Leisure	10,000
	Archers Catering	10,000
	Celebration Caterers	10,000
	Others	220,000
Total		900,000
2007-08	Eurest	760,000
	MacLellan International Ltd.	90,000
	O'Briens Sandwich Bar	40,000
	Northern Land and Leisure	40,000
	Compact Catering	40,000
	Amanda's	20,000
	Others	620,000
Total		1,610,000

[1] In December 2006 a software improvement was introduced on the Department's Resource Management (RM) computer system, which enabled hospitality to be captured more accurately for the last three months of 2006-07 and for all of 2007-08. While the effect of this has caused an apparent increase in hospitality between 2006-07 and 2007-08, there is no evidence that actual hospitality expenditure has increased.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 573W, on departmental data protection, whether the Customer Information System *(a)* is accredited to his Department's information systems security standards and *(b)* was so accredited before 1 July 2008. [259702]

Jonathan Shaw: The Customer Information System was accredited for compliance with the Department's prevailing information system security standards in 2005. The system has not subsequently been accredited to the new standards published by the Cabinet Office last year, which only apply to those systems introduced from 1 July 2008. All current systems that are not accredited to the new standards are fully authorised for use with any residual risks having been identified and managed.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 573W, on departmental data protection, whether a privacy impact assessment has been carried out on the Customer Information System. [259706]

Jonathan Shaw: The Cabinet Office requirement for privacy impact assessments applies to new systems introduced after 1 July 2008. The Customer Information System was introduced several years ago, and therefore a privacy impact assessment is not required.

Departmental Pay

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the hourly rate of pay was for the lowest paid staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [258016]

Jonathan Shaw: The DWP pays employees an annual salary and does not use an hourly rate.

The following table details the minimum of the AA/Band A National pay scale, along with an hourly rate equivalent. As at December 2008, 393 of the Department's total staff of 94,297 (full time equivalent) were on this rate.

£

	AA National minimum annual salary	AA National minimum hourly rate equivalent[1]
2008	12,850	6.65
2007	12,590	6.52
2006	12,340	6.39
2005	11,750	6.08
2004	11,190	5.79

[1] The hourly calculation is based on net 37 hours per week, the required full-time working hours.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the policy of his Department and its agencies is on granting staff time off in lieu for working *(a)* in lunch breaks, *(b)* in evenings and *(c)* at other times outside contracted working hours; and if he will make a statement. [252005]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is as follows:

(a) Obligations and rights concerning the working day and breaks at work are contained in a collective agreement with departmental trade unions.

Time off in lieu for working lunch breaks is not granted. The Department recognises that working for long periods without taking a break is not good for an individual. For this reason DWP staff are expected to take a meal break at an appropriate point in the day.

(b) Time off in lieu of working evenings is only available to individuals not contracted to work this pattern.

(c) As a result of working outside contracted hours and as an alternative to extra hours or overtime pay, an employee may, with their line manager's agreement, take time off in lieu for the hours actually worked, excluding meal breaks. In agreeing to this, a line manager will balance the individual's request with business needs.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many days off in lieu were granted to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies for working (i) in lunch breaks and (ii) at other times outside contracted working hours, in the last year for which figures are available. [252006]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP does not maintain central records of the total or average days taken off in lieu by employees. To extract this information from individual records for the period requested would incur a disproportionate cost. Non-departmental public bodies do not hold this information.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in receipt of *(a)* attendance allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance have recorded dementia as a qualifying medical condition on their applications for benefit; what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on automatic enrolment for the (i) 25 per cent. council tax discount for two person households where one of the residents is in receipt of attendance allowance or disability living allowance and (ii) 100 per cent. council tax discount where a single person household is in receipt of attendance allowance or disability living allowance; what estimate his Department has made of the take up of the (A) 25 per cent. and (B) 100 per cent. council tax discounts among households in receipt of attendance allowance or disability living allowance; and if he will make a statement. [258726]

Jonathan Shaw: As at the end of August 2008, there were 107,130 people in receipt of attendance allowance and 10,300 people in receipt of disability living allowance where their main disabling condition has been recorded as dementia.

There have been no discussions at ministerial or official level with the Department for Communities and Local Government regarding automatic enrolment for council tax discounts. No estimates have been made about the take-up of council tax discounts among households where someone is in receipt of attendance allowance or disability living allowance.

Notes:

1. Disability living allowance figures are rounded to the nearest 100 and have been adjusted to be consistent with WPLS data. Attendance allowance caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Although the preferred data source for benefit statistics is 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, the 5 per cent. sample data have been used in this case because they provide some detail not yet available from the 100 per. cent data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of disability living allowance claimants.

3. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.

4. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to disability living allowance. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes.

5. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

Sources:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample (DLA) and DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (AA)

Disability Living Allowance: EC Nationals

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many nationals of each non-UK EU member state were in receipt of each rate of disability living allowance for the most recent period for which figures are available. [259650]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Electronic Data Systems

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department *(a)* is contractually obliged to spend and *(b)* plans to spend on services provided by EDS in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [260214]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The amounts the Department is contractually obliged to spend with EDS for IT services are: £190 million in respect of 2008-09 and £181 million in respect of 2009-10.

(b) The current estimated expenditure with EDS is £554 million in 2008-09 and £434 million in 2009-10.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which of his Department's IT projects EDS is involved with; and which are project managed by *(a)* EDS employees and *(b)* officials of his Department. [260215]

Jonathan Shaw: Although the Department for Work and Pensions does not have any discrete IT projects, it has a number of projects and programmes that include changes to, or new, IT to a greater or lesser extent.

The following table includes:

the projects and programmes currently on the Department's Portfolio where the IT element of the project or programme results in the development and/or implementation of services that underpin the delivery of departmental business; and

with which EDS have involvement to a greater or lesser extent.

All the projects listed are managed by departmental officials.

Initiatives that are associated with ongoing system improvements or enhancements as part of business as usual are excluded.

Table 1: Current DWP IT projects which have EDS involvement

Project	Purpose
Employment and support allowance	The project delivers the systems, processes and training to support delivery of the new Employment and Support Allowance.
Customer information system	This project will deliver a database of key citizen information to be shared across DWP. The database will complement information currently available in the Department's key customer information systems, i.e. Personal Details Computer System and Departmental Central Index, and become their replacement. Consideration is being given for wider use of CIS by other Government Departments.
Central payments system	A modern integrated central payment engine and accounts payable system to improve accounting for benefit/pension payments. The system will also reduce risks of service failure, increase speed and efficiency, and provide information to improve customer service and reduce fraud and error.
Pensions transformation programme	The programme will transform The Pension Service, bringing together business and IT change in ways that improve customer service and deliver efficiencies.
Pension reform delivery programme	To co-ordinate, manage and deliver a range of measures and consequential impacts which will establish a new structure for the UK Pension System long term.
Document repository service	This project seeks to support the Department's modernisation programmes through the provision of a document repository to store digitised images of documents received from customers (letters, faxes, emails etc.), cutting down paper in the organisation.
Data centre strategy	The project is addressing the ongoing continued threat of business service continuity with a replacement strategy for Washington Data Centre.
DWP change programme	This programme brigades a number of complementary initiatives to deliver the DWP Business Vision. It includes projects to bring in continuous improvement using lean techniques which should allow greater customer focus and efficiency in our process and business improvement projects to allow greater access to information.
Provider referrals and payment project	Deploy an IT system to automate and enable payment transactions between Jobcentre Plus and training providers.
Local services integration programme	To provide local services with an IT solution that supports the end to end process making administration more efficient.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contracts his Department currently holds with EDS; and when each is due to expire. [260221]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department contracts with EDS for the following services:

Services	*Due to expire*	*Additional information*
Desktop	31 August 2010	Can be extended to 23 February 2015
Hosting and Data Centre	22 February 2015	n/a
Application Development	31 August 2010	Can be extended to 23 February 2015
Application Maintenance and Support	31 August 2010	Can be extended to 23 February 2015
Service Integration and Management	31 August 2010	Can be extended to 23 February 2015
Clarke House Norcross print/output centre sub lease	31 August 2010	Can be extended to 23 February 2015
SDC4 Data Centre Durham House Washington data centre and print/output centre sub lease	31 August 2010	Can be extended to 23 February 2015
Durham House Washington (Tower) EDS occupy office space under a licence agreement	31 August 2010	Can be extended to 23 February 2015

Employment Services: Redundancy

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the additional £3 million funding for the Jobcentre Plus Rapid Response Service will be available; how many additional staff will be employed by the Rapid Response Service as a result of the additional funding; and how the additional £3 million of funding will be allocated. [255183]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the

acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking when the additional £3 million funding for the Jobcentre Plus Rapid Response Service will come into effect; how many additional staff will be employed by the Rapid Response Service as a result of the additional funding; and how the additional £3 million of funding will be allocated. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

An additional £3 million is available for the Rapid Response Service (RRS) in the 2008/09 financial year to support the expansion of the service. A further £6 million is also available for the next financial year, 2009/10. In total therefore there is now £6 million available for RRS in 2008/09 and £12 million in 2009/10.

The additional funds for 2008/09 are available already. This funding is to provide direct support to individuals facing redundancy rather than for extra Jobcentre Plus staffing.

I should set the position in its full context. We typically deliver our Rapid Response Service in partnership with other local agencies—for example local authorities, the Learning and Skills Council in England and others. It is very common for these partnerships to be able to provide the support and services individuals need from within their existing resources—for example, local Jobcentre Plus staff would make initial workplace presentations, existing publicly funded training opportunities would be made available to people.

In that context, our Rapid Response Service funding is designed to ensure that we are able to deliver support which individuals need in a specific situation, but which cannot be sourced from partners' existing programmes and operations. Examples of the uses of RRS funding include providing individuals with a Skills Transfer Analysis, enabling individuals to undertake job-related training that is not available through partners' existing programmes and supporting individuals to be able to take up a new job, for example with initial travel costs.

I should add that each Jobcentre Plus district has appointed a Rapid Response Manager to co-ordinate RRS support. Those posts have however been funded from the resources for extra staff announced for Jobcentre Plus in the Pre-Budget Report rather than from the additional funds for RRS.

We have allocated the additional RRS funding equally between each English region, Scotland, and Wales. A similar amount is held centrally in a contingency fund for those who need to call on any extra funds.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of incapacity benefit claimants in each region have been in receipt of incapacity benefits for five years or more; and what those numbers are per 100,000 population in each region; [258096]

(2) how many and what proportion of incapacity benefit claimants had been in receipt of the benefit for five years or more in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available. [258097]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The information is in the following tables.

The number and proportion of working age incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants of over five years by Government Office Region and per 100,000 of the working age population

Government Office Region	*Caseload of recipients over five years*	*Proportion of total caseload (percentage)*	*Claimants of over five years per 100,000 of working age population*
North East	93,020	60.5	4,193
North West	228,630	58.4	3,589
Yorkshire and The Humber	130,060	56.7	2,824
East Midlands	98,480	55.4	2,665
West Midlands	130,670	55.4	2,774
East	94,410	53.1	1,912
London	161,590	53.1	1,538
South East	122,910	51.8	1,657
South West	102,730	53.6	2,273
Wales	112,970	59.7	4,644
Scotland	168,640	58.0	3,623
Great Britain	1,444,030	56.0	2,643

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Durations refer to incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance awards.
3. Working age population figures are for GB only, taken from the Office for National Statistics mid year population estimate for 2007.
4. *Data available from www.nomis.co.uk.*

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate, 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

The number and percentage of working age incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants who have been receiving benefit for more than five years in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available

	November 2007		*February 2008*		*May 2008*		*August 2008*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Great Britain	1,457,160	55.4	1,452,590	55.7	1,448,050	56.0	1,444,030	56.0

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Durations refer to incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance awards.
3. Data available from www.nomis.co.uk

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate, 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Invalid Vehicles: Elderly

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment his Department has made of provision for motor assistance for those aged over 65 years who are ineligible for the Motability scheme. [260382]

Jonathan Shaw: No recent assessment has been made specifically of the provision of motor assistance for those aged over 65 years. Recipients of benefits paid to those aged over 65 years are free to spend their benefit according to their own priorities.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how long on average it took to process a claim for jobseeker's allowance in the last four weeks for which figures are available; and how many claims took over 14 days to process in this period. [253727]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 2 February 2009]*: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Members: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 29 October 2008 on behalf of Alison Crump, regarding legal advice given to those completing benefit forms. [259081]

Jonathan Shaw: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 26 February 2009.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 22WS, on disability benefits, what changes his Department has made to the eligibility criteria for payment of disability benefits as a consequence of the consideration of the European Court of Justice decision of 18 October 2007. [260373]

Jonathan Shaw: There have been no changes to the eligibility criteria for payment of disability benefits applied domestically, as a consequence of the European Court of Justice judgment of 18 October 2007.

For people going to live or already living in another European economic area (EEA) state or Switzerland, their claims must be considered under the provisions of the sickness benefit chapter of the European Regulation 1408/71. For these customers, the ordinary residence and presence conditions, which apply domestically, are not applied. Other domestic conditions of entitlement, such as the disability conditions and the past presence test, still apply. The latter test, under domestic legislation, requires a customer to be present in Great Britain for not less than 26 out of the last 52 weeks and it applies for every day that a customer claims benefit. However, for people going to live or already living in another EEA state or Switzerland, the test has been modified: for customers taking the benefit away with them, it is last applied on the date of 'export' and for customers claiming from another EEA state or Switzerland it is applied only once, on the date on which entitlement to benefit can be established.

State Retirement Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when he will publish details of the scheme under the Pensions Act 2008 allowing people to buy back additional years of Class 3 National Insurance contributions; from what date the new Act will apply; and if he will make a statement; [255299]

(2) whether he plans to *(a)* publish explanatory literature, *(b)* establish a telephone help contact point and *(c)* provide other public information on the terms of the scheme under the Pensions Act 2008 for people to buy back additional years of Class 3 national insurance contributions; what personalised advice services will be provided to individuals on making such payments; and if he will make a statement. [255465]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 9 February 2009]*: On 24 October the Government announced that certain people reaching state pension age between 6 April 2008 and 5 April 2015 could pay up to six extra years of voluntary class 3 national insurance contributions for tax years from 1975, providing they already have 20 qualifying years (including full years of home responsibilities protection). This measure was contained in the 2008 Pensions Act.

Information about the measure is available on the Pension Service website at:

www.thepensionservice.gov.uk/state-pension/basic/faqs.asp

That information can also be accessed from the HM Revenue and Customs website. We will update the information before the measure comes into force on 6 April 2009. I am placing a copy in the Library.

The Department for Work and Pensions and HM Revenue and Customs are also currently working together to agree business procedures for the measure and what changes may be needed to leaflets, letters and forms.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Rural Community Enterprises

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support she plans to make available to community enterprises in rural areas in 2009-10. [259892]

Hazel Blears: My Department is finalising the details of our £70m Community Builders programme which will support and sustain community led organisations in local neighbourhoods to improve opportunities for local people. All community enterprises, both rural and urban, are welcome to apply.

Traveller Sites

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the latest guidance to local authorities is on provision of sites for Travellers. [259893]

Mr. Sadiq Khan: Planning Policy for the provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers is set out in ODPM Circular 01/2006.

Local Authorities and Gypsies and Travellers: A Guide to Responsibilities and Powers was published in May 2007 and is available on the Communities and Local Government website.

Rough Sleeping

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology her Department uses to estimate levels of rough sleeping. [259894]

Mr. Iain Wright: The methodology is set out in the Department's guidance on evaluating the extent of rough sleeping which has been developed in conjunction with the voluntary sector. Our new rough sleeping strategy 'No One Left Out' will bring in changes that will enable more in-depth reporting of rough sleeping.

Social Housing: Oxfordshire

12. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding she plans to make available for social housing in Oxfordshire in the next five years. [259895]

Margaret Beckett: Nearly £26 million has so far been committed for affordable housing in Oxfordshire from the Homes and Communities Agency's 2008-11 programme. This will support provision of 1,400 units, around 60 per cent. of which are planned to be for social rent. Further funding will depend on value for money and deliverability of schemes.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund

13. **Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes to the Working Neighbourhoods Fund will be introduced as a result of the recent consultation on the revision of eligibility criteria for local authorities. [259896]

Hazel Blears: The changes are that the third criterion is revised to make use of the most up-to-date population estimates, and that the cut-off point is extended from 40 to 50 authorities. This enables us to maintain in broad terms the number of authorities who qualify for Working Neighbourhood Fund.

Flood Risk: Development

14. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning guidance her Department has issued to local planning authorities on development of areas at risk of flooding. [259897]

John Healey: Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25), Development and Flood Risk, provides the policy framework for local planning authorities to avoid, manage and reduce flood risk to new development. This is supported by the Practice Guide we published in June 2008 to assist local planners in implementing PPS25 policy.

Regional Fire Control Rooms

15. **James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the establishment of regional fire control rooms. [259898]

Mr. Sadiq Khan: We are aiming to achieve cutover to the first three regional control centres in the North East, East Midlands and South West in summer 2010—nine months later than previously expected, with the full system in place by spring 2012, five months later than originally planned.

Repeat Planning Applications

16. **Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to planning authorities on procedures applicable to repeat planning applications. [259899]

Mr. Iain Wright: The current guidance to local authorities on repeat applications is in the departmental circular 08/2005. This provision, from the "Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004", extends the existing power to decline to determine planning applications dismissed on appeal to include those repeat applications refused by the planning authority and where there was no appeal to the Secretary of State in the last two years.

House Building

17. **Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions her Department has had with representatives of the construction industry on likely levels of house-building during the economic downturn. [259900]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has lead responsibility for sponsorship of the construction industry. However, my Department, and our agencies, such as the Homes and Communities Agency, have regular dialogue with those sectors of the industry most directly engaged in meeting our departmental strategic objectives. This includes, but is not restricted to, house builders and developers and their supply chain partners. The dialogue is maintained largely through regular meetings with both individual representatives and representative bodies, such as the Home Builders Federation, as well as participation in round-tables, seminars and other fora. The downturn in house building levels has featured regularly in these discussions, as have many other issues facing the industry. The Government have been keen to explore ways to ensure that the effects of the downturn on house building output can be mitigated, so that vital new homes continue to be constructed, jobs and skills can be protected, and so that everything possible is in place to assist a rapid recovery in the market.

Gypsy and Traveller Sites

18. **Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has for the future provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites. [259901]

Mr. Khan: Planning policy for the provision of Gypsy And Traveller sites is set out in ODPM circular 01/2006: "Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites". Local authorities have a duty to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies And Travellers and identify enough land to meet the number of pitches set out in the regional spatial strategy. The Homes and Communities Agency will continue to provide funding for the provision of new public sites.

Social Housing: North-West England

19. **Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many families were re-housed into social housing from social housing registers in the North West in each of the last five years. [259903]

Mr. Iain Wright: My Department does not gather the information in the form requested. However, it does gather the information on the number of social homes let.

The following information is for the North West and covers the period requested.

	Total
2003-04	65,649
2004-05	57,555
2005-06	50,041
2006-07	51,477
2007-08	47,442

Business Rates: Humber Ports

21. **Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her policy is on the retrospective levying of business rates in the Humber ports; and if she will make a statement. [259905]

John Healey: The review of ports by the Valuation Office Agency was to ensure that all individual business within and outside of ports are treated in the same way. In the current economic climate the Government understand it could be harder for businesses that are faced with significant unexpected backdated bills of more than 33 months from 1 April 2005 to discharge their liabilities, which is why legislation has been laid before Parliament so that businesses facing such bills in those circumstances will not be required to pay their backdated liability within the financial year at present, and will be able to do so in equal interest-free instalments over eight years.

Repossessed and Empty Houses

22. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of changes in the number of *(a)* repossessed and *(b)* empty houses in the last 12 months. [259906]

Mr. Iain Wright: In the 12 months to December 2008 there were 40,000 repossessions in the UK. This compares to 26,200 in the 12 months to December 2007.

Source:

"Council of Mortgage Lenders".

The number of long term empty homes in England as at 15 September 2008 is 328,000. This compares to 314,000 on 17 September 2007.

Source:

"Council Taxbase and Council Taxbase Supplementary (CTBI and CTBIS) returns from local authorities".

Right-to-buy Sales

23. **Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many right-to-buy sales of council houses she expects to take place during 2009-10; and if she will make a statement. [259907]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is not available. It is up to each individual tenant who qualifies for the right-to-buy to decide whether to purchase their homes, in the light of their personal circumstances.

Sustainable Communities Act 2007

24. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms her Department uses to evaluate the effectiveness of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [259908]

Mr. Khan: Last October the Secretary of State invited local authorities to submit proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act. Local authorities have until 31 July 2009 to put forward proposals. The Local Government Association and Communities and Local Government will consider the lessons from the first round as it develops, and will publish information on further invitations in due course.

Asylum: Expenditure

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on the Gateway refugee programme in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [260093]

Mr. Khan: The Gateway refugee programme is administered by the United Kingdom Borders Agency. Communities and Local Government makes no financial contribution.

Compulsory Purchase: Travelling People

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local planning authorities on the use of compulsory purchase powers to obtain land for new authorised Traveller pitches. [259606]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1278W.

Council Housing: Standards

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1778W, on council housing: Crosby, how much funding has been allocated to Sefton Borough Council in 2008-09 to reduce the number of council homes that do not meet the Decent Homes Standard. [260154]

Mr. Iain Wright: No funding has been allocated to Sefton metropolitan borough council in 2008-09 to reduce the number of council homes that do not meet the Decent Homes Standard. The council transferred its stock to One Vision Housing (a Registered Social Landlord) under large scale voluntary transfer arrangements in October 2006).

Council Housing: Sustainable Development

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much on average it cost a local authority to build a unit of new social housing to Code for Sustainable Homes Level 5 standard at the latest period for which figures are available. [258960]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are no requirements for new homes funded by Government to be built to code level 5, only level 3. Currently, the only costs analysis we have completed of building to the code are those in "Cost Analysis of the Code for Sustainable Homes" published in July 2008, written by Cyrill Sweett. The report is available to download at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/codecostanalysis

We are currently in the process of updating the cost analysis for the consultation on the code, in light of changes to Building Regulations in 2010.

Disadvantaged

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1410W, on pensioners: low incomes, what the 2007 Indices of Multiple Deprivation data on emergency admissions to hospital are, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [259515]

John Healey: Indices of Multiple Deprivation data on emergency admissions to hospital are published at lower super output area level (geographical units with an average of 1,500 population).

We do not produce a score for this at parliamentary constituency level.

European Regional Development

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what restrictions she has placed on applications by English regions for unspent European Regional Development funding. [259902]

John Healey: The 2000-06 ERDF programmes were scheduled to cease spending as of 31 December 2008. Therefore the issue of the placing of restrictions does not apply.

HomeBuy Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were purchased under (1) the New Build HomeBuy Scheme in *(a)* each region and *(b)* each London borough in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and how many have been purchased in each area in 2008-09 to date; [258965]

(2) the Open Market HomeBuy Scheme in *(a)* each region and *(b)* each London borough in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and how many have been purchased in each area in 2008-09 to date. [258966]

Margaret Beckett: The following table shows the regional distribution of open market homebuy and new build homebuy completions for 2006-07, 2007-08 and up to end of January 2009 for 2008-09. These are based on the local authority in which the property is located.

	Open market homebuy			*New build homebuy*		
Region name (by location)	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09 to end January*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09 to end January*
North East	1	12	22	100	106	112
North West	66	191	174	724	905	393
Yorks and Humber	31	98	234	303	393	285
East Midlands	64	78	212	810	1,301	630
West Midlands	137	149	352	651	1,339	614
Eastern	378	541	861	1,211	1,770	559
London	787	478	856	3,549	4,786	2,418
South East	951	977	1,537	2,844	2,963	1,464
South West	92	352	607	825	1,317	774
	2,507	2,876	4,855	11,017	14,880	7,249

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System

The following table shows the figures for each London borough of open market homebuy and new build homebuy completions for 2006-07, 2007-08 and up to end of January 2009 for 2008-09. These are based on the local authority in which the property is located.

	Open market homebuy			*New build homebuy*		
Location LA name	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09 to end January*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09 to end January*
City of London	0	0	7	0	0	0
Barking and Dagenham	32	18	24	122	160	13
Barnet	15	20	29	18	48	27
Bexley	42	29	65	49	164	0
Brent	8	5	10	184	109	220
Bromley	65	24	59	36	97	48
Camden	3	0	10	19	51	27

Location LA name	Open market homebuy			New build homebuy		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 to end January	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 to end January
Croydon	63	34	66	151	212	29
Ealing	21	15	17	362	174	101
Enfield	50	25	35	96	223	0
Greenwich	45	21	42	233	292	42
Hackney	12	9	11	284	315	294
Hammersmith and Fulham	3	3	8	134	143	81
Haringey	22	17	13	144	174	115
Harrow	9	17	16	37	87	101
Havering	21	18	24	38	99	101
Hillingdon	29	21	24	49	63	0
Hounslow	13	17	20	210	514	44
Islington	13	2	11	353	111	42
Kensington and Chelsea	0	0	2	22	14	4
Kingston upon Thames	22	12	28	8	27	0
Lambeth	34	21	44	16	112	101
Lewisham	72	26	46	10	183	4
Merton	25	7	24	29	163	30
Newham	12	6	18	171	290	184
Redbridge	26	18	19	90	15	46
Richmond upon Thames	8	11	22	12	50	32
Southwark	14	15	11	142	237	109
Sutton	53	36	71	12	10	90
Tower Hamlets	7	3	10	272	426	378
Waltham Forest	24	23	38	91	38	17
Wandsworth	20	3	25	147	168	136
Westminster	4	2	7	8	17	2
	787	478	856	3,549	4,786	2,418

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many developers have submitted bids to the Homes and Communities Agency to participate in the HomeBuy Direct scheme; and if she will make a statement; [259429]

(2) how many individuals had applied for assistance under the HomeBuy Direct scheme at the latest date for which figures are available; [259521]

(3) when she expects the HomeBuy Direct scheme to be fully operational; and if she will make a statement; [259524]

(4) by what date she expects the first properties to be purchased via the HomeBuy Direct scheme. [259684]

Mr. Iain Wright: Allowing for bids from different operating companies within recognised overall group structures, 133 organisations submitted bids to the Homes and Communities Agency to provide the HomeBuy Direct scheme on more than 23,000 properties. This strong response from developers has allowed us to expand the scheme to help up to 18,000 first time buyers (rather than up to 10,000 as was originally planned).

The scheme is now in the process of being rolled out. 3,000 HomeBuy Direct properties are available to purchasers now, and further properties will become available very soon.

The Homes and Communities Agency does not collect data on the number of applications from individuals for the scheme.

Housing: Construction

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many private sector dwellings were *(a)* started and *(b)* completed in each quarter of each of the last 30 years. [259581]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of private enterprise new house building starts and completions in England in each quarter since 1980.

Private enterprise new house building starts and completions in England, in each quarter since 1980

		Private enterprise	
		Starts	Completions
1980	Q1	20,640	28,090
	Q2	25,280	26,690
	Q3	20,430	27,440
	Q4	17,770	28,010
1981	Q1	23,020	25,430
	Q2	28,250	22,360
	Q3	28,590	24,760
	Q4	21,990	26,340
1982	Q1	27,940	24,870
	Q2	33,740	24,990
	Q3	33,400	26,480
	Q4	28,150	32,450

Private enterprise new house building starts and completions in England, in each quarter since 1980

		Private enterprise	
		Starts	*Completions*
1983	Q1	35,420	28,860
	Q2	42,700	31,740
	Q3	39,430	31,320
	Q4	33,440	37,570
1984	Q1	33,010	34,380
	Q2	39,460	31,770
	Q3	36,020	34,600
	Q4	29,800	38,230
1985	Q1	29,900	32,480
	Q2	40,130	32,520
	Q3	39,760	32,670
	Q4	34,490	37,780
1986	Q1	32,430	32,410
	Q2	45,750	34,990
	Q3	44,350	36,460
	Q4	36,360	45,030
1987	Q1	39,960	38,660
	Q2	45,860	38,660
	Q3	48,180	39,270
	Q4	40,890	45,150
1988	Q1	45,880	44,380
	Q2	54,780	41,770
	Q3	50,240	44,730
	Q4	45,070	45,140
1989	Q1	40,570	40,400
	Q2	41,700	37,310
	Q3	33,410	37,000
	Q4	26,220	39,290
1990	Q1	29,470	34,840
	Q2	30,440	31,540
	Q3	28,310	33,010
	Q4	24,510	36,660
1991	Q1	25,700	31,280
	Q2	32,500	32,150
	Q3	31,460	32,890
	Q4	24,650	34,860
1992	Q1	26,940	32,150
	Q2	28,910	28,550
	Q3	24,510	29,850
	Q4	19,230	28,980
1993	Q1	29,110	28,530
	Q2	31,560	27,890

Private enterprise new house building starts and completions in England, in each quarter since 1980

		Private enterprise	
		Starts	*Completions*
	Q3	30,130	28,550
	Q4	25,660	31,670
1994	Q1	32,590	27,950
	Q2	36,980	29,220
	Q3	33,470	31,810
	Q4	28,360	33,730
1995	Q1	29,220	30,990
	Q2	33,040	31,880
	Q3	27,280	30,690
	Q4	20,870	31,910
1996	Q1	26,960	29,140
	Q2	31,590	28,570
	Q3	33,100	30,300
	Q4	29,940	33,550
1997	Q1	35,320	28,750
	Q2	35,360	33,090
	Q3	34,340	31,660
	Q4	31,060	34,730
1998	Q1	35,530	28,350
	Q2	34,760	31,320
	Q3	33,870	30,580
	Q4	27,420	32,260
1999	Q1	33,600	27,040
	Q2	34,620	29,980
	Q3	32,780	32,450
	Q4	29,460	33,720
2000	Q1	35,690	28,320
	Q2	36,190	30,440
	Q3	33,720	28,490
	Q4	25,790	31,090
2001	Q1	32,900	26,630
	Q2	36,590	28,020
	Q3	36,160	29,210
	Q4	30,670	30,980
2002	Q1	35,420	27,490
	Q2	34,980	30,820
	Q3	36,490	29,640
	Q4	30,290	35,370
2003	Q1	37,930	28,630
	Q2	38,970	32,370
	Q3	37,350	30,920
	Q4	33,270	39,130

Private enterprise new house building starts and completions in England, in each quarter since 1980

		Private enterprise	
		Starts	*Completions*
2004	Q1	39,180	27,670
	Q2	43,820	35,730
	Q3	42,350	36,120
	Q4	36,800	37,810
2005	Q1	36,980	29,470
	Q2	45,000	36,710
	Q3	40,760	33,550
	Q4	38,380	42,010
2006	Q1	43,300	32,670
	Q2	42,740	38,350
	Q3	36,000	32,340
	Q4	37,340	36,550
2007	Q1	39,170	38,450
	Q2	38,940	38,490
	Q3	28,630	33,950
	Q4	33,900	41,210
2008	Q1	28,410	29,940
	Q2	28,100	31,790
	Q3	17,390	25,840
	Q4	12,280	28,140

Source:
New build starts and completions from P2 monthly and quarterly returns submitted by local authorities and the National House-Building Council to Communities and Local Government.

Housing: Expenditure

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much central Government expenditure there was on housing in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in each year since 1979. [260103]

Mr. Khan: Data on public expenditure by function are published annually in "Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses". The latest edition was published in April 2008 (HC 489) and includes data from financial year 1987-88 up to and including 2007-08.

Housing: North West

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to increase access to affordable housing in *(a)* Warrington and *(b)* the North West. [259315]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Joint Economic Commission for the North West is looking at actions to ensure that affordable housing continues to be delivered during the economic downturn. The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has made £526 million available between 2008 and 2011 to support authorities across the North West. In Warrington, the HCA has already allocated nearly £13 million to deliver 318 homes. This is in addition to a range of other proposals being considered by Warrington borough council, the HCA and local housing associations.

Lobbying

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1697-8W, on Lord Truscott, whether Baroness Andrews was involved in decisions on the application for the development of a natural gas storage facility at Preesall Saltfield, Fleetwood, Lancashire. [259456]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ministerial decisions on recovered planning appeals and called-in planning applications are all taken in the name of the Secretary of State, often by other planning Ministers. In this particular case, the decision was taken by Baroness Andrews. Ministers adhere to strict propriety rules when making decisions on planning cases, as set out at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/guidanceplanningpropriety

Local Government Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much on average it cost a local authority to service a debt of *(a)* £500,000 and *(b)* £1,000,000 borrowed (i) on the private markets and (ii) from the Public Works Loans Board in each of the last five years. [258959]

John Healey: The costs to a local authority of servicing a debt covering money borrowed will depend on a number of factors, such as for example, whether the loan was taken out on a fixed rate or a variable basis. Both the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) and the private sector offer a number of different loan arrangements. Local authorities are under a responsibility to ensure that they can afford the self-financed borrowing, as set out in the prudential system.

Local Government Finance: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of invoice payments made by Eastbourne Borough Council in 2007-08 were made within the Government's 10-day target period. [258825]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the right hon. Member for East Yorkshire (Mr. Knight) on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 242W.

Local Government Finance: Westminster

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what grants her Department has given to Westminster City Council in each year since 2005-06; what sums were awarded; in what category of expenditure each grant fell; and what grant allocations have been made for 2009-10. [259753]

Mr. Khan: In respect of 2005-06 to 2007-08, I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend gave on 12 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 502W.

The following table shows forecast expenditure in 2008-09 and planned expenditure in 2009-10.

Programme capital	2008-09 (forecast)	£ million 2009-10 (plan)
Programme revenue		
Revenue Support Grant	21.5	33.5
National Non Domestic Rates	154.3	145.3
Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme (LABGI)[1]	4.4	—
Housing Revenue Account Subsidy	6.9	6.9
Homelessness (inc Overcrowding)[2]	6.8	6.8
Housing and Planning Delivery Grant[3]	0.1	—
Area Based Grant	15.7	16.2
Total	209.7 4	208.7
Supporting People	17.1	17.1
Hostel Capital Improvement	0.8	0.0
Housing and Planning Delivery Grant[3]	0.1	—
Disabled Facilities Grant	0 5	0 5
Total	18.5	17.6

[1] The outturn for LABGI in 2007-08 was £13.3 million and expenditure for 2009-10 is yet to be announced.
[2] The Homelessness programme was transferred to the Homes and Communities Agency in December 2008.
[3] Housing and Planning Delivery grant for local authorities in 2009-10 is yet to be determined.

The Westminster city council local area agreement finishes at the end of March 2009. The council will then be able to claim Performance Reward Grant up to a maximum of £7.056 million depending on the level of success it achieves over its 12 targets. The maximum payments that will be made in 2009-10 will be £3.528 million (revenue) and £3.528 million (capital). This programme will operate in a similar way to the local public service agreement programme.

Local Government: Data Protection

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if her Department will take steps to encourage local authorities to sign up to the Information Commissioner's Personal Information Promise. [258943]

John Healey: This is a voluntary initiative and is a matter for individual local authorities who, like all public sector organisations are required to comply with data protection legislation.

My officials are working with the Local Government Association (LGA) to ensure that local authorities are aware as to how the "Personal Information Promise" relates to the guidance contained in LGA's recently published local government data handling guidelines.

Local Government: Standards

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of comprehensive performance assessments to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* the Audit Commission in the latest period for which figures are available. [260130]

John Healey: The reply I gave to the hon. Member on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 104W, explained that the cost to local authorities of Audit Commission fees for comprehensive performance assessment (CPA) is offset by revenue support grant and that the cost of the Audit Commission's work on CPA is covered by a mixture of those fees and direct grant from my Department.

The letter from the chief executive of the Audit Commission supplied as part of that answer set out two schedules providing details of the Commission's funding, covering its work on CPA for local authorities and for fire and rescue authorities, on an annual basis. Those schedules therefore provide information about the inspection fees paid by local authorities, and the Audit Commission's funding to cover the costs of carrying out CPA, up to 31 March 2008.

The Department's grant funding to the Audit Commission for 2008-09 includes an estimated £15.7 million to complete the final CPA inspection programme for local authorities. In addition, the inspection fees paid to the Commission by local authorities are estimated to be £8.3 million for the year ending 31 March 2009.

The Department also makes grant funding to the Audit Commission for the CPA inspection programme for fire and rescue authorities. For 2008-09 this is estimated to be £1.8 million.

Migrant Workers Northwest

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Migrant Workers Northwest has received funding from *(a)* her Department, *(b)* the Government Office for the North West and *(c)* the North West Regional Assembly since 2007. [259651]

Mr. Iain Wright: Migrant Workers Northwest receives no funding from Communities and Local Government, from the Government office for the north-west or from 4NW (the successor organisation to the North West regional assembly).

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will introduce an element of transitional rate relief for non-domestic rates for the 2009-10 financial year. [259595]

John Healey: Transitional relief is used to reduce the impact of revaluations for those most affected by the changes in rateable value. For the last revaluation in 2005, limits were set so that the increases were phased in over a period of up to four years.

Non-Domestic Rates: Small Businesses

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the application of small business rate relief and the non-domestic multiplier is planned to be revenue neutral *(a)* in each year and *(b)* over the five year revaluation cycle. [259745]

John Healey: The funding of the small business rate relief is intended to be revenue neutral in each year.

Regional Government: South West

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable has been set for the South West Councils' Strategic Leaders' Board to be designated as a regional planning body. [259760]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State is currently considering a request from the South West Councils Strategic Leaders Board to be designated as the regional planning body for the region with effect from April 2009.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the South West Council's Strategic Leaders' Board plans to assume the functions of the South West Regional Assembly. [259761]

Mr. Iain Wright: The South West Councils Strategic Leaders Board (SLB) was set up in December 2008. The SLB has proposed that it should be vested with the functions of Regional Planning Body (and also take on the housing and scrutiny roles of the Regional Assembly) as an interim arrangement from April 2009, in advance of introduction of the new regional governance arrangements outlined in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill. No decision on the timetable has yet been taken.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements she plans to make for public consultation on the constitution of the proposed Strategic Leaders' Board of the South West Council; and what the timetable for the introduction of the board is. [259762]

Mr. Iain Wright: The South West Councils Strategic Leaders Board (SLB) set itself up in December 2008. Arrangements for public consultation on any aspect of its constitution are a matter for the SLB.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether hon. Members representing constituencies in the South West will have any role in relation to the South West Council's Strategic Leaders' Board. [259763]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is a matter for the South West Councils Strategic Leaders Board to decide whether they wish to give a formal role to hon. Members representing constituencies in the region.

Regional Ministers: Travel

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what dates the Government Office for each region has funded transport for assistants to Regional Ministers since their appointment; for what purpose in each case; and if she will make a statement. [257243]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Cabinet Secretary provided guidance to Departments on the support that can be provided to parliamentary assistants to Regional Ministers. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House. Information about the number of visits where assistants to Regional Ministers have used transport provided by Government Offices is not held centrally.

Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued on *(a)* the composition of the proportion of a decision-making body designated as a regional planning body under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to be comprised of stakeholders and *(b)* the treatment of hon. Members as stakeholders for the purposes of the 2004 Act. [259764]

Mr. Iain Wright: No specific guidance beyond the provisions contained in Section 2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Regional Planning) (England) Regulations 2004 has been issued on either of the points contained in *(a)* or *(b)* of the question. However the provisions of the Act and regulations are briefly explained in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 of Planning Policy Statement 11: Regional Planning Strategies.

Rented Housing: Safety

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* socially rented homes, *(b)* private rented homes and *(c)* homes were assessed under the Housing Health and Safety Ratings Scheme in 2008-09; and of these, how many were defined as Category A hazards in (i) England, (ii) each English region and (iii) each London local authority area. [259930]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally.

Squatting

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of people who were *(a)* squatting, *(b)* facing eviction, *(c)* in temporary accommodation, *(d)* living in severe overcrowding and *(e)* staying with friends or family because they had no accommodation at the latest date for which figures are available. [258153]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about the number of people who are squatting is not collected centrally.

Information about the number of people who are facing eviction is not collected centrally.

Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level, about households rather than individuals.

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

The total number of households in temporary accommodation, as at 30 September 2008, was 72,130.

Levels of overcrowding are measured through the Survey of English Housing and assessed against the 'bedroom standard'. The latest estimate is that 59,000 households, containing 362,000 people, live in severely overcrowded conditions. This is the estimate for 2007-08.

Information about the number of people staying with family and friends because they have no accommodation is not collected centrally.

Tenants Rights: Crosby

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will commission research into the effect of changes to council tenants' rights since 2005 in Crosby; and if she will make a statement. [259480]

Mr. Iain Wright: There were no substantive changes to tenants' rights following the transfer of homes from Sefton council to One Vision Housing in 2006 following a vote by tenants. One Vision Housing is regulated by the Tenant Services Authority, which will be developing new standards for landlord performance in 2009.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which maintained secondary schools have been *(a)* converted into and *(b)* replaced by academies since 1997. [258315]

Jim Knight: We do not make a distinction between schools which have been converted into Academies and those that have been replaced by Academies. The following list contains all maintained secondary schools that have been replaced by Academies since 2002, which is the first year that Academies opened.

Maintained secondary schools which have been replaced by Academies[1]

Abraham Darby Specialist School for Performing Arts
Accrington Moorhead Sports College
Agnes Stewart Church of England High School
Anfield Community Comprehensive School
Archbishop Michael Ramsey Technology College
Archbishop Thurstan Church of England Voluntary Controlled School
Avondale High School
Axton Chase School
Aylwin Girls' School
Brackenhoe School
Bradford Cathedral Community College
Braim Wood Boys' High School
Breckfield Community Comprehensive School
Burlington Danes CofE School
Canon Williamson CofE High School
Christ Church CofE Secondary School
Corby Community College
Coulby Newham School
Coulsdon High School
Dartmouth High School
Dirwen Moorland High School
Deacon's School
Drayton School
Ducie High School
Eastbourne Comprehensive School
Eastfields High School
Ehenside Community School
Evelyns School
Forest Comprehensive School
Geoffrey Chaucer Technology College
George Salter High School
Greenward College
Grove Park Business and Enterprise College
Halyard High School
Hartshead Sports College
Havelock School
Hayward School
Headlands School
Heartsease High School
Hengrove Community Arts College
Herbert Shiner School
Hereward Community College
High Ridge School Specialist Sports College
Hope High School
Islington Green School
John Mansfield School
John Penrose School
Joseph Ruston Technology College
Keldholme School
Langbaurgh School
Langleywood School
Lings Upper School
Madeley Court School
Malory School
Middlefield School of Technology
Midhurst Grammar School
Midhurst Intermediate School
Millbrook Community School
Mitcham Vale School
Montgomery School
Myrtle Springs School
North Westminster Community School
Oaklands Community School
Oldborough Manor Community School
Our Lady's Catholic High School
Peers School
Pennywell School
Pimlico School
Portway Community School
Rowan High School

Semacre Technology College
Sheffield Sports and Community College
Sherwood Hall School and Sixth Form College
Sherwood Hall Upper School
Shireland Language College
South Luton High School
Southlands Community Comprehensive School
Speedwell Technology College
St. Aidan's County High School Specialist Sports College
St. Chad's School
St. David and St. Katharine CofE Secondary School
St. George Community College
St. Joseph's Academy
St. Paul's Catholic School
Stamford High School
Stanley Technical High School for Boys
T P Riley Community School
Tamworth Manor High School
Thamesbridge College
Thamesmead Community College
The Castle Hills Community Arts College
The Channel School
The City of Lincoln Community College
The Compton High School and Sports College
The Cornwallis School
The Edgware School
The Elmhirst School
The Gateway Community College
The Framingham School
The John Bramston School and Sixth Form College
The McEntee School
The Morton School
The Priory LSST
The Queen Elizabeth School
The Ramsgate School
The Rickstones School
Thorne Grammar School
Torells School
Waltheof School
Walworth School
Warwick Park School
Waverley School
West Gate Community College
Westwood College
Whitemoor School
Willesden High School
Willingsworth High School
Winstringham School
Withywood Community School
Woodway Park School and Community College
Woolston School Language College
Wychridge Sports College

[1] Includes middle schools but not City Technology Colleges.

Care Proceedings

Mr. Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many applications local authorities made for care orders in *(a)* July 2008, *(b)* August 2008, *(c)* September 2008, *(d)* November 2008 and *(e)* December 2008. [258304]

Beverley Hughes: The Department collates statistics relating to children in the care system on an annual basis. The Children and Families Court Advisory Service (CAFCASS), an NDPB sponsored by the Department, holds data on the number of care applications received within each month.

The following table shows the number of care applications (Section 31 applications) received by CAFCASS from July to December 2008.

Number of care (section 31) applications received by CAFCASS

	Number
July 2008	405
August 2008	492
September 2008	400
October 2008	493
November 2008	589
December 2008	714

Children in Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on children in care in *(a)* secure units, homes and hostels, *(b)* other residential settings and *(c)* residential schools in each year since 1997. [258669]

Beverley Hughes: The total amount spent on children looked after in England who are placed in (i) children's homes, (ii) secure accommodation (welfare), (iii) fostering services, (iv) other children's services as well as the amount spent in all of these categories for all children looked after is shown in table 1 as follows. Data prior to 2000-01 were not collected on the same basis and is therefore not comparable. The expenditure by residential schools is not separately identifiable from existing data sources.

Table 1: Net current expenditure on children looked after 2000-01 to 2007-08[1,2], England

£000

Children looked after	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Children's homes[3]	691,285	713,552	705,152	850,273	917,698	942,176	926,860	901,396
Secure accommodation (welfare)[4]	16,191	16,809	14,647	20,726	29,639	29,431	24,026	28,746
Fostering services[5]	545,677	659,765	695,259	890,666	880,681	962,762	1,047,476	1,110,139
Other children looked after services[6]	51,907	72,167	67,457	93,461	98,565	114,959	120,970	148,836
Total children looked after	1,309,423	1,422,692	1,562,255	1,757,340	1,925,958	2,048,360	2,119,446	2,189,653

[1] Source: Personal Social Services Expenditure (PSSEX1 return) and Unit Costs: England 2007-08 publication available at http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/social-care/adult-social-care-information/personal-social-services-expenditure-and-unit-costs-england-2007-08

[2] The PSSEX1 return was first collected in 2000-01 by the Department for Health. Since 2004-05 the return has been the responsibility of the Information Centre for health and social care.

[3] Includes the costs of looking after children for continuous periods of more than 24 hours.

[4] Children's homes exclude residential care in Voluntary Children's and Registered Children's Homes as defined in Children Act 1989. It includes: community homes, associated independent visitor costs and relevant contact payments under sections 20/34 of the Children Act 1989, homes where education is provided, but does not attract education department funds, and boarding schools. Includes the social services share of the costs of community homes with education provision and the social services element of accommodating children with special education needs in schools where the education element is met by the education department. Note: the funding of the children's education is recorded in the Education SEA. Excludes mother and baby homes (these are included in 'other children looked after services' category) and secure units attached to community homes (these are included in the 'secure accommodation (Welfare)' category). Also excludes respite care for those children not meeting the definition of children looked after.

[5] Includes the costs of providing or purchasing secure accommodation for children who pose a risk to themselves, to others or have a secure accommodation requirement for welfare, rather than youth justice reasons, under the Children Act 1989.

[6] Includes all fees and allowances paid to foster parents and the costs of social worker and other support staff who support foster carers. Including: mainstay placements, link placements, permanence placements, temporary/respite fostering, placements with relatives/friends, other than a parent, under foster care arrangements (see other children looked after services as follows), placed pending adoption under S13 (1) Adoption Act 1976, associated independent visitor costs and relevant contact payments under sections 20/34 of the Children Act 1989. Excludes remand fostering and social work costs related directly to the fostered children.

[7] Includes support to looked after young people: in NHS/other establishments providing nursing/medical care, residential, respite and emergency nights in residential beds at family centres, in lodgings or hostels, in mother and baby homes, living independently in flats, bed and breakfast establishments or with friends, in residential employment, placed with their parent or person with parental responsibility, independent visitor costs and relevant contact payments under sections 20/34 of the Children Act 1989 not included under children's homes or fostering services aforementioned.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to protect children whose data are compromised by breach of security in ContactPoint. [260498]

Beverley Hughes: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to his earlier question on 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1068W.

Children: Day Care

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to ensure access for disabled children to child care facilities in each local authority area. [259281]

Beverley Hughes: All local authorities are required to pay particular attention to the needs of families with a disabled child in meeting their duty to ensure there is sufficient child care in their areas.

The Government's "Aiming High for Disabled Children" programme, announced in May 2007, included additional funding of £35 million for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 to develop projects to improve access to child care for disabled children and young people and to reduce attitudinal barriers. Pilots began in September 2008 in 10 local authorities, to test out the ways of meeting the needs of disabled children in their areas, with best practice subsequently being rolled out more widely.

Children: Protection

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure that 16 and 17 year olds have sufficient access to child protection services. [249167]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 19 January 2009]*: "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (2006) sets out clearly that a child for the purposes of the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 respectively is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. It also stresses that the fact that a child has reached 16 years of age does not change his or her entitlement to services or protection under the Children Act 1989.

In recognition of the fact that a significant number of young people who are the subject of a child protection plan or otherwise known to children's services may have or are being neglected, the Department of Health and Department for Children, Schools and Families has commissioned York university undertake a study on the neglect of adolescents. This includes a review of the literature on the neglect of adolescents and the preparation of evidence-based materials to improve practice in this important area. The work will be published in the spring and disseminated widely within children's services.

Children: Social Workers

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills about the training of social workers for children. [259326]

Beverley Hughes: In December 2008, we announced a Social Work Taskforce which will make recommendations for long-term reform of social work; social worker initial training will be considered as part of this. The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills with its remit for higher education is an important partner in responding to these recommendations and ministers and officials from the two Departments are in regular conversations.

Children's Centres

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many Sure Start children's centres there are in the London borough of Barnet; and if he will make a statement; [259741]

(2) what Sure Start children's centres there are in Hendon constituency; when each opened; which centres are planned in Hendon constituency; when each is planned to open; and if he will make a statement. [259742]

Beverley Hughes: There are 14 designated Sure Start Children's Centres in the London borough of Barnet with a further eight centres planned to be delivered by 2010, to provide universal access to children's centre services for children under five and their families.

Seven children's centres are open in Hendon. Details are given in the following table. There are no additional children's centres planned for Hendon.

Centre	*Designation date*
Parkfield Community School and Children's Centre	6 September 2006
Wingfield Children's Centre	14 March 2006
Barnfield Children's Centre	8 February 2008
Bell Lane Children's Centre	8 February 2008
Hyde Children's Centre	11 February 2008
Stonegrove Children's Centre	6 March 2008
The Kennedy Leigh Children and Family Centre	11 February 2009

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* children and *(b)* families are receiving services at each Sure Start children's centre in Hendon constituency; how many have received services at each centre since its inception; what estimate he has made of the number of children and families which will receive services at each planned centre; and if he will make a statement. [259740]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not collect information centrally about the numbers of people accessing individual Sure Start Children's Centres. We expect local authorities and children's centres to collect data on the take up of services as part of their local performance management arrangements. Sure Start Children's Centres provide universal services for families with children under the age of five years. By 2010 there will be at least 3,500 Sure Start Children's centres—one for every community.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the capital start-up cost of each Sure Start children's centre in Hendon constituency was; what the revenue costs of each have been in each year since it opened; what the current annual revenue cost of each is; how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the NHS and *(c)* local authorities contributed to the (i) capital start up costs and (ii) annual revenue costs of each; what estimate he has made of the (A) capital start up costs and (B) annual revenue costs of each planned centre in Hendon constituency; and if he will make a statement. [259743]

Beverley Hughes: The Department allocates funding to local authorities for the capital start up and revenue costs of Sure Start Children's Centres through the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant. It is for local authorities to determine how to allocate the funding between individual centres and the Department does not collect information on how much is allocated and spent at centre level. Information on Barnet's capital and revenue allocations for 2008-11 is given in the following table. The Department does not collect information on NHS or local authorities' contributions to the programme.

£

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Children's Centre Revenue	3,651,335	4,912,063	5,983,537
Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Capital Allocation[1]	2,342,190	3,199,744	2,520,657

[1] Includes capital funding streams for children's centres and early years and childcare quality and access. Local authorities have flexibility to decide how much to spend on each element.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the performance against objectives of each Sure Start centre in Hendon constituency; and if he will make a statement. [259744]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities, working with their partners within Children's Trusts arrangements, are responsible for the overall delivery of the Sure Start Children's Centres programme in England. They are responsible for monitoring and managing the performance of individual children's centres in their area. The Department provides a performance measurement framework, including a self evaluation form, for centres and local authorities to use to monitor performance but performance of centres is not assessed centrally. Together for Children, the consortium the Department has under contract to support local authorities during the national roll-out of centres, is also providing additional guidance to local authorities on the performance management of their Sure Start Children's Centres.

Cross-department Assessment Panel

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2105W, on Cross-department Assessment Panel, what the names of the panel members are. [258055]

Beverley Hughes: I refer the hon. Member to my previous answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2105W.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students aged 16 to 18 years in receipt of an education maintenance allowance attend each educational institution in Hemel Hempstead. [260088]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Education: Children in Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Training and Development Agency for Schools is taking to improve the educational achievement of children in care. [259295]

Jim Knight: Support for the children's workforce in improving outcomes for children in care is led by the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC). This work includes a planned initiative to support the growing number of Virtual School Heads who have a role in promoting the educational attainment of children in care. The CWDC works in partnership with other children's workforce agencies including the National College for School Leadership and the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA). The TDA is responsible for the training and development of the whole school workforce, and high quality teaching and learning are an essential part of ensuring the success of all children, including the most vulnerable such as looked after children.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families of those pupils achieving A* and A grades at GCSE, how many were at *(a)* comprehensive, *(b)* independent and *(c)* grammar schools in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [247780]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieving at least one A* or A grade at GCSE and the number of these pupils who studied at comprehensive, independent and grammar schools.

Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving at least one A or A grade at GCSE, by school type—Years: 2004-08 Coverage: England*

		Of which attended:			
	Number of pupils achieving at least one A or A grade at GCSE*	*Comprehensive schools*	*Independent schools*	*Grammar schools*	*Other schools*[1]
2004	224,088	162,620	36,827	19,272	5,369
2005	228,623	166,142	37,443	19,448	5,590
2006	238,436	173,795	38,626	19,976	6,039
2007	242,629	177,604	38,674	20,046	6,305
2008	252,618	185,967	39,236	20,478	6,937

[1] 'Other schools' includes modern and other maintained schools.

Source:
Secondary School Achievement and Attainment Tables

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 496W, on educational attainment, (1) how many *(a)* maintained secondary schools and *(b)* independent secondary schools fell within each percentage point in terms of the proportion of pupils at the end of key stage 4 who achieved seven or more GCSEs at A* to C including English and mathematics in 2008; [248565]

(2) how many *(a)* maintained secondary schools and *(b)* independent secondary schools fell within each percentage point in terms of the proportion of pupils at the end of key stage 4 who achieved nine or more GCSEs at A* to C including English and mathematics in 2008. [248566]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1468-69W, on GCSE, if he will list the bottom 200 schools in terms of proportions achieving five or more GCSEs at A* to C including English, mathematics, science and a modern foreign language. [248568]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Learning Disability

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mechanisms are in place to ensure that funding allocated to local authority learning disability budgets is not spent on other areas; and if he will make a statement. [260531]

Jim Knight: We allocate revenue funding to local authorities via the Dedicated Schools Grant. The allocation to each local authority recognises through proxy indicators the needs of pupils in the authority but is provided for all defined responsibilities of local authorities and schools. It is not possible to specifically identify a sum for learning disabilities. The local authority will then apply its local funding formula, which will have been developed in consultation with the Schools Forum, to allocate funding to the schools in their area and to ensure that their formula takes account of the individual needs and pressures of their schools.

Schools have a duty under section 317 of the Education Act 1996 to use their best endeavours to make the necessary provision for pupils with SEN. In May 2008, an interactive website was published on the Audit Commission website, which helps schools determine if their spending on children with special educational needs is offering value for money and making real improvements to outcomes.

Members: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 2 October 2008 on behalf of Mr. Mike Burgess, which was transferred to his office for reply by the Prime Minister's office. [259079]

Jim Knight: I replied to the hon. Gentleman on the 23 October 2008 as Minister with responsibility for this policy area.

Pre-School Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 490-91W, on pre-school education, how many and what proportion of children *(a)* under the age of two, *(b)* aged two, *(c)* aged three and *(d)* aged four years were in (i) full day care, (ii) full day care in children's centres, (iii) sessional care, (iv) after school clubs, (v) holiday clubs, (vi) childminder care, (vii) nursery schools, (viii) primary schools with nursery and reception classes and (ix) primary schools with reception but no nursery in each year since 1997. [260057]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on the ages of children in child care and early years providers in England. The following tables show the number and proportion of children attending child care settings for each year for which data are available. Data in the following tables are from the 2005, 2006 and 2007 Childcare and Early Years Providers Surveys. Data are not available separately for those aged under one year. In the 2005 survey data are only available for two age bands: under two, and between two and four years. Data for earlier years are not available.

Table 1: Number of children attending child care and early years providers by age, 2007

Type of provider	Under 2 years	2 years	3 years	4 years
Full day care	167,900	203,100	249,700	144,400
Full day care in children's centres	14,300	18,800	19,700	11,000
Sessional care	5,200	63,500	158,600	93,700
After school	2,800	4,100	11,300	32,000
Holiday clubs	4,200	5,800	10,600	19,200
Childminder	53,300	39,700	33,600	26,500
Nursery schools[1]	—	—	17,600	20,600
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes[1]	—	—	119,200	214,000
Primary schools with reception but no nursery	—	—	—	83,800

Table 2: Proportion of children in England attending child care and early years providers by age, 2007

Percentage

Type of provider	Under 2 years	2 years	3 years	4 years
Full day care	13	34	42	25
Full day care in children's centres	1	3	3	2
Sessional care	0	10	27	16
After school	0	1	2	6
Holiday clubs	0	1	2	3
Childminder	4	7	6	5
Nursery schools	—	—	3	4
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes	—	—	20	37
Primary schools with reception but no nursery	—	—	—	15

Table 3: Number of children attending child care and early years provides by age, 2006

Type of provider	Under 2 years	2 years	3 years	4 years
Full day care	169,200	206,600	259,900	174,100
Sessional care	98,700	189,100	349,300	230,800
Before school	36,700	44,900	65,400	55,600
After school	41,000	50,300	73,400	66,400
Holiday care	55,400	68,400	91,700	73,100
Childminders	47,300	37,600	33,500	24,000
Primary school with nursery[1]	—	—	96,000	16,700
Primary school with reception[1]	—	—	—	17,100
Maintained nursery[1]	—	—	14,900	1,400

Table 4: Proportion of children in England attending child care and early years providers by age, 2006

Percentage

Type of provider	Under 2 years	2 years	3 years	4 years
Full day care	13.1	32.9	42.9	29.5
Sessional care	7.6	30.1	57.6	39.2
Before school	2.8	7.2	10.8	9.4
After school	3.2	8.0	12.1	11.3
Holiday care	4.3	10.9	15.1	12.4
Childminder	3.7	6.0	5.5	4.1
Primary schools with nursery[1]	—	—	15.8	2.8
Primary schools with reception[1]	—	—	—	2.9
Maintained nursery[1]	—	—	2.5	0.2

Table 5: Number of children attending child care and early years providers by age, 2005

Type of provider	Under 2 years old	2 to 4 years old
Full day care	146,400	491,400
Sessional day care	9,000	354,000
Out of school	10,700	79,300
Childminders	47,600	82,800

Table 6: Proportion of children in England attending child care and early years providers by age, 2005

Percentage

Type of provider	Under 2 years old	2 to 4 years old
Full day care	11.5	27.5
Sessional day care	0.7	19.8
Out of school	0.8	4.4
Childminders	3.8	4.6

[1] These providers were only asked to provide data on the age groups where proportions are presented.

Notes:

1. Children may attend more than one provider and therefore will be included in the figures and proportions for more than one of the provider types in the tables. For this reason some columns total more than 100 per cent.
2. Sessional care: defined as "facilities where children under eight attend day are for no more than five sessions a week, each session being less than a continuous period of four hours in any day. Where two sessions are offered in any one day, there is a break between sessions with no children in the care of the provider."

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1478W, on pre-school education, by what date he expects the

extension of free early education entitlement to nursery care from 12.5 hours to 15 hours a week to apply in the case of two-year-olds in all local authority areas. [260141]

Beverley Hughes: The extension to the free early education entitlement for three and four year-olds from 12.5 hours to 15 hours a week will be delivered, in all local authorities, by September 2010.

An offer of free early education to 15 per cent. of the most disadvantaged two-year-olds and their families will begin to be delivered in all local authorities by September 2009. We will be testing offers of both 10 and 15 hours in different local authorities, while we evaluate the best approach to further roll out of the offer.

Decisions regarding the pace and scale of wider roll out will be taken based on evidence gathered from the pilot and in the light of wider fiscal considerations as part of the next comprehensive spending review.

Pupil Referral Units: Young Offenders

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children in young offender institutions were previously in pupil referral units on the latest date for which figures are available. [259094]

Beverley Hughes: Data on the number of children in young offender institutions (YOIs) who were previously in pupil referral units are not collected centrally.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children in pupil referral units were subsequently detained in young offender institutions in the last year for which data are available. [259095]

Beverley Hughes: Data on the number of young people in pupil referral units who were subsequently imprisoned in young offender institutions (YOIs) are not collected centrally.

Pupils: Computers

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on the Electronic Learning and Mobility Programme to date; how many laptops have been provided to qualifying pupils under this scheme; and how many laptops issued *(a)* are out on loan, *(b)* have been returned damaged and *(c)* have not been returned and are considered lost or stolen. [259531]

Jim Knight: The Electronic Learning and Mobility Project (E-LAMP), which provides quality distance learning opportunities for children who travel for part of the school year, is managed by the National Association of Teachers of Travellers (NATT+). NATT+ works with 50 local authorities and over 1,000 Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils on this project. NATT+ has reported that 1,317 laptops were issued from 2004-05 to 2008-09 and that the vast majority of these are still out on loan to the students. There have only been seven incidents of minor accidental damage. One laptop was sold by the family, but recovered quickly as it had been tagged by the local authority and the appropriate action taken to recover the cost. DCSF funding to NATT+ to support the project will comprise £600,000 for the two years beginning September 2008.

Residence Orders

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many applications for residence orders were made by grandparents in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [258303]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

Figures on the number of applications by grandparents for Section X Private Law residence orders in county and High Courts in England and Wales are given in the following table. Public law applications (few in number) are not included, figures for family proceedings courts, where around 15 per cent. of applications are made, are also not provided as comprehensive information on applicant relationships is not available. Please note that the figures for 2008 are provisional and remain subject to change.

Around 5 per cent. of applications have more than one applicant to child relationship specified. This could happen for a number of reasons. It could be that the applicant has a different relationship with each of the children in the case, that the application is made by more than one person or there may be counter applications made by two or more people. The table shows the total number of applications where any of the applicant-to-child relationships was specified as "grandparent", even if other such relationships existed in connection with the same case.

Table 1: Relationship to child of applicants for Section 8 residence orders in England and Wales: County and High Courts applications made, including transfers, counted by child

	2006	2007	2008
Total applications	32,382	32,940	35,501
Total applicant to child relationships	33,956	34,681	37,227
Total applications by grandparents	3,194	3,464	3,893

Notes:
1. The figures include transfers from other courts.
2. Included in the figures are applications made in 2 different months. This may be because the case was transferred or because a second applicant made a counter application in a later month. Where this occurs the application will be counted twice in the total.

School Meals

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects of the new requirements for nutritional analysis of school lunches on the capacity of schools to *(a)* maintain their own menus and *(b)* provide nutritionally-balanced meals; what representations he has received from schools on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [260445]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Nutrient-based standards have been mandatory in primary schools since September 2008 and come into effect in secondary and special schools from September 2009. The School Food Trust has undertaken pilots in both primary and secondary schools to assess the practical steps schools and catering organisations would need to take in order to implement

the standards. Both sets of pilots found that while implementing the nutrient-based standards does require schools to change those menus that are not compliant, the standards are nevertheless achievable and essential to improving the nutritional health of children. The lessons learned from both the primary and secondary pilots have been published in the trust's guidance on introducing nutrient-based standards which includes case studies at primary and secondary level.

The School Food Trust has produced a caterer's guide to enable caterers to gather the information needed to demonstrate compliance with the standards. It has also undertaken an independent review of Nutritional Analysis Support Packages; this has been published as a guide and distributed to schools who manage their own catering services.

While we are aware of concern in some parts of the sector around introducing nutritional standards in secondary schools from September, no representations from schools have been received on these.

Schools: Buildings

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools have adopted alternative performance standards from those set out in Building Bulletin 93 *(a)* in 2008 and *(b)* since Building Bulletin 93 came into force; [260386]

(2) how many schools have been found to be non-compliant with Building Bulletin 93 for acoustic conditions *(a)* in 2008 and *(b)* since Building Bulletin 93 came into force. [260387]

(3) how many schools have been tested for the quality of acoustics *(a)* in 2008 and *(b)* since Building Bulletin 93 came into force. [260388]

Jim Knight: The Department does not have any figures for the numbers of schools that have adopted alternative performance standards, as permitted by Clause 1.2.1 of BB93. However many new schools use Clause 1.2.1 to inform some minor aspects of the acoustic design.

All new school designs and major refurbishments are required to comply with the Building Regulations Part E on Acoustics. This quotes BB93 as the normal means of compliance. Checks for compliance with Building Regulations are made by Local Building Control Bodies and records on the levels of non-compliant schools are not held centrally.

BB93 recommends that the client requires acoustic performance tests to be conducted but testing is not required for Building Regulations compliance.

Schools: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average length of a school Private Finance Initiative contract was in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [258956]

Jim Knight: The average length of a school private finance initiative contract in each year since 2001 is given in the following table:

	Average length of contract of school PFI contract (years)
2001	25
2002	26
2003	25
2004	25
2005	26
2006	27
2007	25
2008	25
2009 (to date)	25

Schools: Rural Areas

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools defined as rural there were in each county in each year since 1997. [256454]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of maintained (a) primary schools designated as rural in 2007 and 2008 and (b) secondary schools currently defined as rural in each county in England.

Rural primary schools were first designated in 2007 by a special Order. The Order was updated in 2008 when the Department adopted the common classification system developed by the Office of National Statistics. We do not have a record of schools defined as rural prior to 2007.

Rural secondary schools are not designated. They are identified by the classification on the Department's register of schools. Once the register has been updated we do not retain the historic data and we are only able to provide the current number of secondary schools defined as rural.

	Designated Rural Primary Schools		*Rural Secondary Schools[1]*
	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Barnet	1	0	0
Barnsley	10	19	2
Bath and NE Somerset	19	23	1
Bedfordshire	78	79	17
Blackburn with Darwin	4	5	0
Blackpool	1	0	0
Bolton	3	4	1
Bracknell Forest	2	2	0
Bradford	18	18	2
Bromley	3	3	1
Buckinghamshire	91	89	5
Bury	2	3	0

	Designated Rural Primary Schools		Rural Secondary Schools
	2007	2008	2009
Calderdale	28	28	1
Cambridgeshire	131	124	15
Cheshire	104	100	5
Cornwall	169	178	15
Cumbria	181	188	19
Darlington	5	5	1
Derbyshire	173	174	12
Devon	231	230	17
Doncaster	18	18	2
Dorset	82	84	16
Durham	119	118	11
East Riding of Yorkshire	88	90	8
East Sussex	73	73	7
Enfield	1	1	0
Essex	163	170	11
Gateshead	9	8	1
Gloucestershire	124	122	12
Halton	3	3	0
Hampshire	130	131	10
Hartlepool	3	3	0
Herefordshire	61	62	8
Hertfordshire	82	82	5
Hillingdon	2	2	0
Isle of Wight	21	22	3
Isles of Scilly	1	1	0
Kent	189	184	17
Kingston-Upon-Hull	0	0	1
Kirklees	30	29	3
Lancashire	153	180	13
Leeds	15	21	2
Leicester, City of	1	1	0
Leicestershire	110	110	16
Lincolnshire	188	186	25
Medway	11	11	1
Milton Keynes	14	15	2
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	1	1	0
Norfolk	227	247	27
North East Lincolnshire	4	4	1
North Lincolnshire	40	40	7
North Somerset	26	22	2
North Tyneside	4	4	1
North Yorkshire	233	244	21
Northamptonshire	118	130	13
Northumberland	83	89	25
Nottingham City	2	0	0
Nottinghamshire	111	107	11
Oldham	10	10	1
Oxfordshire	127	126	11
Peterborough	9	11	2
Redcar and Cleveland	17	16	3
Rochdale	1	1	1
Rotherham	16	15	1
Rutland	15	17	3
Sandwell	1	0	0
Sefton	1	1	0
Sheffield	3	3	1
Shropshire	99	103	12
Solihull	9	9	1
Somerset	155	154	18
South Gloucestershire	21	20	0
Southend-on-Sea	2	0	0
St Helens	6	6	1
Staffordshire	110	105	11
Stockport	1	2	0

	Designated Rural Primary Schools		Rural Secondary Schools[1]
	2007	2008	2009
Stockton-on-Tees	3	3	0
Stoke-on-Trent	1	0	1
Suffolk	144	147	26
Sunderland	1	1	0
Surrey	58	57	4
Swindon	11	13	2
Tameside	1	1	2
Telford And Wrekin	9	8	0
Thurrock	7	7	1
Torbay	1	1	0
Wakefield	28	28	2
Walsall	1	1	0
Warrington	17	17	2
Warwickshire	79	80	11
West Berkshire	38	38	4
West Sussex	87	86	6
Wigan	0	9	1
Wiltshire	139	132	11
Windsor and Maidenhead	11	11	2
Wirral	2	2	0
Wokingham	13	14	2
Worcestershire	93	91	10
York, City of	13	13	0
Total	5,154	5,246	542

[1] Excludes academies

Sixth Form Education: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what recent progress has been made in closing the funding gap between sixth form colleges and school sixth forms; and if he will make a statement; [249883]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of closing the funding gap between sixth form colleges and school sixth forms; and if he will make a statement. [249884]

Jim Knight: By the end of 2008-09 academic year I fully expect that we will have reduced the funding gap between schools and colleges to around 5.6 per cent. This is in line with our commitment made in 2004-05 to reduce the gap by 8 percentage points. We will continue to close the gap further as funding allows but our priority is to maximise participation in learning by young people.

The LSC have the detailed information required to calculate what the cost would be to close the funding gap between 16-18 pupils in school sixth forms and sixth form colleges/FE colleges. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member setting out that in the current year the estimated cost of closing the gap would have been more than £135m. A copy of his letter will be placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Mark Hayson, dated 23 February 2009:

Further to your question to the SOS for Children, Schools and Families and the reply by Jim Knight, Minister for Schools, I am supplying the additional information referred to in his answer.

In his response Mr Knight mentioned that the gap in funding currently stands at 5.6%. Our funding system which came into effect for 2008/09 uses standard funding rates per standard learner number (SLN, a measure of the number of learners and the breadth of their learning). The base rates per SLN in 2008/09 are £2,945 for school sixth forms and £2,860 for FE college learners (including Sixth Form Colleges).

As this is a new system there are no equivalent figures for 2007/08 but one may use the difference between the two base rates (£85) as a proxy for the difference in funding in 2007/08, as the rates have both increased by the 'minimum funding guarantee' of 2.1%. We estimate that the number of SLNs in FE in 2007/08 was 1,002,322. Therefore the cost of bringing up the base funding rate per learner in all colleges would be approximately £85 million. In addition, schools receive a further £50 million towards pension payments for teachers. There are also a number of other factors influencing the funding differences between school sixth forms and FE, which are explored in more detail in a report undertaken for the LSC by KPMG, published on 6 May 2008. This is available on the LSC's website at:

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/nat-fundinggap-may08.pdf

We are continuing to work with DCSF and schools and colleges to review this funding difference and to look at ways of equalising funding.

I hope you find this information useful.

Special Educational Needs: Young Offender Institution

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2097-8W, on special educational needs: young offenders, what estimate he has made of the cost of undertaking an educational needs assessment within 10 days for a young offender placed in a young offenders institution to the *(a)* Prison Service and *(b)* local authority within whose area the young offenders institution is located; and how these costs compare to those which would be incurred if the local authority in which the young offender was resident immediately prior to a custodial sentence being imposed were required to provide copies of relevant psychological reports and assessments within the same time frame. [258830]

Beverley Hughes: Cost estimates sought in this question are not available. However, I can report that:

(a) It is not possible to separate out the cost of conducting an educational assessment on a child or young person in juvenile custody from other delivery as the cost is incorporated into the hourly rate paid to staff working in juvenile custodial establishments. As custodial establishments vary in size, the larger ones will carry out proportionately more assessments and will therefore benefit from economies of scale in price negotiations within awarding bodies.

(b) Local authorities are currently not responsible for assessing the educational needs of young people in young offender institutions because local authorities do not currently have responsibility for providing education and training for young people in juvenile custody. The current Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill proposes legislation to change this to make local authorities responsible for securing education and training for persons in juvenile custody.

Sure Start Programme

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1710W, on Sure Start programme, how many new Sure Start centres were designated in each month in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2006. [260033]

Beverley Hughes: The figures in the following table show the number of Sure Start children's centres designated in each month in 2006 and 2007.

Sure Start children's centres designated

Month	*Number*
2006	
January	39
February	74
March	274
April	13
May	3
June	20
July	23
August	28
September	103
October	14
November	8
December	6
2007	
January	7
February	56
March	149
April	6
May	24
June	28
July	70
August	35
September	98
October	95
November	112
December	159

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1710W, on Sure Start programme, how many new Sure Start centres are planned to be established in each month in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [260034]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities are responsible for planning the delivery of Sure Start children's centres so that by 2010 there will be at least 3,500 children's centres, providing universal access to services for children under five and their families. Local authorities successfully exceeded the target for 2,500 Sure Start children's centres in March 2008. There are now over 2,900 centres offering services to over 2.3 million children under five and their families.

Together for Children, the Department's delivery partner for the children's centre programme, is supporting local authorities in finalising their plans and timescales for delivery and will monitor progress against those plans.

Swimming

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the number of children under the age of 16 years who are receiving swimming lessons from Qualifications and Curriculum Authority Level 2-trained swimming teachers; [259840]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of Qualifications and Curriculum Authority Level 2-trained swimming teachers in *(a)* 1998 and *(b)* 2008; [259841]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of vacancies for Qualifications and Curriculum Authority Level 2-trained swimming teachers in *(a)* 1998 and *(b)* 2008. [259842]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Under the national curriculum for physical education, swimming is compulsory for all pupils in Key Stage 2 in primary schools. Across all primary and secondary schools, 85 per cent. provide swimming.

All primary school teachers with qualified teacher status are able to deliver school swimming, subject to a risk assessment carried out by the head teacher. The recommendation from the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA)—the national governing body for the sport—is that ideally school swimming is taught by instructors with ASA/UK Coaching Certificate Level 2, and that they should be supported by a class teacher, who has undertaken at least Module One of the ASA National Curriculum Training Programme. Some local authorities insist that school teachers undertake this additional training in order to deliver school swimming in their pools.

The Department does not collect data on swimming teachers or coaches. We understand from the ASA that there were 27,001 ASA/UK Coaching Certificate Level 2 swimming teachers in 1998 and 45,856 in 2008. The Department is not aware of a QCA-based qualification.

The ASA does not have any data on the number of vacancies in 1998 and 2008.

Teachers: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of teachers employed in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire are recorded as being disabled. [260106]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Teachers: Males

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many male primary school teachers there are working in schools, broken down by indices of deprivation for *(a)* school location and *(b)* pupil residence. [259104]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teachers employed in local authority maintained primary schools broken down by the decile of rank multiple deprivation for school location. The equivalent information broken down for pupil residence is not available.

Full-time equivalent male teachers employed in local authority maintained nursery and primary schools by decile of rank multiple deprivation. Year: 2008 Coverage: England

Deciles of rank of deprivation (percentage)	*Number of male teachers*
0-10 (most deprived)	3,650
10-20	3,050
20-30	2,840
30-40	2,780
40-50	2,720
50-60	2,600
60-70	2,560
70-80	2,420
80-90	2,590
90-100 (least deprived)	2,470

Sources:
School Census and The Department of Communities and Local Government Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007

Teachers: Pay

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make an assessment of the adequacy of provisions for overtime pay for teachers for activities undertaken outside their contracted hours of employment. [259879]

Jim Knight: The statutory School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD), paragraph 52, provides for the relevant body (local authority or governing body) in a maintained school to make such payments as they see fit to a teacher, including a head teacher, in respect of:

(a) continuing professional development undertaken outside the school day;

(b) activities relating to the provision of initial teacher training outside the school day;

(c) participation in out-of-school hours learning activities agreed between the teacher and the head teacher or, in the case of the head teacher, between the head teacher and the relevant body.

Westminster City Council

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what grants his Department and its predecessors made to Westminster City Council in each year since 2005-06; and what grants are planned for 2009-10. [259527]

Jim Knight: Tables showing the grants allocated by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, and its predecessors[1], to Westminster city council for each year since 2005-06, and planned for 2009-10, broken down between revenue and capital funding, will be placed in the Libraries.

The revenue grant totals for 2006-07 onwards are not comparable with figures in 2005-06, because the introduction of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded for education services.

Before 2006-07 local authorities were funded through education formula spending (EFS). This formed part of the annual local government finance settlement. EFS comprised school functions and local education authority (LEA) central functions, whereas DSG only covers the school functions. The DSG is based on each local authority's spend on schools in 2005-06, up rated each year for cost pressures and adjusted for changes in pupil numbers. LEA central functions are still funded through the local government finance settlement but cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable. For information the EFS figure for Westminster in 2005-06 was £97.5 million.

The Teachers Pay Reform Grant was transferred to Dedicated Schools Grant in 2006-07.

Children's Services grant transferred to the Formula Grant paid by the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2008-09.

Capital figures exclude PFI credit allocations, and supported borrowing allocations as part of Building Schools for the Future. Allocations for targeted capital projects are shown in the year the project started.

[1] The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) were established under machinery of government changes on 28 June 2007. The tables only cover those areas of responsibility for children and schools held by their predecessor the Department for Education and Skills and the DCSF

Young People's Learning Agency

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* responsibilities and *(b)* powers the Young People's Learning Agency will have with regard to academies. [259091]

Jim Knight: Provisions in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill give the Secretary of State powers to ask the YPLA to carry out certain functions relating to academies. These will include the funding, performance management and support of open academies. The YPLA will carry out these functions on behalf of, and at the request of, the Secretary of State, to whom it will be answerable in relation to this role.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the average annual cost, including salary, of the posting of a civil servant in his Department in *(a)* Kabul and *(b)* Helmand province. [251700]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In 2009 the average unit cost of a UK member of staff based in Kabul is estimated to be £270,000 and the average unit cost of a UK member of staff based in Helmand is estimated to be £460,000. This constitutes salaries, allowances, administrative costs, accommodation, running costs and security, with the latter constituting the largest proportion.

The additional cost of deploying a member of staff to Helmand mainly relates to providing security for civilian staff to relieve this burden from the military, and covering a fair share of costs in the use of military assets for transport.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Overseas Aid

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department plans to increase the assistance it provides to *(a)* disarmament, *(b)* demobilisation, *(c)* repatriation, *(d)* reintegration and *(e)* rehabilitation programmes in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [258689]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK Government are firmly committed to assisting disarmament, demobilisation, repatriation, reintegration and rehabilitation programmes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). We have provided $35 million (around £19 million) to the World Bank-led seven year multi-country demobilisation and reintegration programme (MDRP). The MDRP has invested more than $200 million in the first phase of demobilisation and reintegration in the DRC. The UK Government have also recently granted an additional £1 million to the World Bank emergency trust fund focusing on reintegration of combatants, including children associated with armed forces, in Eastern Congo, and an additional $450,000 to the UN mission in DRC (MONUC) to support the repatriation of Rwandese combatants to their country of origin.

Departmental Broadcasting

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* television and *(b)* radio programmes his Department has funded over the last 12 months; and at what cost. [256599]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) funds a scheme with the commonwealth broadcasting association which grants (up to £10,000 maximum) for travel bursaries and programme development costs to help develop programmes focused on the developing world.

DFID has used radio and television programmes as a way to get messages to a wide audience in developing countries across country programmes and policy areas, however, it would incur disproportionate cost to disaggregate this expenditure from overall development programme spend.

Departmental ICT

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent on the implementation of Quest for *(a)* additional fees to consultants and *(b)* staff overtime. [246885]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is as follows.

(a) Several consultants worked on the Electronic Document and Records Management (EDRM) System project in addition to the main supplier contract. They provided expertise in project management, procurement, benefits management, knowledge and information management, training and support. The following table sets out the costs of additional consultants taken on during the project, in addition to the systems integrators (Logica) who delivered the system, provided some change management advice and training support and now continue to support the ongoing operations of Quest.

	Consultancy costs
2002-03	347,265
2003-04	194,982
2004-05	110,519
2005-06	1,189,000
2006-07	323,000
2007-08	346,000
Total	2,510,766

These costs include travel expenses for visits by consultants and trainers to the Department for International Development's (DFID) offices in the UK and over 60 overseas offices.

(b) We do not hold figures for the cost of the small amount of DFID staff overtime during the project and providing them would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will publish a copy of his Department's website accessibility plan. [257220]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development has published its accessibility plan on its website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

The accessibility section appears in the footer of the website.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development who is each person categorised as Head of Profession as referred to in his Department's Annual Report 2008, chapter 10, point 10.7; and what *(a)* professional qualifications and *(b)* work experience each has in relation to international development. [246922]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The following gives the professional qualifications and work experience in relation to international development of the current Heads of Profession in DFID:

Head of Profession Economics: Sue Holloway

BSc Economics

5 years small business development in Latin America

10 years in Government Economic Service including 18 months in DFID as regional Economic Adviser for Latin America

Acting Head of Profession Education: Jo Bourne

MA Education and International Development Education

7 years teaching overseas

10 years experience with DFID as Education Adviser including period as acting Head of Office

Head of Profession Environment: Ian Curtis

BSc Civil Engineering

Professional Affiliations: Chartered Environmentalist, Member of Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM), Member of Institute of Chartered Engineers (ICE), Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society (FRGS)

15 years development work overseas (Africa and Asia) with the private sector, an NGO, DFID and the Swiss Government (SDC)

Over 30 years professional experience on water and environmental management issues

Head of Profession Governance and Conflict: Mark Robinson

MA Agrarian Studies and PhD Comparative Politics

21 years experience as research fellow in development including with the Ford Foundation in India

Acting Head of Profession Health: John Worley

MSc Demography

10 years experience in global health with NGOs

14 years experience as Health Adviser in DFID

Head of Profession Infrastructure: Yusaf Samiullah

PhD Environmental Science and Ecotoxicology (London)

Professional affiliations: Chartered Biologist, Institute of Biology (M I Biol); Chartered Member, Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM); Member, Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA); Principal, Environmental Auditors Registration Association (EARA); Chartered Civil Engineer, Fellow, Institution of Civil Engineers (FICE)

29 years professional and relevant experience (7 in the private sector) in dozens of countries

10 years experience overseas for DFID in Africa, Middle East and Asia

Head of Profession Livelihoods: John Barrett

PhD in veterinary economics, MSc in agricultural economics and MSc is Pharmacology

16 years long-term experience working in developing countries

30 years professional involvement in development, including work in over 40 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Caribbean and the Far East

Head of Profession Private Sector Development: Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi

MPhil – Development Studies and MPhil Political Economy

2 years experience as a political economy researcher

12 years experience as Private Sector Development adviser in DFID

14 years professional development experience on economic growth issues in over 15 countries in Africa and Asia

Head of Profession Social Development: Ellen Wratten

MSc Environment Planning and professional qualification in Urban and Regional Planning

8 years experience in planning in the UK and overseas

5 years experience as lecturer in Social Policy and Planning in Developing Countries and working as part-time development consultant

13 years experience as Social Development Adviser with DFID

Head of Profession Statistics: Heidi Grainger

PhD Sociology

5 years work with indigenous peoples in various parts of the world

10 plus years teaching of research methodology (especially quantitative)

8 plus years teaching of colonial/post colonial issues

Written various academic papers

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to increase its recruitment of people with disabilities in line with targets for the Civil Service for 2008-09. [259474]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) holds the Job Centre Plus Two Ticks disability symbol which offers a guaranteed interview to applicants who declare a disability and meet the minimum standard for the post.

DFID is currently reviewing its recruitment strategy for reaching a diverse audience. Over the last two years, DFID placed adverts in the 'Disability Now' publication. We are in the process of analysing the results, exploring alternative opportunities and consulting with other Government Departments.

The civil service has set a target of 5 per cent. disabled staff within the senior civil service over the next five years. DFID will aspire to meet 4 per cent. by 2011. DFID continues to monitor and analyse disability through its annual diversity report. The 2008-09 report will be published in April.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people his Department *(a)* sought for and *(b)* recruited into its general faststream in 2008; and how many of those recruited into its general faststream were undertaking first degree courses at university when they successfully applied to his Department. [259344]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In 2008, the Department for International Development (DFID) bid for no fast streamers, but recruited six new entrants. Of the six new entrants, none were undertaking first degree courses when they successfully applied to the Department.

Departmental Video Conferencing

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1310W, on departmental video conferencing, where the video conferencing facilities are located *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* world-wide. [259476]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) video-conferencing units in the United Kingdom are located in the Headquarters offices at 1 Palace Street, London and in East Kilbride, Glasgow. In addition, five members of the Top Management Group have small desktop video-conferencing units at their home addresses at various locations in the UK.

The world-wide units are located in the following 40 countries;

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belgrade
Brazil
Burma
Cambodia
China
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
Ethiopia
France
Ghana
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Kenya
Kosovo
Kyrgyzstan
Malawi
Mozambique
Nepal
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Pakistan
Rwanda
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Sudan
Switzerland
Tajikistan
Tanzania
Uganda
USA
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe
Bosnia

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which hotels in Nairobi are designated as preferred for the purposes of his Department's officials' travel arrangements as set out in the departmental staff handbook. [259648]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The current marker hotel for Nairobi is the Fairview Hotel. This selection was arrived at following a joint exercise conducted by the Department for International Development (DFID) and the British high commission. The criteria for selection included value for money, proximity to the office and acceptable security standards. If that hotel is fully booked, the Serena Hotel is used as the next best option.

DFID and the high commission are currently re-tendering hotel accommodation and will select two marker hotels by the end of March 2009, using similar criteria.

International Planned Parenthood Federation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what records his Department holds on the uses to which the core funds of the International Planned Parenthood Federation have been put over the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [259016]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) receives core funding from the Department for International Development (DFID) of £8.6 million per annum. This is in recognition of their improved performance and global leadership in support of global sexual and reproductive health and rights. Core funding is provided to support IPPF's global plan of work and DFID does not require IPPF to separately track and account for DFID funding.

DFID provides funding to IPPF for its work to promote reproductive health. IPPF produces an annual report and audited accounts which are used by DFID for monitoring purposes. DFID also attends IPPF's annual donor consultation meeting to consider issues such as performance and effectiveness. The IPPF Annual Report is available on-line at:

http://www.ippf.org/en/

Joint Environment, Infrastructure and Livelihoods Retreat

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* date, *(b)* duration and *(c)* location was of the Joint Environment, Infrastructure and Livelihoods Retreat run by his Department and supported by HTSPE Ltd in 2008, reference number 200808420. [259463]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The joint environment, infrastructure and livelihoods retreat in 2008 was held between June 30 - 4 July. The venue was Wyboston Lakes, conference centre, Wyboston, Bedfordshire UK.

Mass Media

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost of his Department's contracts with press monitoring services was in each of the last five years. [251222]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) press office has three types of contracts for coverage monitoring. Press cuts are provided by EDS (Electronic Distribution Service), broadcast coverage by the MMU (Media Monitoring Unit) and online coverage by Meltwater. The latter is relatively a new service from 2006. Details of DFID spend on press monitoring is displayed in the following table:

Financial year	*Total cost (£)*
2004-05	70,310.85
2005-06	120,257.07

Financial year	Total cost (£)
2006-07	130,370
2007-08	202,604
2008-09 (to date)	103,264

Population: China

Mr. Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether account is taken of the human rights implications of the Chinese one-child policy in his Department's decisions on aid to China; and if he will make a statement. [259022]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) works closely and has ongoing constructive dialogue with the Chinese Government regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights. This is an important element of our support for reproductive health (through agencies such as UNFPA and IPPF) and HIV prevention. The UK Government do not support China's one-child policy or its implementation. We are working to promote and uphold the principles of free and informed choice as set out at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994.

Although the one-child policy remains in place, China has made good progress in ensuring reproductive rights more generally, especially through its implementation of the 2002 Law of Population and Family Planning. The law spells out rights and responsibilities for clients, service providers and family planning officials. Most provinces have enacted their own regulations in accordance with national law.

UN Population Fund

Mr. Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the annual report of the United Nations Population Fund for each of the last two years; and if he will make a statement; [259015]

(2) if he will place in the Library copies of reports on population control in China received by his Department from the (*a*) International Planned Parenthood Federation and (*b*) United Nations Fund for Population Activities; and if he will make a statement; [259162]

(3) if he will place in the Library copies of recent comments made by (*a*) the United Nations Population Fund and (*b*) the International Planned Parenthood Federation relating to coercive population policies in China; and if he will make a statement. [259017]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Copies of the last two annual reports published by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will be placed in the Library. UN agencies publish their annual reports on their external websites:

www.unfpa.org/about/report

The Department for International Development (DFID) does not hold copies of reports and/or comments on population control in China from or with regard to (*a*) UNFPA and (*b*) the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). The UK Government do not support China's one-child policy or its implementation. We are working to promote and uphold the principles of free and informed choice as set out at the international conference on population and development in Cairo in 1994. UNFPA and IPPF are both working to promote reform and change in China. Neither supports the one-child policy or its implementation. As a condition of UNFPA support, the Chinese authorities have removed birth quotas and targets within the counties in which UNFPA provides support.

Mr. Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development who the UK representative on the Executive Board of the United Nations Population Fund is; and what relevant (*a*) specialist and (*b*) general qualifications and experience this representative has. [259023]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The British representative on the Executive Board of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is an accredited member of the United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations, acting under the direction of the UK ambassador to the UN.

The current incumbent has specialist skills and qualifications in both economics and international relations. They also have seven years of practical experience working across government in the UK and four years experience working in the multilateral system.

Mr. Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions (*a*) Ministers in his Department and (*b*) officials have had with the United States Administration on its decision to (i) reinstate the US contribution to the United Nations Population Fund and (ii) rescind the Mexico City policy; and if he will make a statement. [259024]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Meetings have been held at official level with both the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) since the new Administration took power. Both USAID and PEPFAR are experiencing considerable transition and it will take some months before policy and funding changes are clarified. Discussions will be on-going to engage with and where appropriate to influence this process.

The UK Government welcome early signs of the new US Administration's support for family planning and sexual reproductive health and rights. Rescinding the Mexico City Policy paves the way for organisations such as the International Planned Parenthood Fund (IPPF) to apply for US funding. In addition the US President has made a clear statement in support of UNFPA and the US Congress has already passed the omnibus financial year 2009 Spending Bill that provides for US$50 million for UNFPA.

Mr. Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the United Nations Population Fund in promoting non-coercive approaches to family planning in China since October 2007; and if he will make a statement. [259161]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has successfully demonstrated that non-coercive family planning methods can be effective in China. UNFPA's policies and activities in China, as in the rest

of the world, are in strict conformity with the unanimously adopted programme of action of the international conference on population and development in 1994.

UNFPA's policy of constructive engagement with the Chinese Government is helping to influence China's approach to reproductive health and rights. For example the Chinese national population and family planning commission and the Ministry of Health have begun to harmonise standards of service delivery protocols to include UNFPA quality of care principles, such as counselling, to enable informed choice and promote client rights.

Zimbabwe: Drinking Water

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the ability of the population of Zimbabwe to access clean water; and if he will make a statement. [260276]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A recent household survey conducted by UNICEF in Zimbabwe showed that 77 per cent. of households across rural areas relied on a safe water source. A large number, therefore, do not have good enough water to prevent exposure to diseases such as cholera. In urban areas, where most people rely on piped municipal water, a breakdown in infrastructure and a lack of chemicals has placed an increasingly large number of households at risk.

Zimbabwe: Food

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the ability of the population of Zimbabwe to obtain food; and if he will make a statement. [260274]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We expect that 7 million people will have received food aid in February, and more disease outbreaks are possible. The Government of Zimbabwe have failed to procure the share of food necessary, in turn creating additional pressure on existing supplies. Although the harvest looks set to be reasonable, it will be small in scale. It is expected that a significant food aid programme will be required in the coming year.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is doing everything it can to help save lives in Zimbabwe. This financial year we expect to deliver a programme of £49 million—including in the areas of food security; combating HIV and AIDS; supporting orphans and vulnerable children; providing essential medicines; and fighting cholera.

Zimbabwe: Health Services

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the ability of the population of Zimbabwe to access health services; and if he will make a statement. [260275]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Years of political and economic mismanagement have eroded a once very fine health service in Zimbabwe. General health status indicators have fallen in the last few years and especially since the failed elections of 2008. The number of preventable deaths has increased significantly as public health services have been depleted. Rural transport networks have become expensive and the majority of Zimbabweans have found it increasingly difficult to access health services.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting the preservation of basic life-saving health services for the Zimbabwean people through the procurement and distribution of vital medicines and supplies, the retention of health workers, support for the cholera response and to the on-going, crippling HIV and AIDS epidemic. Altogether, DFID will contribute over £20 million this year to protect access to basic health services in Zimbabwe, as part of a £49 million programme to help meet the essential needs of the Zimbabwean people, in terms of food, medical and other assistance.

Zimbabwe: Sanitation

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of levels of sanitation in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [260273]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A recent household survey conducted by UNICEF in Zimbabwe showed that 40 per cent. of households across rural areas had access to a functional toilet. A large number therefore have poor levels of sanitation that increases exposure to diseases such as cholera. In urban areas, where most people rely on piped municipal water and piped sewerage, a breakdown in infrastructure and a lack of chemicals places increasingly large numbers of households at risk.

On 26 November 2008 the UK Government announced a £10 million package of support to provide life-saving assistance and respond to the escalation of cholera in Zimbabwe. We are working closely with UNICEF and the World Health Organisation to tackle the crisis. Our support includes: help to establish a cholera command and control centre (to coordinate the response); distribution of cholera response kits; provision of potable water in affected areas; and essential medicines and other vital support to health systems.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 4 March 2009

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the average annual cost, including salary, of the posting of *(a)* a private soldier and *(b)* a civil servant in his Department to (i) Kabul and (ii) Helmand province. [251701]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* No such recent estimate has been made. Calculating the cost of posting a private soldier and a civil servant on Operations would involve collating data from various sources across the Department at disproportionate cost.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters have been made available to NATO forces in Afghanistan in the last six months. [259985]

Mr. Hutton: I am withholding detailed information on the number of helicopters deployed to Afghanistan as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of unexploded land mines in Afghanistan; and what steps the Government are taking to help remove them. [259998]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There is no single reliable estimate of the total number of unexploded land mines within the sovereign territory of Afghanistan. The HALO Trust estimates that up to 640,000 mines were laid from 1979 until 1999, which saw the entry into force of the Ottawa convention.

DFID is providing around £10.6 million to the HALO Trust over five years (2008-13) to clear land mines and unexploded ordnance in Herat province (western Afghanistan). In addition, as part of the UK's annual commitment of £10 million p.a. to de-mining across the world, the HALO Trust receives £3 million p.a. Of this, it is expected to commit around £150,000 to de-mining work in central and northern Afghanistan this year.

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers serving in Afghanistan since Operation Herrick began have returned from Afghanistan as a *(a)* single and *(b)* multiple amputee; and if he will make a statement. [260368]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 3 March 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend, the Defence Secretary gave to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 554W.

We are currently reviewing the available information concerning amputations which have occurred as a result of Operation Herrick, while ensuring that patient confidentiality is maintained. I will write to the hon. Member with the results of this review.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether work is being carried out in the United Kingdom to support the development of a Next Generation Fuze for US inter-continental ballistic missiles. [260557]

Mr. Hutton: Technical exchanges are carried out on a regular basis under the auspices of the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement on a range of issues of joint interest and of relevance to the safety, security and reliability of our respective nuclear stockpiles. They are also being undertaken to support the examination of the optimum life of the UK's existing nuclear warhead and the range of replacement options that might be available to inform decisions, likely to be necessary in the next Parliament, on whether and how we may need to refurbish or replace the existing warhead. I am withholding details of the precise nature of this work in the interests of national security.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which works of art from the Government Art Collection each Minister in his Department has selected for display in a private office. [259439]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have four works of art from the Government Art Collection (GAC) on display in my private office. They are:

'Gunner Paul March (Canadian Forces)' by Henry Lamb

'A Merchantman at Catania' by Bernard Hailstone

'Dust in Normandy, August 1944' by Stephen Bone

'The Southwest Prospect of the City of Durham' by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck

No other Ministers have art from the GAC on display in their private offices.

Departmental Pay

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's current salary bill is. [258431]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD's staff costs are:

£ billion

	2007-08	2006-07
Salaries and wages	8.9	8.7
Social security costs	0.6	0.6
Pension costs	1.8	1.8
Redundancy and severance payments	0.1	0.1

	2007-08	£ billion 2008-07
Made up of:		
Service	8.6	8.4
Civilian	2.8	2.8

This information is published in the MOD's Annual Report and Accounts, copies of which are available in the Library of the House, and also on line at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/MODAnnualReports0708/

Nuclear Submarines

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 17, on the collision of nuclear submarines, when Parliament will be informed of the findings of the inquiry; and if he will make a statement. [260524]

Mr. Hutton: I anticipate that the inquiry into the incident involving HMS Vanguard and Le Triomphant will report to me shortly. I will consider what and how to report to Parliament once I have received that report and bearing in mind the need to protect information in the interests of national security.

Warships

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost of maintaining a *(a)* Type-42 destroyer and *(b)* Type-23 frigate is in 2008-09. [258882]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The cost of maintaining a Type 42 Destroyer in Financial Year 2008-09 has been estimated as £1.2 million while that for a Type 23 Frigate is estimated as £0.9 million. These figures are based on maintenance costs that are typically incurred by these vessels while meeting their operational commitments; they do not include costs incurred for upkeep work, such as refits and docking periods.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Big Lottery Fund: Travelling People

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Big Lottery Fund has provided for projects to assist Traveller groups since the fund was established; and what projects have been supported by such expenditure. [259425]

Barbara Follett: The Big Lottery Fund (BIG) have advised that since their inception in June 2004, £4,756,759 has been awarded to projects which have Anglo-Roma Gypsies and Travellers as their primary beneficiary group.

Applicants funded by BIG who have Anglo-Roma Gypsies and Travellers as their main beneficiary group are:

BIG Awards
An Munia Tober
Armagh Travellers Support Group
Brent Irish Advisory Service
Church of England Children's Society
Community Development Agency for Hertfordshire
Craigavon Travellers Support Committee
Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group
Doncaster CVS
East Howie Traveller Association
Forest Bus Ltd
Friends Families and Travellers
Gypsy/Traveller Education and Information Project North East
London Borough of Ealing
Novas Ouvertures Group
Ormiston Children and Families Trust
Peterborough Citizens Advice Bureau
Southern Regional College
Stoke-On-Trent Citizens Advice Bureau
Surrey Community Action
The Community Development Company Limited
The Rural Media Company
Traveller Space
Travellers School Charity
West Oxfordshire Citizens Advice Bureau

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department working on tourism issues have qualifications in economics; and how many staff in his Department work as economists. [260617]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport there is one member of staff working on tourism issues who has a qualification in economics: and there are seven staff in the Department who are currently members of the Government Economic Service.

Football: Betting

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Football Association on plans for a pan-European approach to the subject of football match-fixing. [259874]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Ministers at the Department meet representatives from the Football Association (FA), as well as a wide variety of other sports bodies, on a regular basis to discuss a number of issues. The general subject of integrity in sports betting has been discussed during those meetings, but the Secretary of State has not met the FA specifically to discuss plans for a cross-Europe approach to the subject of football match-fixing.

The Government take any allegations relating to the integrity of sport seriously. The Gambling Act 2005 (the Act) introduced tough new penalties to ensure gambling is free from crime and corruption. In particular the Act established the offence of cheating at gambling where any person found guilty faces a maximum prison sentence of two years.

Museums and Galleries: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* Sport England, *(b)* English Heritage, *(c)* the Heritage Lottery Fund, *(d)* the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, *(e)* the Big Lottery Fund and *(f)* Arts Council England spent on (i) transcripts or recordings, (ii) fees to the Newspaper Licensing Authority and (iii) analysis of press coverage in each of the last three years. [240951]

Barbara Follett: We have been advised by the following organisations that spend in each of the areas is as follows:

Organisation		*Spend (£)*
Sport England		
(i) and (iii)	2005-06	51,600
	2006-07	55,500
	2007-08	55,900
(ii)	2005-06	36,900
	2006-07	30,700
	2007-08	38,200
English Heritage		
(i)	2005-06	13,000
	2006-07	15,200
	2007-08	24,300
(ii)	2005-06	32,800
	2006-07	35,000
	2007-08	26,000
(iii)		[1]
The Heritage Lottery Fund		
(i)	2005-06	1,300
	2006-07	2,400
	2007-08	2,800
(ii)	2005-06	4,900
	2006-07	5,500
	2007-08	2,600
(iii)	2005-06	23,500
	2006-07	19,400
	2007-08	23,500
The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council		
(i)		[2]
(ii)	2005-06	0
	2006-07	7,100
	2007-08	17,700
(iii)	2005-06	11,800
	2006-07	40,000
	2007-08	44,700
Big Lottery Fund		
(i)	2005-06	2,600
	2006-07	3,300
	2007-08	6,600
(ii)	2005-06	4,200
	2006-07	9,500
	2007-08	10,400
(iii)	2005-06	0
	2006-07	0
	2007-08	2,100
Arts Council England		
(i)	2006-07	65,500
	2007-08	116,000
	2008-09	74,600
(ii)	2006-07	10,400
	2007-08	15,300
	2008-09	19,500
(iii)	2006-07	8,400
	2007-08	25,200
	2008-09	27,700

[1] English Heritage have confirmed that they do not analyse press coverage.
[2] MLA have confirmed that they have not commissioned any transcripts or recordings in this three year period.
Note:
Please note that these figures are inclusive of VAT. For consistency, all figures have been rounded up to the nearest £100.

Sports: Disabled

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps the Government are taking to promote sport for people with a disability. [260167]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that it gave the English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS) £1.1 million of core funding in 2008-09 for the organisation to promote inclusion and achieve equality of sporting opportunities for disabled people.

Sport England has been a key partner in the development of the Playground to Podium framework which supports the identification and development of disabled players and athletes. As part of this framework Sport England has recently given £3,066,821 of funding to six National Governing Bodies (NGBs): Athletics (£604,100), Boccia (£56,532), Football (£521,200), Swimming (£721,989), Table Tennis (£569,900), and Wheelchair Basketball (£593,100).

Sport England is now working with all of the London 2012 Paralympics sports including Boccia, Wheelchair Rugby, and Goal ball to support the recognition of NGBs and the development of stronger infrastructure within these sports. Boccia, Wheelchair Rugby, and Goal ball have been allocated over £1.65 million for the 2009-13 period.

Each of the 46 sports that have submitted funding applications to Sport England for the 2009-13 period had their submissions assessed on commitment of the sport to developing opportunities for under-represented groups including people with a disability.

Theatre: Concessions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps the Government are taking to promote the free theatre tickets initiative. [260168]

Barbara Follett: The Free Theatre Ticket for under 26s Scheme, known as A Night Less Ordinary, which has received widespread media coverage, is managed by Arts Council England. It went 'live' across the country on 16 February 2009 to coincide with spring half-term. Individual theatres participating in the scheme are responsible for marketing their own free theatre ticket offer.

Arts Council England has agreed a partnership with Metro to help promote the A Night Less Ordinary scheme in newspapers and online.

There is a dedicated website:

http://www.anightlessordinary.org.uk/

where users can find details of local participating theatres and sign up to receive a newsletter providing regular information about the scheme. Between the website's first day of operation on 10 February and 26 February 2009, the website had received over 170,000 visits. 4,500 people had signed up to receive the newsletter. There is also an A Night Less Ordinary Facebook group.

Tourism: South West

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the contribution made by tourism to the economies of *(a)* South West England, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* South East Cornwall in the last five years. [259416]

Barbara Follett: The South West Regional Development Agency have advised that their estimate of the contribution made by tourism to the economies of *(a)* South West England, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* South East Cornwall for 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2006, based on the Value of Tourism reports for those years is as follows:

£000

Region	2006	2005	2003	2001
South West	8,940,949	8,874,636	8,007,744	8,846,006
Cornwall	1,621,430	1,524,130	1,535,617	1,639,482
Caradon (S.E. Cornwall)	185,740	173,793	178,348	194,509

2007 district data are being worked on at the moment and should be available shortly.

Value of Tourism reports were produced every two years up until 2005.

Video Games

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many video games were sold in the UK in each of the last five years. [260344]

Barbara Follett: I am advised by the Entertainment and Leisure Software Publishers Association (ELSPA), who hold this information, of the following numbers of video games sold in the UK in the last five years:

	Number
2008	79,165,615
2007	68,359,144
2006	58,846,462
2005	55,170,044
2004	52,807,808

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many video games presented to the British Board of Film Classification have been refused a classification in each of the last five years. [260345]

Barbara Follett: In 2007 the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) rejected the full version of the video game Manhunt 2. This game remains banned in the UK. The BBFC also rejected a toned down version of Manhunt 2 but this ban was overturned on appeal to the Video Appeals Committee and this modified version is on sale in the UK. No other games were refused a classification in this period.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many video games consoles were sold in the UK in the latest *(a)* week, *(b)* month and *(c)* year for which information is available. [260346]

Barbara Follett: I am advised by GfK Chart-Track, the UK charts authority responsible for monitoring retail sales of video games in the UK, of the following available figures:

(a) 106,000 consoles sold in week 8 of 2009

(b) 444,000 consoles sold in February 2009

(c) 9.3 million consoles sold in 2008.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what research his Department has conducted on the average age at which children begin *(a)* playing video games and *(b)* using the internet. [260348]

Barbara Follett: The Byron Review: "Safer Children in a Digital World" report reviewed a comprehensive range of available research looking at how children interact with video games and the internet. However, no specific research has been undertaken by my Department to determine the age children begin playing video games or using the internet.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much her Department spent on *(a)* pot plants and *(b)* cut flowers in each of the last three years. [256172]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) on 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 324W.

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the average number of days sick leave per member of staff per year in her Office has been since the Office was established. [256387]

Tessa Jowell: Annual sick leave statistics, including average number of sick leave days per member of staff, are published on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://beta.civilservice.gov.uk/

and in the "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service", a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Olympic Games 2012: Expenditure

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much had been spent on the aquatics venue at the latest date for which figures are available; and what the estimated final cost of the venue is. [256583]

Tessa Jowell: At the end of December 2008, £33 million had been spent on the aquatics centre project.

The original November 2007 budget for the project was £214 million. This was increased to £246 million due to the transfer of £28 million to the aquatics centre budget from that of the F10 Bridge—the land bridge that will form part of the roof of the venue—and increases in scope to allow for enhanced community use of the venue in legacy. There is a potential cost pressure relating to a possible scope change for additional athlete facilities, which may or may not arise, estimated at £5 million.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Administration

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 935W, what assessment the House of Commons Commission has made of the merits of the *(a)* accounting and administration systems for and *(b)* systems for provision of information to the public on hon. Members' expenses in place in the (i) Scottish Parliament and (ii) National Assembly for Wales; and whether the Commission has considered adopting elements of those systems for use by the House authorities. [260603]

Nick Harvey: The Scottish Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales operate systems of allowances and governance that differ from those that apply in the House of Commons. In the case of the provision of information, the Scottish Parliament is subject to separate access to information legislation and associated scrutiny. In reaching its own decisions in relation both to the administration of Members' allowances and publication of information about them the Members Estimate Committee has drawn on a range of sources including the other UK legislatures and Assemblies. For example the Committee drew extensively on the experience of the Scottish Parliament in its Review of Allowances (HC 578) published in June 2008.

Medical Examinations

Dr. Gibson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the House of Commons Commission will make provision for the Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Service to offer voluntary annual medical checks to all *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* staff of hon. Members and *(c)* staff of the House. [260208]

Nick Harvey: Currently, the Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Service offer medical checks for Members of both Houses (every three years but Members can request an earlier appointment if they wish) and staff of the House (over 55s only). There is no provision for health checks for staff of hon. Members. There are no plans to increase the frequency of health checks or to extend the eligibility to other groups. Although the formal screening programme is not open to staff of hon. Members, there is provision for them to make use of the minor treatment facility and the physiotherapist.

Members' Allowances

Mr. Doran: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what arrangements are being made for the House to publish further information about Members' allowances. [261408]

Nick Harvey: Annual totals for 2007-08, using the 10 main headings of previous annual publications, will shortly be sent to Members for checking, and will be published before the Easter recess.

Work is continuing on preparing for publication scans of receipts and forms for the years 2004-05 to 2007-08.

Snow and Ice

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1391W, on snow and ice, if he will assess the merits of issuing all hon. Members with snow shovels. [260618]

Nick Harvey: No. As I said in my reply to the hon. Member on 5 April, the cleaning contractor, who has responsibility for snow clearance, has increased the number of snow shovels held on the parliamentary estate to 20.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Pakistan on their agreement with the Taliban in Swat province. [259987]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's last discussions with the Government of Pakistan were with President Zardari on 9 February 2009. He has not discussed Pakistan Government's announcement of a halt to military operations in Swat.

Binyam Mohamed

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the use by Moroccan intelligence services of intelligence gathered by *(a)* UK and *(b)* US authorities during the interrogation of Binyam Mohamed; whether he authorised the release of such information to the Moroccan intelligence services; what discussions he has had with the US Administration on the release of such information (i) prior and (ii) subsequent to its release; and if he will make a statement. [259028]

Bill Rammell: It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on intelligence matters. The Intelligence Security Committee's 2007 Report on Rendition stated that

> "there is a reasonable probability that intelligence passed to the Americans was used in relation to Mr. Mohamed's subsequent interrogation."

Colombia: Drugs

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 358W, on Colombia: armed forces, what consideration his Department has given to the merits of providing counter-narcotics assistance to Colombia through the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. [260544]

Gillian Merron: We support a number of projects on counter narcotics in Colombia and elsewhere in the Latin American region that are implemented by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office supports the following recent or ongoing UNODC projects in Colombia:

(i) Expanding regional legal assistance programmes (multi-year 2007-10)

(ii) Training against money laundering (2007-08)

(iii) Best practices in trials and investigation (multi-year 2007-09)

(iv) Colombia/Venezuela border (multi-year 2008-09)

(v) Risk of money laundering in Commerce and Trade (multi-year 2009-11)

(vi) Regional criminal justice sector reform (multi-year 2009-12)

(vii) Implementation of Best Practices in Civil Asset Forfeiture (Colombia/Peru) (2009)

(viii) Integrated monitoring system for illicit crops (2007-08)

English Language: Education

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's announcement on English—the World's language on 17 January 2008, what progress has been made in inviting offers from telephone, telecom, internet, broadcast and website companies to make the latest and most dynamic English learning, teaching and practice materials available through their channels. [259166]

Caroline Flint: Following my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's announcement, the British Council is in detailed discussions with a major global IT business and a web-based learning company about providing its English language materials for global distribution.

In April 2008, the British Council, in partnership with the BBC and UK English language teaching publishers, launched the 'TeachingEnglish' website which now attracts 350,000 unique visitors a month. The British Council is also piloting a new voice over internet protocol offer in workplace English for young Chinese professionals with a Chinese company.

The 'TeachingEnglish' website is available for viewing at:

http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/

Nuclear Disarmament

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many copies of his Departmental report, "Lifting the Nuclear Shadow: Creating the Conditions for Abolishing Nuclear Weapons", have been published; what methods he has used to publicise and distribute the paper; who was present at the launch of the paper at the International Institute for Strategic Studies on 4 February 2008; and which non-governmental organisations were consulted in preparation of the report. [255774]

Bill Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) printed an initial run of 3,000 copies of the report. It is also available for download from the FCO website; to date, over 1,000 copies have been downloaded. The paper is being publicised and distributed online, via e-mail, and through overseas posts. The launch event for the paper at the International Institute for Strategic Studies on 4 February 2008 was attended by interested non-governmental organisations (NGOs), academics, parliamentarians, the media, representatives of foreign embassies and International Institute for Strategic Studies members. NGOs consulted in preparation of the report were:

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
VERTIC
The Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy
Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs
Medact
British American Security Information Council
Kings College London
Royal United Services Institute
UK Defence Academy
Southampton University
University of Wales
International Institute for Strategic Studies
Council on Foreign Relations
Carnegie Endowment
Nuclear Threat Initiative

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* members of the UN Security Council and *(b)* his Commonwealth counterparts on the political situation in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [260162]

Bill Rammell: We remain of the view that a political solution that addresses the legitimate concerns of all communities in Sri Lanka is the only way to bring a sustainable end to the conflict. We will continue to discuss this with international partners. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has discussed the situation in Sri Lanka with a number of UN Security Council, Commonwealth and EU counterparts.

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek a special session of the United Nations Human Rights Council on the situation in Sri Lanka. [260164]

Bill Rammell: The UK, both independently and as part of the EU, regularly addresses the human rights situation in Sri Lanka and plans to do so again at the UN Human Rights Council which will be in session from 2-27 March 2009.

Sri Lanka: Foreign Relations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the remit of the Prime Minister's special envoy to Sri Lanka is. [259927]

Bill Rammell: We hope that my right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne) in his role as the Prime Minister's special envoy for Sri Lanka, will be able to focus on the immediate humanitarian situation in northern Sri Lanka and the Government of Sri Lanka's work to set out a political solution to bring about a lasting end to the conflict. We want him to work closely with the Sri Lankan Government, leaders from all communities in Sri Lanka, international agencies and the wider international community in this role. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary explained to the House on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 140, he remains in active discussion with the Sri Lankan Government to encourage them to work with him.

USA: Israel

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government have received notification from the United States Administration in the last six months of any US transfer of armaments to Israel through UK airspace. [254694]

Mr. Hutton: I have been asked to reply.

The Ministry of Defence has a system in place that requires all countries to seek clearance for aircraft registered as military or state aircraft that wish to enter, fly over or depart from UK airspace or for civilian aircraft wishing to land at a military base. All other types of aircraft are subject to the requirements of the Civil Aviation Authority. A request for clearance from the MOD includes the final destination of the flight and details of dangerous cargo that may be in transit. I can confirm that we have had no such requests from the US with regards to flights to Israel through UK airspace in the last six months.

Western Sahara: Fisheries

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the effects on UK trawlers of the declaration of an exclusive economic zone in relation to the waters off Western Sahara. [257506]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not received any reports about the effect the declaration by the Polisario of an exclusive economic zone off the waters of Western Sahara has had on the activities of UK trawlers.

In line with UN Security Council Resolution 1813, 30 April 2008 the Government continue to call on all the parties to the dispute to work in a spirit of realism and compromise towards a mutually acceptable political solution, providing for self-determination for the people of Western Sahara.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will request the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights to release the Commission's report on its missions to Rabat, El Ayoun, Tindouf and Algiers in May and June 2006. [260525]

Bill Rammell: The Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) visited Morocco, Western Sahara, refugee camps in Tindouf, (Algeria) and Algiers in May-June 2006 to gather information on the human rights situation. The OHCHR shared its report privately with Morocco, Algeria and the Polisario on 8 September 2006, but did not publish it, in line with terms of reference agreed by all parties prior to the visit. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights continues to maintain the position that the report should remain an internal document, not for official publication, and the UK respects this decision.

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will support the inclusion of a peacekeeping role and a human rights monitoring function for the United Nations Mission for the referendum in Western Sahara upon the renewal of its mandate in April 2009. [260526]

Bill Rammell: The UK continues to support the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). The mandate of MINURSO does not include human rights monitoring.

However, success in the negotiations depends upon building greater confidence between the parties. In this respect, the UK remains open to supporting UN human rights monitoring in the Western Sahara if it can be shown to enhance the mutual confidence of the parties.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the inclusion in a UN plan for Western Sahara of a referendum with independence as an option. [248472]

Bill Rammell: The UK continues to believe that progress towards a negotiated solution to the dispute in Western Sahara providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara is best achieved under the auspices of the UN. We fully support the efforts of the UN Secretary-General to this end and welcome the appointment of his new personal envoy to the Western Sahara, Christopher Ross.

The UK believes that a referendum on the future status of Western Sahara should result from the negotiation process currently under way, with the options for any eventual referendum to be agreed by all the parties.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has allocated for staff bonuses in 2008-09. [252254]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Performance related pay schemes encourage high attainment, help drive performance in Departments and agencies and support better public service delivery. DEFRA uses non-consolidated payments to reward high performance during the year and these are based on the how well an individual has met or exceeded set objectives, relative to their peers.

These are one-off payments and do not count towards pension. They are funded within existing pay bill controls, have to be re-earned each year and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs. They are allocated from a 'pot' expressed as a percentage of the salary budget each year.

For the senior civil service (SCS) the size of the pot available is agreed centrally each year following recommendations from the senior salaries review body. In recent years, this pot has increased as greater emphasis is placed on non-consolidated performance pay with proportionately smaller increases to consolidated base pay.

The size of the pot for non-SCS is determined individually by Departments and agencies through the pay remit process and in negotiations with the trades unions.

In 2008-09, £4,913,971 was allocated for non-consolidated performance pay for staff in DEFRA and its executive agencies. The total paybill for the period is £384,631,197, of which, 1.28 per cent. is used for non-consolidated performance payments.

The median payment for staff in core DEFRA (including staff who transferred to DECC in October 2008) and those agencies covered by core DEFRA's terms and conditions (Animal Health, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Marine and Fisheries Agency and Government Decontamination Service and until 1 April 2008 Pesticides Safety Directorate) was £750. In CSL it was £507.57; in VLA it was £266.23; in CEFAS it was £956; and in the RPA it was £800.

Departmental Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of his Department's contracts with public relations consultancies was in each of the last five years. [251532]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In DEFRA, public relations covers a wide range of activity which forms an important element of a broader communications mix. This can include advertising, direct marketing, live events and publications. The following table shows what public relations activity was procured via DEFRA's Communications Directorate since FY 2004-05 using the COI public relations framework.

Financial year	*PR agency*	*Campaign*	*Expenditure (£)*
2004-05	Amazon PR	Sustainable Development	58,788
2005-06	Amazon PR	Sustainable Development	67,084
	Weber Shandwick	Climate Change	86,781
2006-07	EdComs and Blue Rubicon	DEFRA Year of Food and Farming	50,872
	Amazon PR	Sustainable Development	48,973
	Trimedia Harrison Cowley	ACT ON CO_2 campaign	49,250
	Amazon PR	Sustainable development	48,973
2007-08	Trimedia Harrison Cowley	ACT ON CO_2 campaign (including a series of regional roadshows)	476,301
	Munro and Forster	Waste	64,424
	Trimedia Communications UK	Climate Change Champions	32,216
	EdComs and Blue Rubicon	DEFRA Year of Food and Farming	242,578
2008-09	EDComs and Blue Rubicon	DEFRA Year of Food and Farming	28,230
	Trimedia Communications UK	ACT ON CO_2 campaign	78,529

Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by his Department is in 2008-09. [258513]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The estimated cost of vacant business rates for Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs sites, recorded as vacant on e-PIMS for 2008-09 is £1,285,135.10. One large building in Central London accounts for £736,769.95 of this, which is being actively marketed.

We have a further two sites that have been vacant in 2008-09 and the estimated cost of vacant business rates on these sites is £19,320.

Floods

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of flooding caused by *(a)* overflowing waterways and *(b)* blocked watercourses, culverts and drains in 2008. [259989]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency collects information on flooding from rivers and the sea. It has not estimated the proportion causes of flooding from these sources in 2008.

Floods: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the effect on the flood plain of the works planned in the flood risk area of Canvey Island in relation to the Roscommon Way extension; and if he will make a statement. [259639]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency has informed the Highways Authority consultants, Mouchel Parkman that a flood risk assessment (FRA) must be submitted as part of the planning application for the Roscommon Way extension. The FRA must determine the flood risk impact of the road and propose mitigation measures so there is no increased flood risk to the surrounding land. To date the Environment Agency has not been consulted on the flood risk assessment.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Crops

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans his Department has for managing the coexistence of genetically-modified (GM) and non-GM crops. [260185]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In 2006 DEFRA published a consultation paper on proposals for managing the coexistence of GM and non-GM crop in England. This is available at

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/gm/crops/pdf/gmcoexist-condoc.pdf

On 8 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 16WS, we made a written statement confirming that we would await further developments before finalising our coexistence plans. That remains the current position.

National Hazards Team

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the national hazards team to be established. [256544]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

The Civil Contingencies Secretariat is recruiting members of the natural hazards team now and expects to establish the team very soon; in the meantime, work is in hand to initiate the project to identify and counter the risks to national infrastructure from natural hazards.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the required average annual reduction in carbon dioxide emissions per passenger relating to aircraft departing from UK airports between 2005 and 2050 in order to achieve the Government's target of keeping aviation-derived carbon dioxide emissions in 2050 below the 2005 level. [260131]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In announcing their new target to bring UK aviation carbon dioxide emissions in 2050 below 2005 levels, the Government asked the Committee on Climate Change to advise on the best basis for its development. The Committee is due to report by December 2009. The Committee's advice will inform the Government's approach in ensuring achievement of the target.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average annual change in carbon dioxide emissions has been per passenger in relation to aircraft departing from UK airports in each year since 1990. [260132]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table provides estimates of aviation carbon dioxide emissions per passenger for all domestic and international air passengers flying from UK airports in each year from 1990 to 2007.

Based on these data, average CO_2 per domestic passenger has decreased from 0.10 tonnes in 1990 to 0.09 tonnes in 2007 and per international passenger from 0.41 tonnes in 1990 to 0.36 tonnes in 2007; this equates to an average annual fall of 1 per cent. in CO_2 per passenger.

Table: Estimates of average CO_2 emissions per passenger flying from UK airports, 1990-2007

	Domestic aviation			*International aviation*		
	Carbon dioxide (million tonnes)	*Departing passengers (million)*	*Average CO_2 per passenger (tonnes)*	*Carbon dioxide (million tonnes)*	*Departing passengers (million)*	*Average CO_2 per passenger (tonnes)*
1990	1.24	12.2	0.10	15.71	38.6	0.41
1991	1.21	11.5	0.11	15.48	36.3	0.43
1992	1.22	11.6	0.11	17.12	41.5	0.41
1993	1.30	12.1	0.11	18.23	44.0	0.41
1994	1.21	12.9	0.09	18.97	48.2	0.39
1995	1.29	14.0	0.09	20.17	50.7	0.40
1996	1.40	15.2	0.09	21.38	52.7	0.41
1997	1.46	16.0	0.09	22.74	57.3	0.40
1998	1.59	16.7	0.10	25.30	62.7	0.40
1999	1.76	17.5	0.10	27.49	66.7	0.41
2000	1.90	18.6	0.10	30.31	71.3	0.42
2001	1.99	19.2	0.10	29.56	71.4	0.41
2002	2.00	21.0	0.09	29.01	73.3	0.40
2003	2.04	22.9	0.09	29.72	77.1	0.39
2004	2.18	24.3	0.09	32.53	83.6	0.39
2005	2.38	25.1	0.09	35.09	89.0	0.39
2006	2.29	24.9	0.09	35.65	92.7	0.38

Table: Estimates of average CO_2 emissions per passenger flying from UK airports, 1990-2007

	Domestic aviation			International aviation		
	Carbon dioxide (million tonnes)	*Departing passengers (million)*	*Average CO_2 per passenger (tonnes)*	*Carbon dioxide (million tonnes)*	*Departing passengers (million)*	*Average CO_2 per passenger (tonnes)*
2007	2.14	24.4	0.09	34.97	98.0	0.36

Notes:
1. Domestic aviation includes all departures from UK airports flying to another UK airport. International aviation includes all departures from a UK airport flying to a destination outside of the UK. These will carry both UK and foreign passengers.
2. The aviation CO_2 emissions are derived from bunker fuel sales, which broadly equates to all departing aircraft (excluding military aircraft). Therefore the figures in the table do not reflect emissions from surface access nor emissions from airport buildings.
3. Emissions from freighter aircraft have been allocated to passengers in these illustrative figures.
4. The CO_2 emissions do not account for non-CO_2 climate change effects of aviation emissions.

Sources:
Carbon dioxide emissions - AEA Energy and Environment / DECC. Passengers - Civil Aviation Authority statistics.

The average CO_2 per passenger figures in the table above have been calculated by dividing total CO_2 emissions from departing flights by the number of departing passengers. They do not therefore reflect a weighted average of emissions to account for the relative numbers of flights flying different trip lengths. The level of emissions per passenger will be affected by such factors as load factors, type of aircraft used, fuel efficiency changes, etc.

Aviation: Taxation

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his forecast is for the constrained air passenger demand in 2030, taking into account *(a)* the implementation of the increases in air passenger Duty announced in the 2008 Pre-Budget Report, *(b)* expectations of future levels of gross domestic product as set out in the 2008 Pre-Budget Report and *(c)* the effect of aviation being included in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme on the basis of current proposals; and what adjustment would be made to this forecast if it is also assumed that a barrel of oil will cost $150 in 2030. [260133]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport's UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts, page 48, reports the forecast of 2030 constrained air passenger demand for: each of the individual scenarios *(a)*, *(b)*, *(c)*; and, a 2030 oil price of $150 per barrel (in 2007 prices). This report is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/atf/co2forecast09/

No assessment has been made of the forecast of 2030 constrained air passenger demand taking into account *(a)*, *(b)* and *(c)* together. Therefore, no assessment has been made of the adjustment that would be made to such a forecast if a barrel of oil were to cost $150 (in 2007 prices) in 2030.

BRB (Residuary): Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by the British Railways Board (Residuary) Ltd is in 2008-09. [258523]

Mr. Hoon: The estimated empty property business rates payable for the year 2008-09 is approximately £1.2 million.

The properties comprise approximately 121,244 sq m of largely office accommodation originally leased by the then British Railways Board to accommodate their own administrative staff. The properties were transferred to BRB (Residuary) Ltd (BRBR)—a wholly owned subsidiary of the Secretary of State—in 2002. The accommodation is now sub-let to a mixture of civil service Departments, the railway industry and other private sector tenants.

The day to day management objective for the Estate is to keep operating costs to a minimum, including empty rates. This is done by renting out as much space as possible, consistent with value for money.

The e-PIMs database identifies some 30,126 sq m as available to let. However, part of this space is also earmarked for redevelopment and early disposal. For example, the Rail House, Manchester space is subject to a major redevelopment to create over 10,000 sq m of accommodation for the civil service, with the Training and Development Agency moving up from London. The Furlong House and John Peyton House properties (6,200 sq m) are currently in the late stages of sale.

Bus Services: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many low-floor wheelchair-accessible buses are used on services funded by Merseytravel in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Sefton (i) in total and (ii) as a proportion of the size of the fleet. [259479]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold the information requested as the vehicle specification and funding for supported services is a matter for local authorities.

Careless Driving: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to bring forward proposals to give police forces the powers to issue fixed penalty tickets for careless driving; and if he will make a statement. [260376]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Proposals to make careless driving a fixed penalty offence were outlined in the Department's Road Safety Compliance Consultation which closed on 27 February. We are currently considering the responses and an announcement will be made in due course.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which works of art from the Government Art Collection each Minister in his Department has selected for display in a private office. [259437]

Mr. Hoon: The following pieces from the Government Art Collection are on display in Ministers' private offices in the Department for Transport.

Minister	*Title of artwork*	*Type*	*Artist*
Geoff Hoon	Persian Legend	Painting	Thelma Hulbert
	Downstairs	Painting	Olwen Jones
	Interior with Aluminium Sheet	Painting	Peter Jowett
	Grey August 2	Painting	Prunella Clough
	Cypress Trees at Oppedette	Print	Craigie Aitchison
Jim Fitzpatrick	Night	Print	Andre Bicat
	Stone Monument in Mist, Cornwall	Photograph	Howard Jeffs
	Houses of Parliament III	Print	Oskar Kokoschka
	Port of London I	Print	Oskar Kokoschka
	Tower Bridge III	Print	Oskar Kokoschka
	Cyberseries I	Print	Jessica Jones
	Cyberseries II	Print	Jessica Jones
Paul Clark	Building Retaining Wall etc. near Park Street, Camden Town, 17 September 1836. Drawings of the London and Birmingham Railway	Print	John Cooke Bourne
	Building the Stationery Engine House, Camden Town 26 April 1837. Drawings of the London and Birmingham Railway	Print	John Cooke Bourne
	Vale of Keswick, Bassenthwaite Lake and River Greta	Print	James Baker Pyne
	Harvest	Print	Richard Slater

Departmental Data Protection

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what period of time elapses before his Department's electronic records are *(a)* archived and *(b)* destroyed; and what percentage of such records created in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008 have been destroyed. [259353]

Mr. Hoon: The following table shows relevant information for the central Department and the Executive agencies:

	Record management
DfT Central	The archival and destruction arrangements for all documents held as part of the official record, including those electronically produced, are subject to business need and agreement between business units and the Departmental Records Officer. Information on the number of electronic records created and destroyed is not available.
Highways Agency	All HA electronic records have a standard retention period of 7 years followed by a review. At the end of the review period they will be retained, destroyed or transferred to the National Archives at the appropriate time. No archiving is done within the HA. The HA electronic records management system went live on 1 February 2009, therefore no formal electronic records were created in 2007 and 2008.
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	Policies are in place for the archive and deletion of electronic data but the period for these actions varies in accordance with the business needs. No areas have deleted records for 2007 and 2008.
Government Car and Despatch Agency	Records management is the responsibility of individual units within the Agency. Destruction numbers are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	The MCA keep all of its records in hard copy format with archive and destruction following agreed retention and disposal agreements. As a result, no electronic records are archived or destroyed.
Vehicle Certification Agency	VCA does not have a separate electronic records policy but guidelines are in place for records management arrangements throughout the agency.
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	DVLA core business data relate to full driver and vehicle records. These records are retained indefinitely to meet our core business requirements, for example law enforcement.
Driving Standards Agency	DSA applies different archiving and destruction timescales according to the nature of the data. Records are not kept on the creation or destruction of electronic information.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date his Department's policy on the management of its electronic records took effect; and on what dates it has been reviewed. [259354]

Mr. Hoon: The dates on which the central Department and Executive agency policies on record management took effect and were reviewed is set out in the following tables:

	Date records policy took effect	*Date records policy reviewed*
DfT(C)	Prior to formation of DFT in 2002	Regularly reviewed and updated when necessary, most recently in December 2007 and October 2008
HA	1994	Reviewed annually; January 2009
VOSA	2003	Parts of the policy are currently being reviewed

	Date records policy took effect	*Date records policy reviewed*
GCDA	Working to DFT(C) records policy	Will review GCDA records policy in 2009-2010
MCA	Working to DFT(C) records policy	Subject to DFT(C) review of policy and policy updates
VCA	Working to DFT(C) records policy	The policy for VCA is currently being reviewed
DVLA	2008 (for management of registered files)	Reviewed annually; December 2008

The dates on which the Driving Standards Agency's policies on record management took effect and were reviewed is set out in the following table:

DSA policy	*Approved*	*Reviewed*
HR Data Retention Policy	November 2002	Currently under review
DSA Records Management Policy	March 2003	Currently under review
Appropriate use of IT and Communications Equipment Policy	August 2006	Reviewed version published July 2008
Annex M of Pearson Data Processor Agreement	December 2007	July 2008
Retention Schedule for the Integrated Register of Driver Trainers	May 2008	Review date not yet set
Fraud and Integrity Retention and Disposal Schedule	January 2009	Review date not yet set

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's policy on the management of electronic records. [259355]

Mr. Hoon: A copy of the central Department's policy on the management of electronic and paper records has been placed in the Library along with records policies for the Highways Agency and the Vehicle Operator Services Agency. The Driving Standards Agency has also placed the following documents in the Library:

DSA Records Management Policy

HR Data Retention Policy

Appropriate use of IT and Communications Equipment Policy

Retention Schedule for the Integrated Register of Driver Trainers

Fraud and Integrity Retention and Disposal Schedule

Annex M of Pearson Data Processor Agreement.

The Driving and Vehicle Licensing Agency has policies on the storage, transmission and destruction of electronic protectively marked material but they are themselves protectively marked and it would not be appropriate to make them publicly available.

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average number of days sick leave per staff member in his Department was in each of the last five years. [256389]

Mr. Hoon: Sickness absence is monitored by the central Department and its agencies on a monthly basis. The average number of working days lost for the Department for Transport is as follows:

	Average number of working days lost
2003	10.2
2004	10.7
2005	10.4
2006	10.2
2007	11.0
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	10.8
1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008	9.9
1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008	9.3

The figures to 2006 have been previously published in the "National Audit Office Report: The management of staff sickness absence in the Department for Transport and its agencies" dated 8 June 2007. The figures are based on an agreed departmental reporting methodology and reported within a calendar year. Figures for 2007 onwards are in accordance with the Cabinet Office reporting methodology introduced for all Government Departments. Reporting is now within financial years on a rolling year basis.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many discrete views were expressed in responses to the adding capacity at Heathrow airport consultation, broken down by *(a)* the code allocated to the view under the code frame used by Detica and *(b)* the response type in which the view was expressed; [259110]

(2) how many responses to the adding capacity at Heathrow airport consultation were received in the form of *(a)* Justine Greening Petition and *(b)* 'Justine Greening your views of Heathrow' postcards, as categorised by Detica under its code frame; and how many of these responses included free-text. [259111]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 26 February 2009]*: A detailed analysis of the responses to the adding capacity at Heathrow airport consultation can be found in the "adding capacity at Heathrow airport report on consultation responses", which was published on 15 January. Chapter 4 discusses response volumes, and Appendix B explains in detail the code frames used. 1549 'Justine Greening your views of Heathrow' postcards, and 584 'Justine Greening Petition' responses were received. However as the postcards were received before the start of the consultation, they were not analysed as individual responses. A detailed breakdown of discrete views contained both in petition and postcard responses, and in all other responses, can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

High Speed Two

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what terms of reference he has given to the High Speed Two company. [259407]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 27 February 2009]*: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of Sate for Transport on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 355-60, and the accompanying document "Britain's Transport Infrastructure: High Speed Two", which was deposited in the House Libraries on the same day.

Limousines

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what regulations apply to the carriage of passengers in stretch limousines; and if he will make a statement. [259349]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has published guidance for operators of stretch limousines, which provides an overview of the requirements that apply to the use of such vehicles. The guidance is available on the internet at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/taxis/limousines

and a copy will be placed in the Library.

Motor Vehicles: Petrol Alternatives

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* research and *(b)* trialling his Department has conducted on the provision of (i) hydrogen supply and (ii) electric charge points networks for road vehicles powered by hydrogen and electricity in the last five years; and what (A) funding and (B) other resources his Department has provided for (1) local authorities and (2) regional development agencies to create such networks in that period. [259591]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport (DfT) commissioned the Health and Safety Laboratory to examine the issues around hydrogen refuelling infrastructures. In 2008 they produced the reports "Assessing the safety of delivery and storage of hydrogen" and a "Review of the regulatory framework around hydrogen refuelling", available on:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/scienceresearch/futures/horizons/june08

The Department and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform commissioned Cenex (UK Centre of Excellence for Low Carbon and Fuel Cell technologies), along with the consultancy firm Arup, to examine and advise on the issues relating to the mass market introduction of electric vehicles. Their report is available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file48653.pdf

DfT has provided grant funding for electric recharging points of £171,000 through the alternative refuelling infrastructure grant programme of which £80,546 was provided directly to local authorities. There were no grants provided for the regional development agencies for electric recharging points. No grants were provided for hydrogen refuelling infrastructure.

New Trains: Investments

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-4W, on new trains (investments), by what date he expects the last of the 1,400 new carriages announced to be in service. [259610]

Paul Clark: The Intercity Express programme (IEP) order is for up to 1,400 vehicles, the last of which are expected to enter service in 2018.

Property Development

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the powers available to him under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2006 in respect of proposed development sites. [259324]

Paul Clark: Powers are available to the Secretary of State for Transport under the General Permitted Development Order[1], which give planning permission in respect of works undertaken in exercise of the functions of the Secretary of State under the Highways Act 1980, or works in connection with or incidental to the exercise of those functions. No assessment has been made of these powers.

[1] The Town and Country Planning (Application of Subordinate Legislation to the Crown) Order 2006 SI 2006/1282

Public Transport: Disabled

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding his Department has made available to improve disabled access transport services in North Wiltshire constituency. [258290]

Paul Clark: In November 2007, the Department for Transport announced the allocation of over £50 million to Wiltshire county council, which covers the North Wiltshire constituency, to support delivery of capital investment included in the last three years of its local transport plan. This funding is not ring-fenced and Wiltshire has discretion to spend allocations in line with its priorities, including disabled access to transport services. Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's formula grant.

Local transport legislation contains an obligation for local transport authorities to have regard to the transport needs of older people and people with mobility difficulties when developing transport plans and policies.

Railways: Overcrowding

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to introduce additional rolling stock on the Newport-Hereford line to reduce passenger overcrowding. [259393]

Paul Clark: Services on this route are provided by the Arriva Trains Wales franchise, and responsibility for their specification is devolved to the Welsh Assembly Government. Additional services were introduced on the route in December 2008.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many days stock of gritting agent the Highways Agency held on *(a)* 31 January 2009 and *(b)* 6 February 2009; and if he will make a statement. [258543]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency defines its salt stocks by the number of days that salt treatments could be delivered for snow conditions, across the strategic

road network in England, without further deliveries being received. This assumes six treatments per day, at a salt spread rate of 20 g/m2 per treatment.

During a normal winter season, the Highways Agency will seek to maintain a minimum salt stocks level of six days. For the requested dates, the salt stocks held by the Highways Agency were as follows:

	Days
31 January 2009	7.64
6 February 2009	4.16

This reduction in stocks enabled the Agency to make some of its supplies available to individual local authorities and for new supplies of salt to be shared with local authorities and devolved Administrations across Great Britain, reflecting stocks held and forecast weather.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require local authorities to clear pavements of snow in areas with high numbers of pedestrians. [259877]

Paul Clark: Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 places a duty on highway authorities

"to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice".

It is for each local highway authority to determine how best to discharge this duty. The Government see no need for further legislation.

Rolling Stock

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any of the new rail rolling stock recently announced by his Department will be fitted out for use as sleeper accommodation. [258440]

Paul Clark: These trains will be designed to be longer and carry up to 21 per cent. more passengers but will not be fitted out for use as sleeper accommodation.

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to support the provision of sleeper rail services where these compete with domestic or short-haul international air travel services; and if he will make a statement. [258441]

Paul Clark: Sleeper services between Scotland and London are provided by First ScotRail as part of the franchise agreement with transport Scotland. Sleeper services between Penzance and London are provided by First Great Western. There are no other plans for sleeper services.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Lewes of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1606W, on rolling stock, what the timetable is for ordering the remaining 877 of the 1,300 carriages referred to in the 2007 White Paper, "Delivering a Sustainable Railway". [258719]

Paul Clark: It is currently expected that the new train orders will be placed as follows:

Operator	Vehicles	Expected order date
NXEA	120	2009
LM	88	2009-10
GoCo	202	2009
SWT	140	2009-10
TLK	Up to 1,300	2009-10

However, this is subject to agreement with the train operators concerned and a satisfactory value for money assessment.

Wheel Clamps

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport under what circumstances the owner of a vehicle may be held liable for a payment to release a wheel clamp where the vehicle in question had been parked by a person other than the owner. [259346]

Paul Clark: Few local authorities use immobilisation as part of their parking enforcement activities. If an immobilised vehicle had been parked on the public highway by a person without the keeper's consent, the keeper would have to pay the release fee but can make representations to the local authority and, if this is refused, can appeal to an adjudicator on this ground.

I understand from the Home Office that if such a vehicle was immobilised on private land, the way that the vehicle keeper was treated would be at the discretion of the immobilisation staff.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Bereavement Benefits

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1010W, on bereavement benefits, how many payments of *(a)* bereavement allowance and *(b)* bereavement payment were (i) made within the target times and (ii) not made within the target times in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [255835]

Kitty Ussher: There is no national target for the processing of applications for bereavement benefits although we aim to deliver bereavement allowance within 15 days and bereavement payment within 10 days.

Information about average actual clearance time for bereavement allowance, widowed parents allowance and bereavement benefit payments for the last five years is in the following tables.

Bereavement allowance and widowed parents allowance average actual clearance times

	Days
2004-05	15.4
2005-06	14.8
2006-07	15.4
2007-08	18.8
2008-09 to date	15.1

Bereavement payment average actual clearance times

	Days
2004-05	7.8
2005-06	7.8
2006-07	8.9
2007-08	11.9
2008-09 to date	9.2

Departmental Consultants

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many consultants his Department retains; in what areas of his Department's work each operates; for how long each has been contracted to work within his Department; and at what cost. [259778]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 27 February 2009]*: The Department does not keep centralised records of individual consultants retained and therefore the answer could only be provided at disproportionate cost. We can however confirm that consultants are currently engaged in the following areas:

Human Resources
Finance
IT
Communications
Jobcentre Plus
Pension, Disability and Carers Service
Work, welfare and equality group

Departmental Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies for public access to services. [246992]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP and its executive agencies; Jobcentre Plus, Pension, Disability and Carers Service and Rent Service currently publish 129 0845 numbers for primary contact for customers accessing their services.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions in the last 12 months Ministers in his Department have used their discretion to rule that a parliamentary question for written answer should be answered because it would be in the public interest to do so, even though to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £700. [249132]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Housing Benefit: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will publish information on changes in the level of benefits experienced by local housing allowance claimants resident in *(a)* Southend-on-Sea and *(b)* Essex who move address; and if he will make a statement; [255104]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of persons residing in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex who will receive (i) an increase, (ii) a decrease and (iii) no change in benefit paid following the introduction of local housing allowance; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement; [255105]

Kitty Ussher: We have no immediate plans to publish specific information on the level of benefit change experienced by local housing allowance claimants who move address. We are in the process of carrying out a two year review of local housing allowance.

A claimant who is receiving the local housing allowance and who moves address within their existing broad rental market area, and who has no other changes to their family composition, will normally see no change in the amount of local housing allowance that they receive.

From 7 April 2008, the local housing allowance is being rolled out to customers making new claims for benefit and customers who change address. The local housing allowance provides a clear and transparent set of allowance rates that helps tenants know how much financial help is available. A claimant can obtain details of the relevant rate of local housing allowance in advance, allowing them to make an informed choice about the affordability of specific accommodation.

Information on all local housing allowance rates and details of broad rental market areas are available from the rent service website at:

www.therentservice.gov.uk/

The Department carried out a full public consultation before introducing the local housing allowance. We have received a wide range of representations about all aspects of local housing allowance. Details of individual representations, and our response to them, could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Mortgage Interest Rate Relief

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mortgage interest rate his Department is currently paying claimants entitled to assistance with mortgage interest; how many claimants have been paid less than this interest rate since the pre-Budget report; by how much those claimants have been underpaid; when he expects to be able to make good the payments to those claimants; and if he will make a statement. [251941]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 27 January 2009]*: On 24 November 2008, the Chancellor announced in the pre-Budget report that because of the exceptional circumstances in the economy and the housing market, the Government would maintain, for six months, the level of support for mortgage interest based on a standard interest rate of 6.08 per cent.

Some people will experience a temporary drop below 6.08 per cent. (to 4.58 per cent.) because our IT systems had been programmed to track the Bank of England base rate. When the Chancellor's decision was made,

our IT systems that are used to assess and pay DWP benefits had started automatically to implement the 1.5 per cent. reduction in the base rate announced by the Bank of England on 6 November.

We were able to re-adjust the rate back to 6.08 per cent. for people getting income-based jobseeker's allowance and income-related employment and support allowance. This amounted to 5 per cent. of the affected cases.

We could not do so for those getting income support and pension credit without a high risk of disrupting the normal running of our IT systems, most critically the uprating of benefits, which would have affected many more people than just those getting support for mortgage interest.

We estimate that 80,000 income support customers and 115,000 pension credit customers receive support for mortgage interest and these are currently being paid at 4.58 per cent.

We are taking urgent action to ensure that these customers do not lose out, and that cases are corrected to reflect the Chancellor's commitment. I can assure the House that no one is being paid support for mortgage at an interest rate below 4.58 per cent.

In total, departmental expenditure on support for mortgage interest is currently being underpaid at £1.5 million per week. In the vast majority of cases, we transfer customers' support for mortgage interest direct to their lender, so the customer will not see a fall in the amount of money they themselves receive each week. However, we estimate that, on average, support for mortgage interest in respect of pension credit customers will have been underpaid by £7 per week and in respect of income support customers by £11 per week.

We will make a corrective adjustment for a period of five weeks from 2 February to 8 March 2009. During this period, customers will receive an increase in their benefit to compensate them for the earlier reduction. Then, from 9 March benefit will be readjusted to the correct level with the standard interest rate set at 6.08 per cent.

Mortgage lenders, via the Council of Mortgage Lenders, have also been advised about the situation to ensure that lenders are aware of exactly what is happening.

Our staff have been fully briefed and we have issued clear guidance to local authority staff.

Pension Schemes

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of people who are auto-enrolled into the pension's savings scheme from 2012 will receive more than *(a)* £5, *(b)* more than £6, *(c)* more than £7 and *(d)* £8 or more worth of value for each £8 invested in their pension. [258219]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Pages 55-56 of the report 'Saving for retirement: Implications of pensions reforms on financial incentives to save for retirement', DWP Research Report 558, contain information about the modelled expected returns for individual contributions to a defined contribution pension with employer contribution after 2012. Distributions of returns are shown by birth cohort and results are shown for a range of case studies.

Pensioners: Poverty

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the percentage of pensioners resident in *(a)* the London borough of Bexley and *(b)* London living in poverty. [259512]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue and, as such, there are many possible measures of poverty.

Our public service agreement "Tackle poverty and promote greater independence and wellbeing in later life" includes a range of indicators related to low income for pensioners. These are relative low income (below 50 and 60 per cent. contemporary median household income), and absolute low income (below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices), all measured after housing costs have been taken into account.

The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below the level of Government office region. The information that is available for the percentage of pensioners in London below each of these thresholds is given in the following table.

Percentage of pensioners falling below various thresholds of median household income, after housing costs, London, 2004-05-2006-07

	Percentage
Below 60 per cent of contemporary median household income	22
Below 50 per cent of contemporary median household income	12
Below 60 per cent of the 1998/99 median household income uprated in line with prices	12

Notes:
1. Three survey year averages are given as robust single year estimates cannot be produced because of small sample sizes.
2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
4. Figures are based on survey data and as such are subject to a degree of sampling and non-sampling error.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the percentage of pensioners living in poverty resident in *(a)* Winchester constituency and *(b)* Hampshire. [260598]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue and, as such, there are many possible measures of poverty.

Our public service agreement "Tackle poverty and promote greater independence and wellbeing in later life" includes a range of indicators related to low income for pensioners. These are relative low income (below 50 and 60 per cent. contemporary median household income), and absolute low income (below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices), all measured after housing costs have been taken into account.

The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below the level of Government office region. The information that is available for the percentage of pensioners in the south east Government office region below each of these thresholds is given in the following table.

Percentage of pensioners falling below various thresholds of median household income, after housing costs, south east Government office region, 2004-05 to 2006-07

	Percentage
Below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income	16
Below 50 per cent. of contemporary median household income	9
Below 60 per cent. of the 1998-99 median household income uprated in line with prices	8

Notes:

1. Three survey year averages are given as robust single year estimates cannot be produced because of small sample sizes.
2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
4. Figures are based on survey data and as such are subject to a degree of sampling and non-sampling error.

Poverty: Children

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 575W, on poverty: children, for which years information on the number of children born into families in relative poverty is available; and if he will make a statement. [260100]

Kitty Ussher: Information on the number of children born into families in relative poverty is not available for any period.

This is because the main source of income data, the Family Resources Survey, is a snap-shot survey, capturing a household's situation at the time of interview. This means that the sample size for households with new born children will be small. It may also be the case that the response rate from families with very young children will be lower than usual and therefore may not be representative.

Roscommon Way Extension

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what advice the Health and Safety Executive provided in relation to *(a)* Phase I and *(b)* Phase II of the Roscommon Way extension, Canvey Island. [258357]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has not been formally consulted by the planning authority on the health and safety implications of this development's proximity to major accident hazard sites and pipelines on Canvey Island.

In 2008 HSE advised a consultant acting for Essex county council and, separately, a member of the public that it would not advise the planning authority against a development comprising a single carriageway road passing through the consultation distances around major accident hazard sites in the vicinity.

HSE also confirmed that Essex county council were aware of the presence of hazardous pipelines in the area and provided the consultant with information on their approximate location. HSE also advised the consultant to contact Calor Gas Ltd for more detailed information on two liquefied petroleum gas pipelines.

Social Security Benefits

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* each region of England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland receive both working tax credit and housing benefit. [259525]

Kitty Ussher: 200,000 families received both working tax credit and housing benefit in the UK in 2006-07, the latest year for which figures are available.

The Family Resources Survey (FRS) has been used to provide this estimate but sample sizes do not permit results at a regional level.

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.
2. Administrative data do not hold this information as these two benefits are not cross-referenced on the administrative systems.
3. The FRS collects information on the incomes and circumstances of private households in the United Kingdom. The FRS is a nationally representative sample, covering approximately 26,000 households in 2006-07.
4. The estimates are based on sample counts that have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the FRS to Government office region populations by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.
5. The FRS undercounts benefit caseload receipt when compared to administrative data. In 2006-07 the FRS undercounted housing benefit by 12 per cent. and undercounted working tax credit by 19 per cent. It is not possible to calculate how this under-recording affects the estimate of the number of families receiving both working tax credit and housing benefit.
6. A family refers to a benefit unit, which is defined as a single adult or a couple living as married and any dependent children. Same-sex partners (and cohabitees) are also included in the same benefit unit. Housing benefit and working tax credit are awarded on a benefit unit basis.
7. Working tax credit is administered by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

Source:

Family Resources Survey 2006-07.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1807-08W, on state retirement pensions (1) what the cost of the *(a)* payments and *(b)* administration of the age addition was in the last 12 months; and if he will estimate the cost of increasing the age addition to (i) 50p, (ii) £1, (iii) £5 and (iv) £10 in 2009-10; [257554]

(2) if he will estimate the cost of increasing the age addition to *(a)* 50 pence, *(b)* £1, *(c)* £5 and *(d)* £10 and linking it to (i) earnings and (ii) prices in each of the next five years; and how many people currently receive the addition. [258707]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The estimated cost of payments of the age addition in the last 12 months is £35 million.

The information is not available for the costs of administration of the age addition in the last 12 months. The Pension, Disability and Carers Service do not separately identify the administration costs of delivering the age addition to state pensions.

The estimated cost of increasing the age addition to *(a)* 50p, *(b)* £1, *(c)* £5 and *(d)* £10 and linking it to prices and earnings in each of the next five years are shown in the following tables.

Table 1: Cost of increasing the age addition to (a) 50p in 2009-10 and (i) no linking, (ii) linking it to prices and (iii) earnings thereafter

	(i) No linking	(ii) Prices	(iii) Earnings
2009-10	70	70	70
2010-11	70	70	70
2011-12	70	75	75
2012-13	70	75	80
2013-14	70	80	85

Table 2: Cost of increasing the age addition to (b) £1 in 2009-10 and (i) no linking, (ii) linking it to prices and (iii) earnings thereafter

	(i) No linking	(ii) Prices	(iii) Earnings
2009-10	140	140	140
2010-11	140	140	140
2011-12	140	150	150
2012-13	140	150	160
2013-14	140	160	170

Table 3: Cost of increasing the age addition to (c) £5 in 2009-10 and (i) no linking, (ii) linking it to prices and (iii) earnings thereafter

	(i) No linking	(ii) Prices	(iii) Earnings
2009-10	690	690	690
2010-11	690	700	710
2011-12	690	730	740
2012-13	710	770	780
2013-14	720	820	840

Table 4: Cost of increasing the age addition to (d) £10 in 2009-10 and (i) no linking, (ii) linking it to prices and (iii) earnings thereafter

	(i) No linking	(ii) Prices	(iii) Earnings
2009-10	1,380	1,380	1,380
2010-11	1,380	1,410	1,410
2011-12	1,380	1,450	1,470
2012-13	1,420	1,550	1,570
2013-14	1,450	1,630	1,670

Notes:
1. The cost for payments of the age addition in the last 12 months is as of March 2008 and is in £ million, for Great Britain, in 2008-09 terms, rounded to the nearest £5 million.
2. For the costs of administration of the age addition in the last 12 months, most of the process is automated and the clerical elements are so minor that it is incorporated into normal daily actions and not identified separately.
3. In tables 1 to 4, costs are in £ million, for Great Britain, in 2008-09 terms. For values less than £100 million, rounding is to the nearest £5 million, otherwise, to the nearest £10 million.
4. Treasury Economic Assumptions have been used for linking the age addition to earnings and prices.
5. The estimated number of individuals who currently receive the age addition is as of March 2008.

Source:
DWP modelling.

There are currently approximately 2.7 million individuals who receive the age addition.

Winter Fuel Payments

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the *(a)* average, *(b)* lowest and *(c)* highest number of days was between the conditions for a cold weather payment being met and the payment being made to eligible recipients in the last 12 months, broken down by weather station area; [249440]

(2) what the average time between the cold weather payments being triggered and payments being made was in respect of the most recent period of below-freezing temperatures when the payment has been made *(a)* manually and *(b)* automatically. [249446]

Kitty Ussher: The information is not available in the requested form.

Triggers based on recorded periods of seven consecutive days are notified on the day after the last day of the recorded period. Triggers based on forecast periods of seven consecutive days are notified on the first day of the forecast period. (This holds except when a trigger would be notified on a Saturday or a Sunday, when it is actually notified on the following Monday.) Payment scans are run at a weekend for triggers notified on the previous Monday to Thursday or on the Friday prior to that. Scan payments into bank accounts should arrive on the Wednesday after the weekend and cheque payments should be posted on the Monday after the weekend. Thus scan payments into bank accounts should arrive seven to 13 days after the temperature criterion has been met. Payments made clerically are not made as quickly as payments which can be made automatically. Information is not available on the split between payments into bank accounts and cheque payments, or on the time taken to process clerical payments, so the two questions cannot be answered.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people held in *(a)* Rampton, *(b)* Broadmoor, *(c)* Ashworth, *(d)* Carstairs and *(e)* Southall hospitals received the winter fuel payment in 2008-09. [258835]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not available.

People qualify for a winter fuel payment if, during the qualifying week in September, they are aged 60 or over and normally living in Great Britain or Northern Ireland.

Some groups of people do not qualify for a winter fuel payment. A person will not qualify for a payment if during the qualifying week they were in hospital getting free in-patient treatment and had been getting such treatment for more than 52 weeks or they were in custody serving a sentence imposed by a court.

TREASURY

Bank Services: Identity Theft

Jim Dowd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of identity theft insurance policies in relation to bank accounts; and what discussions his Department has had on the matter with *(a)* the Association of British Insurers and *(b)* the Royal Bank of Scotland. [260390]

Ian Pearson: The Government have established an independent system of financial regulation that works through the Financial Services Authority (FSA), the lead regulator and the Office of Fair Trading. The Treasury is not responsible for the merits of the design of individual insurance products.

Banks: Directors

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment the Financial Services Authority has made of whether the *(a)* chief executive, *(b)* chairman and *(c)* board members of each bank in receipt of public money meet the fit and proper person test. [256984]

Ian Pearson: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is an independent non-governmental body, given statutory powers by the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA). FSMA requires that persons carrying on certain controlled functions within an FSA authorised firm hold "approved person" status (including the "governing" functions such as executive director, non-executive director and CEO).

Details of the regime and processes applied to assessing the fitness and propriety of a person to perform a particular controlled function can be found on the FSA's website at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/Pages/Doing/Regulated/Approved/persons/index.shtml

In March 2008 the FSA published its "lessons learned" review following the events at Northern Rock. The recommendations can be found at

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Communication/PR/2008/028.shtml

and include reference to the need to increase the emphasis on assessing the competence of firms' senior management.

Banks: Regulation

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require all financial businesses to register derivatives with the Financial Services Authority. [260406]

Ian Pearson: Section 19 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 requires that anyone dealing in, or arranging deals in, investments, be authorised by the Financial Services Authority. This includes firms or individuals trading in derivative products. The Government support the industry initiative to clear more credit default swaps through central counterparties (CCPs) and that the regulations for CCPs should be updated.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in 2008-09 to date. [260341]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1477W to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban).

Economic Situation: Canada

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with his Canadian counterpart on the economic downturn. [259996]

Ian Pearson: The Government's immediate priority is to continue to support the economy through these difficult times. As part of that, in addition to its regular monitoring of developments, HM Treasury has regular engagements with other Governments, including Canada, on a range of issues relating to the economy.

Financial Services: Regulation

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what dates *(a)* he, the Chairman of the Financial Services Authority and the Governor of the Bank of England and *(b)* their deputies met in their capacity as principals of the tripartite regulatory system between 1997 and 2007. [260583]

Ian Pearson: The three authorities meet at a number of levels under the auspices of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) on a very regular basis. As a matter of course, we do not comment on meetings of the Standing Committee.

Interbank Lending Scheme

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value of lending guaranteed by the Interbank Lending Scheme is. [256181]

Ian Pearson: On 8 October 2008, the Government announced, as part of a comprehensive package of measures, the Credit Guarantee Scheme. The scheme took effect on 13 October and assists eligible institutions in refinancing maturing wholesale funding. Banks have drawn down some £100 billion of guarantees.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 15 January 2009 on Mr. K. Williams. [260399]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the right hon. Member.

Mortgages: Repossession Orders

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government are taking to discourage banks from repossessing homes of people in mortgage arrears. [257987]

Ian Pearson: The Government introduced FSA regulation of mortgages in 2004. The FSA's regime provides important protections for borrowers. It requires lenders to treat their customers fairly, and to treat repossession as a last resort.

FSA regulation is supported by the new mortgage pre-action protocol introduced in November 2008. This sets out clear guidance on what actions the courts expect lenders to take before bringing a claim in the courts, to help ensure that repossessions are a last resort and that lenders have tried to discuss and agree other alternatives with the borrower.

Through the new Lending Panel, announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report, the Government are working closely with lenders, consumer groups and regulators to

monitor lending and support best practice by lenders. The major lenders on the Lending Panel have committed not to repossess where the owner-occupier is less than three months in arrears.

In December 2008, the Government announced a new Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme, which will enable households that experience a significant and temporary loss of income as a result of the economic downturn to defer a proportion of the interest payments on their mortgage for up to two years. Further details are available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/buyingselling/mortgagesupportscheme/

The Government have also launched a Mortgage Rescue Scheme to help borrowers facing repayment difficulties remain in their homes and this scheme has been extended to include second charge lending. Depending on homeowners' circumstances, local authorities and housing associations can either buy a property and then rent it back to them, or buy a share of the property to reduce the household's overall mortgage costs. More information is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/buyingselling/mortgagerescuemeasures/

National Debt

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the maximum amount of public debt which should be permitted as a percentage of gross domestic product. [259881]

Yvette Cooper: The Government set out their policy on public debt in paragraphs 3.20 to 3.23 of the Government's Fiscal Framework, published alongside the 2008 pre-Budget report. This document is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr08_fiscalframework.htm

Royal Bank of Scotland: Bank Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what instructions his Department has given to the Royal Bank of Scotland in relation to loan requests made by small and medium-sized businesses to cover bad debt. [256868]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* Under the recapitalisation scheme announced last October, the Government have invested £19.97 billion in RBS. As part of their investment, the Government have agreed a range of commitments with RBS, including its restoring and maintaining the availability and active marketing of competitively priced lending to SMEs, at a level at least equivalent to that of 2007, until the end of 2011.

On 26 February, RBS announced its intention to participate in the Government's Asset Protection Scheme. As part of its agreement with the Government, RBS will increase its lending to businesses by £16 billion in 2009.

The Government's shareholdings in the banks supported by the recapitalisation scheme are managed on a commercial basis by an arm's length company, UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI). UKFI's objective is to protect and create value for the taxpayer as shareholder with due regard to the maintenance of financial stability and to act in a way that promotes competition.

Royal Bank of Scotland: Sponsorship

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what role the directors of the Royal Bank of Scotland who are appointed by UK Financial Investments Ltd. have had in determining the bank's budget for sport sponsorship in 2009. [260461]

Ian Pearson: UK Financial Investments (UKFI) is the body set up to manage the Treasury's shareholding in recapitalised banks.

As part of the recapitalisation scheme, UKFI has the right to agree with RBS management the appointment of new independent non-executive directors.

The directors will serve on the RBS board, and as part of this, share with other directors responsibility for major strategic and operating decisions—including decisions on sponsorship spending.

UK Financial Investments

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many shares in *(a)* Lloyds TSB, *(b)* HBOS and *(c)* the Royal Bank of Scotland were taken up by UK Financial Investments; and at what price. [249912]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle) gave the hon. Member for Wellingborough (Mr. Bone) on 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2142-43W.

UK Financial Investments: Manpower

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people employed by UK Financial Investments Ltd. are former employees of his Department; [260375]

(2) how many people are employed by UK Financial Investments Ltd. [260456]

Ian Pearson: UK Financial Investments Ltd. is not part of the civil service, but a small number of civil servants (around five) are expected to be seconded into it. Total staffing is currently expected to be around 15.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Solicitor-General what percentage of contractors and suppliers to *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies has reported compliance with the Government's security standards following publication of the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government, and the accompanying document, Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action, on 25 June 2008. [245311]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General's Office shares services with the Crown Prosecution Service, the Serious Fraud Office and the Treasury Solicitor's Department. All contractors and suppliers are compliant with the data handling report.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Solicitor-General how many contracts *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; for which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each contract are held; and how many people have their data stored overseas in the case of each such contract. [245337]

The Solicitor-General: There are no such contracts in place.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Solicitor-General when her Department appointed a senior information risk owner in accordance with the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government and the accompanying document Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action; when the appointment was made; and what grade the person holds within the Department. [245353]

The Solicitor-General: This appointment was made in June 2008 and they are a senior civil servant.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Solicitor-General what percentage of the IT systems in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies are fully accredited to the Government's security standards. [245379]

The Solicitor-General: 100 per cent. of the IT systems are fully accredited to the Government's security standards.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Solicitor-General on how many occasions in the last 12 months Ministers in the Law Officers' Departments have used their discretion to rule that a parliamentary question for written answer should be answered because it would be in the public interest to do so, even though to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £700. [249136]

The Solicitor-General: None

Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office

David Taylor: To ask the Solicitor-General what proportion of the *(a)* drug smuggling, *(b)* tax fraud, *(c)* tobacco and alcohol duty evasion, *(d)* illegal arms trafficking, *(e)* money laundering and *(f)* sanctions violation cases prosecuted by the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office since April 2005 resulted in convictions. [260270]

The Solicitor-General: The tables set out the information available. Data for 2005-06 are not accessible in a format compatible with the data set out as follows.

2008-09[1]

	Cases			*Defendants*		
	Prosecutions	*Convictions*	*Conviction rate (percentage)*	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*	*Conviction rate (percentage)*
Drugs	579	535	92	711	627	88
Tax Fraud	153	143	93	207	185	89
Money Laundering	10	9	90	47	40	85
Excise[2]	129	116	90	180	158	88
Arms[3]	20	19	95	25	20	80
Sanctions Violations	1	1	100	1	1	100

[1] 2008-09 covers the period April 2008 to January 2009.
[2] Excise cases include prosecutions for other excise and duty frauds i.e. hydrocarbon oils.
[3] Arms cases include prosecutions for the importations of firearms, ammunition and offensive weapons.

2007-08

	Cases			*Defendants*		
	Prosecutions	*Convictions*	*Conviction rate (percentage)*	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*	*Conviction rate (percentage)*
Drugs	744	682	92	909	794	87
Tax Fraud	264	240	91	381	328	86
Money Laundering	27	19	70	54	35	65
Excise	220	206	94	330	293	89
Arms	17	16	94	18	17	94
Sanctions Violations	2	2	100	2	2	100

2006-07

	Cases			*Defendants*		
	Prosecutions	*Convictions*	*Conviction rate (percentage)*	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*	*Conviction rate (percentage)*
Drugs	798	731	92	918	799	87
Tax Fraud	251	227	90	311	258	83
Money Laundering	17	13	76	45	26	58
Excise	239	213	89	358	300	84
Arms	6	4	67	6	4	67
Sanctions Violations	2	2	100	2	2	100

Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office: Parking Offences

Mr. Maude: To ask the Solicitor-General how much the HM Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office paid in *(a)* parking and *(b)* congestion charge fines in the last year for which figures are available. [258368]

The Solicitor-General: The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) was established as an independent prosecuting authority in April 2005, and is superintended by the Attorney-General. It is a separate Government Department from HM Revenue and Customs.

During the calendar year 2008, RCPO paid £60 in parking fines.

No payments were made in respect of congestion charge fines.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Public Inquiries: Costs

7. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse to date of all public inquiries taking place in Northern Ireland. [259272]

Mr. Woodward: The Bloody Sunday inquiry is expected to cost a total of £190 million, including costs incurred by the Ministry of Defence. The Hamill, Wright and Nelson Inquiries are expected to cost a combined total of £117 million. The total cost to the end of January 2009 of all four public inquiries is £267 million, of which 70 per cent. of those costs relate to the Bloody Sunday Inquiry.

11. **James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of payments made to legal firms used by public inquiries taking place in Northern Ireland for which his Department is responsible has been to date. [259276]

Mr. Woodward: £127 million has been paid to all legal representatives for work in relation to the ongoing public inquiries. Almost £100 million of this relates to the Bloody Sunday inquiry, including costs incurred by the Ministry of Defence.

Lessons were learned from the experience of the Bloody Sunday inquiry. For the Hamill, Wright and Nelson inquiries, caps on lawyers' hourly fees and the number of hours they could claim were imposed at the outset.

Paramilitary Organisations

8. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of current levels of activity of paramilitary organisations in Northern Ireland. [259273]

Mr. Woodward: Dissident republican activity remains at a very high level. They remain determined to kill or injure police officers and have a reckless disregard for public safety. In relation to loyalists, this House has sent a very strong message that they have one last opportunity to decommission.

Republican Paramilitary Groups

9. **Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of links between dissident republican groups and drug-related crime in Northern Ireland. [259274]

Paul Goggins: The IMC has confirmed that dissident republican groups are involved in drug-related crime. The PSNI will continue to work with the other members of the Organised Crime Task Force to disrupt their criminal activities.

Vehicle Excise Duty

10. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on rates of vehicle excise duty evasion in Northern Ireland. [259275]

Paul Goggins: I have had no such discussions as Northern Ireland Office Ministers are not responsible for these matters. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport has responsibility for the registration and licensing of vehicles and the enforcement of vehicle excise duty across the UK.

Consultative Group on the Past

12. **Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the recommendations of the Consultative Group on the Past; and if he will make a statement. [259278]

Mr. Woodward: I am reflecting carefully on the proposals, and want to hear a wide range of views before developing the Government's full response.

It is clear that there is no consensus on the recommendation of recognition payments and I have stated that the Government will not be accepting that recommendation. But this was just one of over 30 recommendations and I hope that the other proposals can now receive the careful consideration they deserve.

Saville Inquiry

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his most recent estimate is of the cost of the Saville inquiry. [259269]

Mr. Woodward: I have taken urgent steps to ensure the remaining running costs of the Bloody Sunday inquiry are kept as low as possible, and a package of measures has been agreed to reduce the projected cost by 20 per cent. over the remaining stages. The final cost of the inquiry is now expected to be in the region of £190 million.

Billy Wright Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Wright inquiry has spent on security for *(a)* legal companies and *(b)* witnesses. [257115]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised that the Billy Wright inquiry has spent £577,000 on security to the end of January 2009. There have been no specific costs associated with providing security for either legal teams or witnesses.

Robert Hamill Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Hamill inquiry has spent on security *(a)* overall and *(b)* for (i) legal companies and (ii) witnesses. [257127]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised that the Robert Hamill inquiry has spent £641,000 on security to the end of January 2009. There have been no specific costs associated with providing security for either legal companies or witnesses.

Rosemary Nelson Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Nelson inquiry has spent on security for *(a)* legal companies and *(b)* witnesses. [257107]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised that the Rosemary Nelson inquiry has spent £957,000 on security to the end of January 2009. There have been no specific costs associated with providing security for either legal teams or witnesses.

Royal Ulster Constabulary: Reserve Forces

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will bring forward proposals formally to recognise the work of part-time reserve officers of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. [259270]

Paul Goggins: Service within the PTR is already recognised in a number of ways:

unlike special constables in GB, the part-time reserve are paid, in recognition of the special circumstances in which they operate in Northern Ireland;

PTR are awarded the long service medal after 15 years' service;

the specific conditions in Northern Ireland have been recognised by payment of a NI transitional allowance to all police officers from 1974, including the PTR on a 'pro rata' basis;

a stakeholder pension scheme was introduced in 2001 to provide pension provisions for all part-time workers. Favourable rates were secured for PTR members; and

the Secretary of State recently paid tribute to the men and women of the PTR during a reception at Hillsborough Castle in recognition of the service of members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary Part-Time Reserve on 11 October 2008.

I have sought information and advice from officials on how this Government might make further recognition for the service given by the Part-Time Reserve and I am currently considering this.

Terrorism

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has had made of levels of paramilitary violence in Northern Ireland. [259267]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has made it clear that the dissident republican threat has increased in recent months. Loyalists must continue to make progress and take advantage of the recent extension to the decommissioning legislation.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children under the age of 15 years have been cautioned or arrested for drunken behaviour in *(a)* North Wiltshire, *(b)* Wiltshire, *(c)* London and *(d)* England in each of the last 10 years. [255328]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Cautions, reprimands and final warnings data are collected centrally at police force area level and are not further broken down. Therefore data for the constituency of North Wiltshire are not available.

The number of persons aged under 15-years issued with a caution for offences of drunkenness in the Wiltshire police force area, the Metropolitan police force area (including the City of London) and England, from 1998 to 2007, are given in the following table.

Number of persons aged under 15-years cautioned[1] for offences of drunkenness, by area, 1998 to 2007[2, 3, 4]

	Wiltshire police force area	Metropolitan police force area[5]	England
1998	2		44
1999	3		24
2000[6]		6	30
2001		5	19
2002		2	8
2003		5	17
2004		1	30
2005			18
2006			14
2007			8

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.
[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
[4] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Licensing Act 1872 s.12
Being found drunk in a highway or other public place
Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Act 1985 ss.1(4) and 1A(4)
Drunk on a vehicle
Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Act 1985 s.2(2)
Drunk in, or when entering, a designated sports event
Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 s.12
Alcohol consumption in designated public places
Offences against similar provisions in Local Acts
[5] Includes the City of London police force area.
[6] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence and Analysis Unit
[Due ref: IOS 95-09]

Alternatives to Prison

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of

community service alternatives to prison sentences in reducing rates of re-offending; and if she will make a statement. [259560]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the latest re-offending figures for people who were released from a custodial sentence, or commenced a court order under probation supervision, between 1 January 2006 and 31 March 2006. The table shows the number of offenders in the cohort, the proportion of offenders that committed at least one further offence and the number of further offences committed per 100 offenders.

	Number of offenders	Actual re-offending rate	Number of offences per 100 offenders
Court Orders[1]	36,777	36.1	121.7
Custody	14,380	46.5	208.4

[1] Court orders include pre-CJA 2003 community sentences, new community orders and suspended sentence orders.

These statistics should not be compared to assess the effectiveness of sentences as there is no control for known differences in offender characteristics. There are known differences between characteristics of these two groups of offender which may affect the choice of disposal, such as number of previous offences.

For a time series, and more detailed breakdown of the aforementioned table, please see table A5 in the publication Re-offending of Adults: results of the 2006 cohort:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

The Government want community sentences to be tough, effective and visible. Part of this programme of work has been creating seven Intensive Alternatives to Custody (IAC) demonstrator projects, which provide intensively delivered and supervised community sentence options to courts as an alternative to short-term custody. These projects were announced by the Justice Secretary on 5 December 2007 and the first project commenced operations in March 2008. The seven projects will run for three years and will be subject to a rigorous evaluation to be delivered in 2011.

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many enhanced disclosures issued by the Criminal Records Bureau have disclosed penalty notices for disorder. [260068]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau does not hold this information.

Asylum

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many local authorities had signed up to take part in the Gateway refugee programme on 31 January 2009. [260096]

Meg Hillier: There are 15 local authorities currently participating in the Gateway protection programme.

Crime Prevention: International Cooperation

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to *(a)* monitor compliance with those United Nations conventions on drug control which have been ratified by the UK and *(b)* assist the work of the International Narcotics Control Board. [256804]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The UK has ratified three United Nations conventions on drug control—the 1961 single convention on narcotic drugs, the 1971 convention on psychotropic substances and the 1988 convention against the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The 1961 and 1971 conventions form the basis of drug control in the UK and are given effect through the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Compliance with the UN conventions is, therefore, an ongoing process through the daily operation of the 1971 Act and its subordinate legislation. As custodian of the UN conventions, the Home Office supports the work of the International Narcotics Control Board by supplying manufacturing and transaction data and ensuring industry adherence to the statutory controls, both national and international, through a system of vetting and licensing of those companies involved in the manufacture and trade of controlled substances.

Crimes of Violence: Football

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to reduce violence by spectators at football matches. [247946]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Serious violence at football matches is now extremely rare compared to the period between 1970 and 2000. On average there is just one arrest in connection with football matches played in England and Wales; and that covers arrests at any place within 24 hours either side of a match.

The English and Welsh football strategy for minimising football safety and security risks introduced after Euro 2000 has proven to be very successful. The strategy is based upon effective partnerships between Government, police, football authorities and supporter groups and on the concept of isolating risk fans whilst empowering the overwhelming majority of fans to take responsibility for their actions and self-police.

The football banning order arrangements introduced in 2000 continue to be a highly effective cornerstone of the strategy and an important means for excluding known risk fans and deterring misbehaviour amongst the rest. The orders have proven to be a highly successful rehabilitative measure with around 94 per cent. of individuals whose orders have expired being assessed by police as no longer posing a risk of football disorder.

The strategy is now universally recognised as the best in the world and is being replicated around the globe. However, there can and will be no complacency.

Customs Officers: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many front-line customs officers work at each port on the UK border. [260091]

Mr. Woolas: Through intelligence-led and risk-based interventions by flexible and mobile teams the UK Border Agency aims to maintain a permanent cover of all points of entry into the UK.

Nationally there are approximately 4,500 front line customs officers that are now part of the UK Border Agency.

More detailed information cannot be disclosed as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent the controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

Departmental Consultants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of her Department's contracts with management consultants was in each of the last five years. [251372]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department engages consultancy firms to support and augment civil servants in the delivery of a wide range of work, including large IT development programmes and, where more cost effective, longer-term service delivery programmes.

The Department's expenditure on these services is consequently allocated across a wide range of firms, from small, specialist companies with niche expertise and few employees, to global multinational organisations offering a broad spectrum and substantial depth of consultancy expertise.

The Department's policy seeks to award contracts in competition according to the EU Procurement Directives based on value for money.

The Department uses OGC framework agreements where appropriate. The use of external consultants provides the Department with specialist knowledge, skill, capacity and technical expertise that would not otherwise be available.

We are able to provide figures for consultancy expenditure for the previous three complete financial years. Owing to an accounting systems change prior to that time we are unable to provide equivalent figures for the two earlier years.

The Home Department's expenditure including its executive agencies (United Kingdom Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau) rounded to nearest £1 million in the financial years 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08 on consultancy services is set out in the following table.

Table 1

Financial year	Consultancy expenditure (£ million)
2005-06	139
2006-07	148
2007-08	96

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests to her Department were refused on the ground of cost in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* January to June 2008. [254922]

Mr. Woolas: Figures for the number of occasions in 2006 and 2007 information has been withheld in full using section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act because the cost of providing a response would exceed the cost limit have been published in the 2006 and 2007 annual reports on the operation of the FOI Act in Central Government.

2006

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/foi-annual-report-central-gov-2006.pdf

2007

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/foi-report-2007-final-web.pdf

In the period January-June 2008 the number of request received and refused on grounds of cost was 124.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have worked in her Department on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid work experience or internships in each of the last three years; on average how many hours a week were worked by such people in each year; what types of work each was involved in; what proportion were in full-time education; what proportion did not complete their set period of work experience; and how much those who received remuneration were paid on average per week in each year. [242124]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Offers provides around 30 placements annually to graduates and undergraduates from a minority ethnic background and/or a registered disability. They are paid an allowance within the executive officer range.

The information requested on unpaid work experience is not recorded centrally in the Home Office or its agencies. Work experience placements are authorised and organised locally by managers in business units.

Deportation: Offenders

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer given to the hon. Member for Beaconsfield of 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 720W, on deportation: offenders, what progress has been made on *(a)* the 11 cases where her Department is seeking to deport individuals on grounds of national security because of their suspected involvement in terrorism and *(b)* the 19 cases where action on national security grounds was commenced but later discontinued. [259167]

Mr. Coaker: Of the 11 cases we are seeking to deport on national security grounds 10 remain at various stages of the deportation and appeals process including the European Court of Human Rights. Deportation proceedings have ceased against one individual as it was considered that such action was no longer appropriate due to the circumstances of the case.

There has been no change in the 19 cases where deportation was discontinued.

Detention Centres

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received from non-governmental organisations on the operation of immigration removal centres in the UK. [259656]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency detention services who are responsible for the operation of the immigration detention estate have not received any recent representations from non-governmental organisations on the operation of removal centres in the UK.

However, quarterly meetings are held between UKBA detention services and representatives from non-governmental organisations under the heading of the detention user group. This forum gives representatives the opportunity to raise any concerns they may have regarding the operation of removal centres and detention in general and for the agency to update them on any operational or policy developments.

Driving Offences

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many motorists were *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of (i) failure to accord precedence at pedestrian crossings, (ii) failure to comply with traffic signs, (iii) speeding offences, (iv) driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs, (v) reckless driving and (vi) driving while disqualified in each police force area in 2007-08. [256693]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Available information held by the Ministry of Justice covering total findings of guilt at all courts, for 2006 and 2007, is provided in tables A-F placed in the House Library.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many international students who have been enrolled in courses of longer than four years duration have been granted visas in each of the last five years. [260076]

Mr. Woolas: Figures are as follows:

	Number
2004	6,186
2005	6,482
2006	7,776
2007	6,838
2008	6,971

Foreign Workers: Agriculture

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many migrant workers were employed in agriculture in the UK in each month of each of the last three years. [258818]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many migrant workers were employed in agriculture in the UK in each month of each of the last three years. (258818)

Reliable estimates for non-UK born people employed in agriculture are not available.

Identity Cards: Airports

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of airside workers in each airport who will be enrolled in the identity card scheme. [258108]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service is working closely with Manchester and London city airports to confirm the roll-out approach for identity cards, taking account of the numbers working airside at each airport.

Identity Cards: Domestic Violence

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department has had with organisations representing women who have been victims of domestic violence about the registration of third parties' addresses on national identity cards. [253517]

Meg Hillier: As the cardholder's address will not be held on the identity card it will assist anyone who wishes to assert their identity without revealing their address.

Several different organisations have contributed to discussions on how the Identity and Passport Service will be able to accommodate the needs of vulnerable individuals who want extra assurance that their identity information will be held securely, including groups representing the needs of survivors of domestic violence.

Illegal Immigrants

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had at European level on *(a)* harmonisation of legislation on family re-unification, *(b)* medical assistance for illegal migrants and *(c)* admitting the children of illegal migrants to schools. [259323]

Mr. Woolas: Home Office Ministers have not taken part in any recent discussions at European level on these specific topics. EU legislation on asylum and immigration matters, apart from rights of free movement for EEA nationals and their family members, is subject to the UK's opt-in protocol. We will opt in only if this is consistent with maintaining our frontier controls and in the national interest.

In respect of family reunification, to date the UK has not opted into the Family Reunification Directive. In respect of illegal immigration, I strongly support the

principle stated in the European Pact on Migration and Asylum, which calls for illegal migrants to be removed to their countries of origin and transit.

Illegal Immigrants: Deportation

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants were deported in 2007-08 to each country of origin; what modes of transport were used in relation to each country; how many such people were refused entry to their destination country; and what happened to each such person. [259320]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed and departed voluntarily from the UK, broken down by destination, on a quarterly and annual basis. National statistics on immigration and asylum are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Statistics covering the fourth quarter of 2008 up to December were published on 24 February.

Enforced removals to all countries are generally undertaken via a combination of scheduled or charter flights.

There are a variety of reasons why a person, during the removals process, may be refused entry to their country of destination. Due to this each case will be handled differently. Generally the person will be returned to the UK and re-enter the removals process.

The number of individuals refused entry to their destination country and what happens to them is not centrally recorded. The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Immigration

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which countries of origin of migrants the UK has readmission agreements; when each such agreement was signed; and with which countries her Department is negotiating such agreements. [259657]

Mr. Woolas: The UK has always maintained the position that all countries are under an obligation to readmit their own nationals who are removed from another country, independently of readmission agreements. The UK wants to build international alliances to help deliver our policies. A key element of this is to co-operate on migration through bilateral and multilateral relationships with other countries. To this end the UK has formal agreements and informal arrangements with various countries to readmit their nationals.

Only where there is a specific need does the UK seek to negotiate readmission agreements. There is a bilateral readmission agreement in force with Switzerland, signed on 16 December 2005, and we also have another with Algeria which was signed on 11 July 2006. There are currently no negotiations being undertaken for a bilateral readmission agreement with any third country.

The UK also works closely with our European partners in the area of returns. The European Union has its own framework of agreements called European Community Readmission Agreements (ECRA). These are negotiated and signed by the European Commission on behalf of the member states and Ministers decide on the UK's opt-in position to these agreements.

There are 11 European Community readmission agreements which have been signed and are now in force as follows:

Hong Kong signed on—27 November 2002

Macao signed on—13 October 2003

Sri Lanka signed on—4 June 2004

Albania signed on—14 April 2005

Russia signed on—25 May 2006

Ukraine signed on—18 June 2007

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia signed on—18 September 2007

Serbia signed on—18 September 2007

Montenegro signed on—18 September 2007

Bosnia Herzegovina signed on—18 September 2007

Moldova signed on—10 October 2007

There are also open ECRA mandates with the following countries, but these are at various stages of negotiation and agreements have yet to be signed: China, Pakistan, Algeria, Morocco, Turkey and Georgia. The UK has opted into all ECRAs negotiated so far, and to all negotiating mandates proposed to date.

Immigration: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of her Department's front-line immigration staff are working *(a)* in Calais and *(b)* in France outside Calais. [260082]

Mr. Woolas: The number of front-line immigration staff working in France as at end of January 2009, stated as full time equivalents, are set out as follows:

Area of France	*Number of staff stated as full-time equivalents*
Calais	399.15
In France outside Calais	319.80

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many front-line immigration officers are working at each port on the UK border. [260090]

Mr. Woolas: The numbers of immigration officers working within each regional operations area on the UK border are as follows:

Region	*Number of front-line immigration staff*[1]
North	483.3
South	626.0
Central	477.9
Heathrow	1,112.6
European operations	945.35

Region	Number of front-line immigration staff[1]
Total	3,645.15

[1] Expressed as full-time equivalents.
Includes assistant immigration officers; immigration officers; chief immigration officers, and inspectors.
Note
Figures have been quoted according to regional command, as staff are deployed on a risk-assessed, intelligence-led basis to smaller ports within their operational region.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of her Department's front-line immigration staff are working in Belgium. [260097]

Mr. Woolas: The number of front-line immigration staff working in Belgium as at end of January 2009, stated as full-time equivalents, is 30.

In addition to this, UK border force operates a European operations mobile response team, which deploys staff to Zeebrugge and Ostend to conduct vehicle searches and provide assistance with dog patrols, in conjunction with the Belgian federal police.

Migrant Workers

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to provide information to migrant workers on their employment rights. [259859]

Mr. Woolas: We include information material in the registration pack for accession state workers registering with UKBA. Furthermore, we provide all workers registration scheme and A2 applicants with the TUC booklet "Working in the UK" explaining their rights at work.

The employment pages of the UKBA website provide useful links to relevant material including the TUC booklet.

Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what cars are *(a)* owned, *(b)* leased, *(c)* hired and *(d)* otherwise regularly used by her Department, broken down by cubic capacity of engine. [250144]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Hoon) on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 10W, about cars provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

The Home Department and its Executive Agencies operates other official cars and details of these are provided in the following table broken down by cubic capacity of engine.

	Cars			
	1000 to 1400 cc	*1401 to 1700 cc*	*1701 to 2200 cc*	*Over 2200 cc*
Owned vehicles				
UKBA vehicles	1	9	36	0
Core home office	0	1	1	0
Police[1]	0	1	18	6
IPS	1	0	1	0
Total	2	11	56	6
Leased vehicles only				
UKBA vehicles	20	163	184	0
Core home office	0	0	2	0
Police[2]	0	1	0	0
Total	20	164	186	0
Hire vehicles – covering first three quarters of this financial year 2008-09				
Home office[3]	798	593	977	85
IPS[3]	44	75	194	10
CRB[3]	16	42	100	8
Total	858	710	1271	103

[1] Police vehicles are owned by the police service but used solely for Home Departments business.
[2] Police vehicle is leased by the police service but used solely for Home Departments business.
[3] April to December 2008-09.

Organised Crime

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been charged with criminal offences as a result of investigations conducted by the Serious Organised Crime Agency in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* the first six months of this financial year. [255275]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information is as follows:

(a) The 2006-07 annual report stated that SOCA casework in the UK led to 749 arrests, 283 cases reaching court and 271 convictions. Data on the number of individuals charged for that period are not available.

(b) In 2007-08, 345 people were charged in the UK as a result of SOCA casework.

(c) The figures for the first six months of 2008-09 are subject to internal validation and will be finalised at the end of the current financial year.

Police: Demonstrations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her estimate is of the number of police hours spent on policing public protests in the last 12 months; and how much of the policing budget was allocated for such work in 2008-09. [260283]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold data on number of police hours spent on policing public protests or a breakdown of police budgets dedicated to such work.

Police: Manpower

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers there were in each London local authority area in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2008-09; and what the total strength of the Metropolitan police service was in each of those years. [259931]

Mr. Coaker: Police personnel statistics are collected by police force area and not by local authority. However, there are strength data available at basic command unit level, which within London equates with local authority, from 2002-03 onwards.

There were 26,667 full-time equivalent police officers working for the Metropolitan police and 859 working for City of London police as at 31 March 1997. Police community support officers were not introduced until 2002-03. Data for the current financial year will not be published until July 2009. Police service strength data for 2007-08 can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0808.pdf

and supplementary tables for strength at BCU level at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0808add_tab.xls

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers are working at each port of entry on the UK border. [260085]

Mr. Coaker: Police personnel statistics are not collected within the Home Office by UK ports, but rather by police force authorities in England and Wales only. Following consultation with ACPO, data regarding police officers whose primary function is "ports" are, under section 31 (Law Enforcement) of the Freedom of Information Act, withheld from the public domain as disclosure may be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

Reoffenders: Crime Prevention

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* secure remand and *(b)* tagging in reducing re-offending rates. [259556]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

To our knowledge no estimates have been made on the impact of secure remand. There is little evidence available on the impact of tagging in reducing re-offending rates.

In a 2006 House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts report this lack of evidence in relation to the effectiveness of Home Detention Curfew (HDC) was highlighted and a request for further research made. As a result of this a feasibility study on assessing the effectiveness of HDC was commissioned to the London School of Economics and research using existing administrative data has now been conducted. Publication of the report is expected by mid-2009.

Research carried out for the Home Office and published in 2001 showed a difference in re-offending rates within six months of release between those released on HDC compared with those not given HDC. However this was not determined to prove that HDC reduced re-offending but that the risk assessment process was effective. The results of the most recent research mentioned above will provide an important contribution to our knowledge of the impact of HDC.

Telecommunications: Databases

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1630W, on telecommunications: databases, what her most recent estimate is of the cost of the Interception Modernisation Programme to the nearest billion pounds. [258582]

Mr. Coaker: The IMP will require a substantial level of investment which will need to tie in with the Government's three-year CSR periods. The scale of overall economic investment is very difficult to calculate because of the complexity of the programme and wide-ranging implementation solutions currently being considered. Further detail on budgetary estimates for the IMP will however become available once the public consultation process (announced by the Home Secretary on 15 October 2008) commences.

Telephone Services: Commuters

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate has been made of the cost of providing a personal telephone line for commuters to call to be told their safest route home over the next five years; and how much would be spent on *(a)* staff costs, *(b)* IT costs and *(c)* advertising; [254599]

(2) what estimate has been made of the number of people who would use a personal telephone line for commuters to call to be told their safest route home over the next five years; [254600]

(3) what IT systems her Department has considered for use in locating callers to a telephone line for commuters to be told their safest route home; [254601]

(4) whether *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* polling were used by her Department to assess the proposal of a personal telephone line for commuters to call to be told their safest route home. [254602]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has not done any work to develop a personal telephone line for commuters to call to be told their safest route home.

UK Border Agency: Inspections

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what work the UK Border Agency chief inspector has undertaken since his appointment; and if she will make a statement. [260621]

Mr. Woolas: Since his appointment the independent chief inspector has been undertaking a wide range of preparatory work to establish his function. He has recruited around 20 staff and has developed provisional methodology and protocols for his inspections, drawing on best practice from other inspection and regulatory bodies. He has worked with the independent monitor to see the work she undertakes; met key managers in UK Borders Agency and visited a range of operations. He has also engaged with an extensive range of external stakeholders, including welfare groups, other inspectorates, legal bodies, passenger and freight carriers and representatives of foreign Governments. The chief inspector will shortly commence a series of pilot inspections.

Westminster City Council: Finance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what grants her Department has made to Westminster city council in each year since 2005-06; what sums were awarded; in what category each grant was made; and how much has been allocated for grants in 2009-10. [259755]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office has made the following grants to Westminster city council.

Grant	*Category*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	£ *2009-10*
Safer Stronger Communities Fund	Resource	435,027	435,027	373,882	373,882	373,882
Safer Stronger Communities Fund	Capital	126,140	126,140	126,140	126,140	126,140
Drugs Intervention Programme	Resource	2,304,818	1,568,474	2,016,349	2,046,595	2,046,595
Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children (UASC)	Resource	2,473,010	1,408,609	915,311	578,695	[1]
EU Accession Claim	Resource	0	192,347	33,651	0	0
Safer Streets	Resource	0	107,000	106,000	0	0
Enabling	Resource	135,000	140,000	140,000	0	0
Young People Substance Misuse Partnership	Resource	588,610	530,176	500,734	142,615	142,615

[1] To be confirmed.

For the former young people substance misuse partnership grant, from 2008-09, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), Home Office and the Department of Health agreed to change how their contributions were dispersed to local areas.

Patterns of drug, alcohol and volatile substance use by young people vary greatly from place to place, so the Government moved to a more flexible and local needs-led approach to tackling the problem.

Some of the former young people substance misuse partnership grant is going out to all areas through the area-based grant which is paid on a non-ring fenced basis to allow maximum local flexibility. Other elements are paid to primary care trusts through the pooled treatment budget and to youth offending teams through the Youth Justice Board. These funding arrangements are in place between 2008-09 to 2010-11.

The Home Office allocation to Westminster city council 2008-09 to 2010-11 for this grant is as follows:

	£
Area-Based Grant	142,615
Youth Offending Teams	39,644

The enabling grant is for the London Regional Migration Strategic Partnership. Payments were made via Westminster council who, along with the Greater London authority (GLA), represents the partnership. From 2008-09, payments are being made via the GLA.

The Drug Intervention Programme funding is made up of the main grant of £1,196,447 plus Advance Apprenticeship £5,000 and CJIT funding of £367,027.

There may also be additional grant payments funded by the Home Office that are received by Westminster city council, for instance, tackling violent crime programme grant and partnership performance improvement fund. However, the funding is not direct from the Home Office, but is channelled through Government offices. As such, information on specific allocations or payments made throughout the requested period is not retained by the Home Office.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to measure the number of day visitors to local authority areas in order to facilitate the provision of funding for concessionary bus fares through Formula Grant. [259596]

John Healey: We use a model to determine the indicator of day visitors within the Environmental, Protective and Cultural Services Relative Needs Formula. There is no consistent reliable source of the number of day visitors to an authority's area.

Cambridge Online Learning

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 17 July 2008, whether the Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber has completed its investigation into the circumstances of the award of EU Objective 1 funding to Cambridge Online Learning Ltd; and if she will make a statement. [259282]

John Healey: Government office for Yorkshire and the Humber has recently completed its investigation into the award and potential loss of Objective 1 ERDF funds to Cambridge Online. It has concluded that ERDF payments made to Cambridge Online were irregular. Cambridge Online received ERDF payments through a contract with Business Link South Yorkshire. The funds involved have been recovered from Business Link South Yorkshire.

Community Relations: Religion

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each Government Office for the Regions has provided to each regional faith community to date. [259528]

Mr. Khan: Face to Face and Side by Side: A framework for partnership in our multi faith society was launched on 21 July 2008, and sets out how, over the next three years, CLG will support a stronger dialogue between people of different faiths and beliefs in every community by encouraging practical inter faith cooperation and collaborative social action.

The practical steps that Government will take to support the delivery of the Framework for Partnership includes a programme of investment over three years in Regional Faith Forums (2008 to 2011) to support and build their capacity and the capacity of local communities.

The following table sets out the amounts which each Regional Faith Forum has received, to date, from CLG or from a Government office.

(a) Faith Forum	*2008-09 (total to date) (£)*
East	91,362.50
East Midlands	90,000.00
London	86,073.59
North East	107,092.00
North West	0.00
South East	91,550.00
South West	87,958.00
West Midlands	99,798.00
Yorkshire and Humberside	87,000.00

(b) In addition, Government offices have funded Regional Faith Forums, as follows:

	Funds (£)
North East	10,000.00
South East	17,000.00
Yorkshire and Humberside	20,000.00

Eco-Towns: Middle Quinton

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make an assessment of (1) the Middle Quinton Eco-Town Proposals: Independent Viability Assessment commissioned from CB Richard Ellis by the Joint Authorities Eco-Town Working Group of Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Gloucestershire; and if she will make a statement; [260217]

(2) the report by Advantage West Midlands on Economic Evaluation of the Middle Quinton Eco-Town Proposal commissioned by the Joint Authorities Eco-Town Working Group of Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Gloucestershire; and if she will make a statement; [260218]

(3) the review by Colliers CRE of the Initial Retail Capacity Assessment of the Middle Quinton Eco-Town proposal commissioned by the Joint Authorities Eco-Town Working Group of Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Gloucestershire; and if she will make a statement; [260219]

(4) the report by Ove Arup and Partners on Middle Quinton Eco-Town: Review of Strategic Transport Assessment commissioned by the Joint Authorities Eco-Town Working Group of Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Gloucestershire; and if she will make a statement. [260220]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 3 March 2009]:* I welcome the additional technical assessment reports that have been commissioned by local councils in the locations of the shortlisted eco-towns, including Middle Quinton. Together with the consultation documents, which I published on 4 November 2008, and the financial viability study, which I expect to publish shortly, these reports and similar material in other localities will help to inform the responses of local councils, and others to the second stage consultation. This will provide us with a good base upon which to make our decisions on those locations with potential to be an eco-town and which should be included in the Eco-towns Planning Policy Statement. We have also extended the consultation deadline until 30 April to ensure that all parties, irrespective of their views, are given the full opportunity to have their say.

Audit Commission

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission charged each fire and rescue authority in each region in *(a)* value added tax, *(b)* fixed element fees, *(c)* fees based on gross expenditure and *(d)* total in respect of audit fees in each year since 2003. [259568]

John Healey: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred:

I have been asked to respond to your Parliamentary Question about how much the Audit Commission has charged each fire and rescue authority in each region since 2003.

It is not possible to provide an analysis of audit fees in the form you have requested. While the statutory scale fee is made up of a fixed element and an element that varies according to gross expenditure, the actual fees charged to each fire and rescue authority may vary from the scale fee, reflecting the auditor's professional assessment of risk and the complexity of the audit.

We cannot provide complete information on Value Added Tax paid, as it is payable on audit fees at the prevailing rate at the time that a fee, or part thereof, is invoiced. We do not hold billing information for the approximately one third of audits where firms are the appointed auditors.

We are currently analysing the information we do hold, so that we can give you as helpful a breakdown as possible of the fees charged. I will write to you again by 6 March, providing this information for the period from 2003 to 2007. Audit fees for 2007/08 audits will only be finalised when it is clear that all audit work for that financial year has been completed, when all variations from the scale fee will need to be approved formally by the Commission Board.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission charged each public service in each region in *(a)* value added tax, *(b)* fixed element fees, *(c)* fees based on gross expenditure and *(d)* total in respect of audit fees in each year since 1997. [259569]

John Healey: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred:

I have been asked to respond to your Parliamentary Question about how much the Audit Commission has charged each public service in each region since 1997.

We cannot provide detailed information back to 1997, as we are required to retain financial records for six years only.

The way we have constructed scales of audit fees over the period has varied. In 2000/01 we moved from a per diem, input-based scale to an output based approach, known as 'fee for the audit'.

It is not possible to provide an analysis of audit fees in the form you have requested. While the statutory scale fee is made up of a fixed element and an element that varies according to gross expenditure, the actual fees charged to each audited body may vary from the scale fee, reflecting the auditor's professional assessment of risk and the complexity of the audit.

We cannot provide complete information on Value Added Tax paid, as it is payable on audit fees at the prevailing rate at the time that a fee, or part thereof, is invoiced. We do not hold billing information for the approximately one third of audits where firms are the appointed auditors.

However, we are currently analysing the information we do hold, so that we can give you as helpful a breakdown as possible of the fees charged. I will write to you again with this information by 13 March.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Local Government Finance: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the percentage change in the rate support grant settlement for each London local authority in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms has been since 1990. [259570]

John Healey: It is not possible to provide these data on a like for like (that is, comparable) basis.

The Department only holds data on year-on-year changes in formula grant on a like-for-like basis from 1997-98. This is because it only became necessary to make these calculations when guarantees were introduced to ensure that no authority could lose grant year-on-year on a like-for-like basis.

It is not possible to provide data on the change across the period 1997-98 to date since we do not adjust data earlier than the previous year on a like-for-like basis.

Local Government Services: Essex

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment her Department has made of the likely effects of Transformational Services and Delivery Support, the procurement exercise being proposed by Essex county council, on service delivery; and if she will make a statement; [259956]

(2) what discussions her Department has had with representatives of Essex county council on its proposed Transformational Services and Delivery Support procurement exercise; [259957]

(3) what assessment she has made of the extent to which Essex county council's proposed procurement exercise, Transformational Services and Delivery Support, complies with her Department's guidance on involving the workforce in transfer issues in Best Value contained in Annex C of ODPM circular 2003/03. [259958]

John Healey: Subject to their legal duties, including the duty of Best Value and public procurement law, local authorities are responsible for taking their own procurement decisions. The Department has no plans to assess the likely effects of the procurement exercise being proposed by Essex county council. However, the Department has sought factual background information from the council on its procurement proposals.

In undertaking their procurement activities, local authorities will need to have regard to relevant guidance, including that on workforce matters in ODPM Circular 03/2003 and on Best Value in Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities: Statutory Guidance (July 2008). Any concerns that a local authority has not achieved best value should be addressed to the auditor in the first instance.

Microgeneration: Planning Permission

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many micro-generation installations on non-domestic buildings required full planning permission in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [260602]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 118W, on microgeneration, when she first advised the micro-power industry of plans to consult on the introduction of permitted development rights on the installation of micro-generation units on non-domestic buildings; and if she will make a statement. [260667]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning applications for the installation of non-domestic micro-generation installations are considered by local planning authorities on a case-by-case basis and information on the number of such installations that required planning permission is not available centrally.

A commitment was made in the White Paper Planning for a Sustainable Future published in May 2007 to review and wherever possible extend permitted development rights on microgeneration to non-renewable uses including commercial and agricultural development. The White Paper also proposed consultation on detailed proposals.

The Killian Pretty Review: Planning applications: A faster and more responsive system published in November 2008 recommended that the Government should consult on the scope for extending permitted development further allowing opportunities for small-scale renewable facilities on non-domestic buildings and land.

The answer given by my hon. Friend, the Member for Tooting, (Mr. Khan) given on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 118W stated that we aim to consult on proposals this summer.

Roads: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make an assessment of the effects on *(a)* socio-economic development, *(b)* regeneration and *(c)* traffic flow of the Roscommon Way Extension, Canvey Island Phase I; and what assessment she has made of progress on Phase II. [259640]

Margaret Beckett: A planning application for Roscommon Way Extension with a full environmental impact assessment has been submitted to Essex county council. It would not be appropriate for CLG to review at this time. CLG has thus made no assessment on the progress on Phase II.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Maples: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to reply to Question 257080, on the proposed Middle Quinton eco-town, tabled on 10 February 2009. [261215]

Margaret Beckett: I replied to the hon. Member's Question on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1227W.

Zero Carbon Delivery Unit

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been allocated to the zero-carbon hub since its inception. [260668]

Mr. Iain Wright: Budget 2008 announced that the Government would provide pump-priming funding for a new delivery unit to guide, monitor and coordinate the zero-carbon homes programme. The Zero Carbon Hub, a company limited by guarantee, was launched in June 2008 to take on this role and is now fully functioning. In 2008-09, the Department has agreed to allocate up to £500,000 to the Zero Carbon Hub on a match funding basis and subject to a satisfactory business plan.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of state for International Development what recent steps the Government has taken to support humanitarian relief in Africa. [260313]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK Government provided £205 million in Africa for humanitarian relief in the financial year 2007-08. Further details on the Department for International Development's (DFID) humanitarian strategy in Africa can be obtained from the Department for International Development publication "DFID Humanitarian Allocations in Africa 2007/2008" which is available in the publications section of the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/2007-8-Africa-humanitarian-spend-analysis.pdf

Asia: Development Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government has taken to support developing countries in Asia in the last 12 months. [260314]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) provided around £930 million in bilateral aid to Asia during 2007-08. Between 2008-11, UK bilateral aid will grow by over 13 per cent. This assistance is targeted at the public service agreement (PSA) countries in Asia—Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Vietnam, and to a lesser extent the Non PSA countries, Burma, China, Indonesia. We also make a contribution through humanitarian assistance and the cross-government conflict prevention pool in Sri Lanka.

Examples include the following:

In India, home to a third of the world poor, DFID is providing £410 million for education between 2003-10. This has helped to reduce the number of out of school children from 25 million to less than 10 million.

In Nepal £20 million is allocated to the Safe Motherhood Programme during 2004-09 contributing to an almost halving of maternal mortality rates in the country.

In Vietnam DFID support to the national poverty reduction programme has helped half a million people escape poverty, increased school enrolment rates to 90 per cent., helped open 4,000 new primary schools and given 600,000 more people access to clean drinking water.

Further information on DFID's strategy in Asia is available on the DFID website and also in the annual report which is available in the Library of the House and online:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/

Civil Society Challenge Fund

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* longest and *(b)* mean length of time was for decisions to be made on applications to the Civil Society Challenge Fund in each of the last three funding rounds. [260423]

Mr. Michael Foster: The deadline for submission of full proposals to the Civil Society Challenge Fund (CSCF) is 31 July every year. In order to allow rigorous appraisal of the high numbers of proposals received, guidelines published for the 2006, 2007 and 2008 rounds indicated that applicants would be notified of decisions in the following March (up to 246 days after submission).

In the last three funding rounds, decisions were announced on the following dates:

Round	*Date decision was announced*
2008	7 April 2008
2007	20 April 2007
2006	3 March 2006

The longest time for decisions to be announced was therefore 266 days in 2007. The mean time for decisions to be announced was 246 days.

Departmental Art Work

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which works of art from the Government Art Collection each Minister in his Department has selected for display in a private office. [259446]

Mr. Michael Foster: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development has the following works of art from the Government art collection on display in his private office: 'Zoom' by Richard Smith;

'Composition of Figures' by Robert Medley; 'Night Dreams' by John Reginald Brunsdon; and 'Untitled' by John Hoyland.

No other Ministers at the Department for International Development (DFID) have artwork from the Government Art Collection on display in their private offices.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* salary and *(b)* other costs of employment were for the Communications Officer provided for his Department to support the Sudan Darfur—Darfur Dialogue and Consultation by Coffey International Development Ltd in 2008. [259465]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The post of communications officer to support the Darfur Darfur dialogue and consultation (DDDC) is provided through a Framework Agreement between the Department for International Development (DFID) and Coffey International (Coffey) and was awarded following competition. As the communications officer is an employee of Coffey, rather than DFID, DFID does not hold details of the officer's salary or other employee remunerations. DFID pays Coffey a fee rate of £795 per day, as set out in the Framework Agreement.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how often he plans to aggregate data from his Department's country office template reports to provide an overall analysis of expenditure on HIV and related issues; [260478]

(2) whether data from his Department's country office template reports will be made publicly available. [260479]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In December 2008, the UK Government released a document on monitoring performance and evaluating impact which sets out how progress against the commitments in "Achieving Universal Access" will be assessed and reported. The Government will publish biennial reports over the seven-year lifetime of the strategy which will ensure transparency and accountability for its implementation. This document can be found on the Department for International Development (DFID) website,

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/12919_Evaluating_Aids_6th.pdf.

The biennial reports will present and analyse data from a series of templates, primarily focusing on our efforts at country level, but also on our wider efforts and in the context of global progress.

Departmental Film

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what dates and on which channels the Nile Basin Documentary Film produced by Wild Dog Ltd with funding from his Department has been broadcast. [259468]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Nile Basin documentary film has not been broadcast to an external audience to date. It was produced for use by the Nile Basin Initiative (a programme of water resource cooperation led by the Nile Basin countries) and for the Nile Basin Discourse (a parallel civil society engagement programme). The film is to be used as part of their broader communications strategy and will be linked with other communication materials.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is contributing funding to both organisations and has encouraged them to strengthen understanding and support for improved management of the Nile's water resources through the media. We are regularly in contact and will continue to support them as they develop their communications.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in 2008-09 to date. [260356]

Mr. Michael Foster: The total amount claimed in expenses by special advisers in the Department for International Development (DFID) for financial year 2008-09 to date is £237.20.

DFID's procedures for reimbursing staff expenses are set out in the staff handbook and are in line with the provisions set out in the Civil Service Management Code. The code can be viewed at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/iam/codes/csmc/index.asp

Departmental Public Consultations

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many public consultations his Department has conducted in the last 12 months; how long each consultation was open for; how many responses were received in each case; and what the cost of conducting each consultation was. [259567]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has run 22 public consultations on its website during the last 12 months. The consultations were open for at least 12 weeks, as set out in the government guidance on public consultations. Information on responses and expenditure on public consultations is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on *(a)* standard and *(b)* business class rail travel in each of the last three financial years. [259621]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) expenditure on rail travel for the last three financial years is given in the following table.

	Total rail expenditure (£)
2005-06	421,720
2006-07	441,823
2007-08	450,570

Data broken down by class of travel could not be produced without incurring disproportionate cost.

The totals in this table include data on reimbursable rail expenditure claimed by staff which was not previously available.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of the Stakeholder survey—working across Whitehall, produced by PricewaterhouseCoopers for his Department in 2008, reference number 200708205. [259467]

Mr. Michael Foster: A copy of the Department for International Development's (DFID) Stakeholder Survey, carried out by PricewaterhouseCoopers in 2008, will be placed in the Library.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on staff surveys in each of the last five years; and which companies were contracted to carry out the surveys. [260252]

Mr. Michael Foster: Since 2004-05, the Department for International Development (DFID) has carried out six staff surveys. Details are shown in the following table.

	Survey	Provider	Cost (£)
2004-05	Better Balance Audit	Robertson Cooper Ltd.	25,850
2005-06	Management Survey	Internally delivered	n/a
2006-07	Management Survey	Internally delivered	n/a
2007-08	Management Survey	Internally delivered	n/a
2008-09	Better Balance Audit	Robertson Cooper Ltd.	27,000
2008-09	Pulse Survey (under way)	Oxford Policy Management	17,000

1 Budget.

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* the World Bank, *(b)* multilateral development banks and *(c)* other international finance organisations have spent on (i) alternative sources of energy, (ii) energy efficiency and (iii) adaptation to climate change in developing countries in each of the last two years; what proportion of this spending was from funds provided by the UK; and if he will make a statement. [259411]

Mr. Michael Foster: An internationally agreed definition of what constitutes spending on (iii) adaptation to climate change does not currently exist, and the international financial institutions do not have publicly available estimates of their own spending in this area for the last two years. The Department for International Development (DFID) is working with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Development Assistance Committee (DAC) to develop a methodology for collecting statistics from donors on support to adaptation.

DFID does, however, hold the following information on expenditure on (i) alternative sources of energy, and (ii) energy efficiency:

The World Bank Group recently reported $476 million of lending to renewable energy projects, and $1,192 billion to energy efficiency for the year ending 30 June 2008. Disaggregated data are not available for the previous year. Together, this represents 35 per cent. of total World Bank Group energy sector lending for 2008.

The Asian Development Bank's (ADB) investments in alternative sources of energy for the last two years are $121 million in 2007 and $1,152 billion in 2008. ADB's investments in energy efficiency for the last two years are $547 million in 2007 and $547 million in 2008.

The Inter-American Development Bank's (IADB) lending and investments in low carbon programmes, including alternative energy and energy efficiency, totalled $960 million in 2008.

For the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), data from 2007 (the only year for which we have accurate data) shows that of total energy sector lending of €1,020 billion, 67 per cent. went to 'clean energy' activities, mainly energy efficiency.

It is not possible to state what percentage of spend by the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) on clean energy projects is as a result of UK funding. MDB projects are funded through a variety of sources, including funds leveraged through their capital resources and lending and funding through concessional windows like the International Development Association (IDA), to which donors contribute directly.

HIV Infection

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the terms of reference for the cross-departmental working group on HIV/AIDS led by his Department are. [260211]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Cross-Whitehall Working Group on tackling AIDS in the developing world is the main mechanism for cross-departmental work on AIDS. The current terms of reference are as follows:

To support implementation of "Taking Action: "The UK's strategy for tackling HIV and AIDS in the developing world" by HMG by increasing coherence across Government Departments.

To exchange information about policy initiatives and directions related to "Taking Action The UK's strategy for tackling HIV and AIDS in the developing world."

To identify opportunities for closer co-operation across departments to maintain UK and International political momentum, provide briefing, and consider new policy directions.

To link with existing Whitehall co-ordination mechanisms including the Access to Medicines Working Group.

These terms of reference are currently being revised to make explicit the Group's role in monitoring the commitments set out in the UK Government's updated AIDS strategy "Achieving Universal Access" launched in June 2008. It is expected that the revised terms of reference will be agreed at the next meeting of the Cross-Whitehall Working Group on tackling AIDS in the developing world.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government has taken to prevent the spread of AIDS-related illnesses in third world countries in the last 12 months. [260315]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In June 2008 the UK Government launched "Achieving Universal Access" the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world. This reaffirms the UK's global leadership on AIDS, including through a commitment to spend £6 billion over seven years to 2015 to strengthen health systems and services. This is in addition to the UK Government's long-term commitments of £1 billion (2007-15) to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Preventing people from becoming infected with HIV is our best hope of stopping the epidemic and related illnesses. "Achieving Universal Access" sets out how the UK will intensify prevention efforts that have proven to be effective, such as prevention of mother-to-child transmission, family planning and reducing the harm from injecting drug use. The strategy recognises that an effective response to AIDS also requires action outside the health sector. The UK government is therefore committed to a multisectoral response to AIDS that includes action in education, social protection and justice.

"Achieving Universal Access the UK's strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world" was published on 2 June 2008 and is available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website

www.dfid.gov.uk

and in the Library of the House.

Kosovo

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of the Policy note on economic growth and job creation for donor conference, Kosovo commissioned from the University of Manchester in 2008, reference numbers 200808402 and 200808318. [259464]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Policy Note produced by the university of Manchester will be placed in the Library.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how his Department's aid for reconstruction in Gaza is to be distributed. [259475]

Mr. Michael Foster: At the Sharm el Sheikh conference, the international donor community agreed that aid to Gaza should be delivered in line with core humanitarian principles and through existing international and regional mechanisms. There are established mechanisms for aid delivery in Gaza, such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and the European Commission's PEGASE. The UK will continue to use these and also continue to fund non-governmental organisations with staff on the ground to meet immediate humanitarian needs and rebuild critical infrastructure such as homes, schools and hospitals.

On 1 March, the Secretary of State for International Development pledged £30 million for recovery in Gaza. The pledge includes a new £20 million provision and £10 million from the support announced in January. This brings the UK response to the recent conflict in Gaza to £46.8 million. Of this we have already allocated nearly £16 million.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports his Department has received on the number of bombings of civilian hospitals in the Vanni region in Sri Lanka; what assessment his Department has made of the humanitarian impact of these attacks; and if he will make a statement. [260161]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has received public reports from the United Nations (UN) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Because of the restrictions on access, it is not possible to provide accurate details of the number of bombings. We deplore the reported attacks on hospitals and the other incidents of civilian casualties in Sri Lanka. We have repeatedly called on both the Sri Lankan Government and the separatists to end hostilities, allow full humanitarian access and respect humanitarian law; which prohibits attacks on medical facilities. We applaud and support the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in evacuating some 2,000 wounded civilians but condemn the necessity for doing so.

We have committed £5 million in humanitarian aid to support the relief and protection work of the ICRC, United Nations and other agencies.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of conditions for civilians in government welfare villages in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [260155]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has been unable to make our own first-hand assessment because although we have sent humanitarian staff to Sri Lanka for this purpose, the Sri Lankan Government have refused permission for them to travel to the conflict area.

According to secondary sources, the Sri Lankan Government have not provided welfare villages for displaced civilians but transit camps, using buildings such as schools and community centres. Reports indicate that these sites are overcrowded, have a large government military presence and impose very restricted movement. However, it is also reported that their management is now improving, with water, sanitation, food and other necessities being provided.

With other Governments and the United Nations, we have repeatedly pressed the Sri Lankan Government and the separatists to allow unrestricted humanitarian

access, to reach an urgent ceasefire and ensure full protection and relief for the civilian population. We have committed £5 million in humanitarian aid to support the protection and relief work of the International Red Cross, the United Nations and other agencies.

St. Helena: Airports

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when the pause on the construction of an airport on the island of St. Helena commenced; when it will finish; what its purpose is; and if he will make a statement. [259193]

Mr. Michael Foster: We announced on 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns WS46-47 that there will be a pause in negotiations over the St. Helena airport contract. We are reviewing whether it is right to proceed with this project in the present difficult economic climate. We will announce the outcome of our considerations as soon as we are able to.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what effect the exchange rate between the euro and sterling has had on the pause currently in force on the construction contract of an airport for the island of St. Helena. [259192]

Mr. Michael Foster: The St. Helena airport tender called for bids in up to four international currencies. The 30 per cent. drop in the value of the UK pound against the euro since the bids were submitted in November 2007 has served to increase the likely out-turn cost of the project.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Servants

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* applicants and *(b)* posts to available for such applicants there were to join the Civil Service fast stream in each year since 1996-97. [249954]

Mr. Watson: Application and recruitment figures for the Fast Stream as a whole, which consists of the Graduate Fast Stream, the Economist Fast Stream, the Statistician Fast Stream and, since 2007, the Technology in Business Fast Stream, are as follows:

	Applications	*Vacancies*
1996	11,842	310
1997	10,144	277
1998	9,037	235
1999	9,814	306
2000	14,409	426
2001	11,777	421
2002	14,528	411
2003	20,032	510
2004	8,548	467
2005	12,957	504
2006	13,945	476
2007	13,619	380

Civil Servants: Pensions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether he plans to increase the retirement pension age for the Civil Service pension schemes in line with the planned changes to the state retirement age. [258604]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) on 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 105WS, which gave details of the package of Civil Service pension reform. There are no plans to increase the retirement pension age at present. If costs go up at future actuarial valuations, action will be taken to limit the contributions paid by Civil Service employers. This could include increasing the pension age.

Civil Service: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the Public Disclosure Act 1998 on *(a)* the Civil Service and *(b)* public authorities. [258594]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

I keep the operation of the Public Interest Disclosure Act under review but have undertaken no specific assessment of its impact on the Civil Service and public authorities.

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff of his Department were recorded absent for non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate he has made of the (i) cost to his Department and (ii) number of working hours lost due to such absence; and what guidance his Department issued to staff in respect of absence on these days. [260473]

Mr. Watson: Guidance was issued to staff that they should follow Cabinet Office policy on dealing with transport domestic emergencies.

Short periods of special leave with pay are authorised and recorded by managers and not held centrally. To obtain this information in relation to 2 and 3 February 2009 would represent a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff in *(a)* the Prime Minister's Office and *(b)* the Leader of the House's Office were disciplined for (i) bullying and (ii) harassment of colleagues in each of the last three years. [254077]

Mr. Watson: It is not the policy of the Cabinet Office to release personal data relating to individual staff. I can confirm that in the period specified, there were fewer than five cases in the Department where staff were disciplined for bullying and harassment of colleagues. It would not be appropriate to provide a further breakdown.

Futurebuilders Fund

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what funding the Cabinet Office has allocated for Futurebuilders in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; [260488]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the Recession Action Plan for the Third Sector on the funding of Futurebuilders. [261220]

Kevin Brennan: The Futurebuilders Fund draws down funding from the Cabinet Office when commitments made by the Fund are ready to be disbursed to third sector organisations. The budget allocations made by the Cabinet Office are indicative only, and for transparency, the annual actual and audited expenditure is recorded separately in the Cabinet office Annual Report and Accounts.

The budget allocations for Futurebuilders for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are in the following table:

Budget including management charge

	£ million
2008-09	30.26
2009-10	59.96
2010-11	51.28

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether there have been any changes to the Futurebuilders operational budget since the publication of the Government's Recession Action Plan for the Third Sector. [261184]

Kevin Brennan: The operational budget for the Futurebuilders Fund is set out in the contract between the Cabinet Office and Adventure Capital Fund Management, which was signed on 4 February 2008. The Fund Manager is paid a fixed fee for managing the Futurebuilders fund with a small, additional sum to cover contingency and a performance-related bonus. Since the agreement was signed, this has not changed.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether there have been any changes to the contractual operating terms under which Futurebuilders operate in the last 12 months. [261216]

Kevin Brennan: The contractual operating terms for the Futurebuilders Fund were set out in the contract between the Cabinet Office and Adventure Capital Fund Management, which was signed on 4 February 2008. This contract came into effect on 1 April 2008. Since the original agreement, the contractual operating terms have not changed.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what changes have been made to the allocation of funding to Futurebuilders since the start of the current comprehensive spending review. [261217]

Kevin Brennan: The Futurebuilders Fund draws down funding from the Cabinet Office when commitments made by the fund are ready to be disbursed to third sector organisations. Due to the time it can take for third sector organisations to become fully investment ready following an in principle commitment from the Futurebuilders Fund, it is often difficult to accurately predict expenditure of the Fund in any given financial year. Budget allocations to the Fund are therefore updated on a regular basis.

For our current indicative budget allocations to the Fund I refer the hon. Member to the answer I have given to parliamentary question number 260488.

Government Departments: Data Protection

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which Government departments have fully implemented the recommendations of the review of data handling procedures in Government; and what recent steps he has taken to set cross-Government standards on the management of information. [260401]

Mr. Watson: Departments have already reported on information risk management and implementation of the Data Handling Report (DHR) requirements in their annual resource accounts and will continue to do so on an annual basis. The DHR stated that a report on information risk and assurance will be placed before Parliament following annual reporting from departments on the 2008-09 financial year. This report will also cover departments' implementation of the recommendations of the DHR and information risk in general. Indications so far are that departments are making good progress, and are focused on completing the implementation of the DHR requirements.

Recent steps taken by my Department include: the rolling-out of a civil service wide e-learning package for all staff on data+security with around 100 different public sector organisations accessing the training to date; the delivery of updated guidance on information risk assessments and reporting procedures; further and ongoing training and development sessions for Senior Information Risk Owners across departments.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how the funds for protection of the forest environment announced at the UN Conference on Climate Change in Poznan will be allocated; and from which budget the funds will be allocated. [260824]

Joan Ruddock: The contribution comes from the UK's £800 million Environmental Transformation Fund – International Window. The funding will provide support to countries seeking to initiate change towards low carbon emission and climate resilient sustainable forest management. It will help to demonstrate and implement the measures required for a country to reduce overall emissions from forestry and potentially access payments from a future Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) funding mechanism.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to commission further research into the use of international financial mechanisms to reduce levels of forest loss. [260825]

Joan Ruddock: It is clear that Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) cannot be financed by public funds and carbon markets alone. There is a strong case for early action and a public-private partnership to mobilise additional funding for REDD.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Department for International Development have commissioned a study to examine the options for financing mechanisms that use public funding to mobilise substantial private investment into sustainable forest management, leading to reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation with environmental and developmental co-benefits. We hope to be able to consult on the outcomes of this in April this year.

Carbon Emissions: EC Action

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the efficacy of the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme in the light of the recession. [259356]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In the EU carbon market we are currently witnessing lower carbon allowance prices due to a variety of factors including reduced manufacturing output and lower electricity demand. The fall in the price of carbon allowances has also followed the fall in other commodity prices. Allowing carbon allowance prices to reflect these changing market fundamentals is necessary for achieving fixed emissions reductions at least cost as it incentivises participants to change their behaviour accordingly.

The level of environmental ambition of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) is set by the cap and will not be affected by the price of carbon allowances.

Carbon Emissions: Research

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has *(a)* evaluated and *(b)* commissioned on the volume of carbon dioxide emitted from processes involving the use of indigenous deep-mined coal compared to similar processes involving the use of tar sands, shale and other unconventional oils. [247399]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government agrees with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its Fourth Assessment Report which shows that the emissions associated with extraction and conversion of these unconventional sources of energy are several times those associated with conventional sources of oil per unit of energy produced. The Government have not made an assessment of the volumes of carbon dioxide produced by processes involving unconventional sources of oil compared with indigenous coal.

Climate Change: Indonesia

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding he has allocated to the work of the UK-Indonesia Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (WGECC); when and where the group will next meet; and which UK organisations will participate in the WGECC. [260021]

Joan Ruddock: A joint MoU (DECC/DEFRA with the Indonesian Environment Ministry) establishing the WGECC was signed in Poznan in December 2008. The first meeting of the WGECC is due to take place in April in London. There will be UK representatives from DECC, DEFRA, DFID, FCO, DFT, and UKTI.

Funds have not yet been allocated to the work of the WGECC as a work programme is yet to be agreed. April's meeting will consider the shape of the work programme and help to identify funding requirements.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's average response time to a letter received from *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public has been since it was established. [251434]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of departments in replying to Members' correspondence. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Information for 2008 is currently being collated and will be published as soon as it ready. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

With respect to correspondence from members of the public, this information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs. The Department does however aim to respond to all written correspondence within 15 working days.

Statistics on the handling of letters from members of the public are published in the DEFRA annual report which will be available later in the year.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make it his policy for his Department to sign the Information Commissioner's Personal Information Promise. [258950]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government welcomed the Promise as a commendable initiative to raise awareness of the importance of effective data protection safeguards, particularly for those organisations with no similar commitments already in place.

The Government take data protection very seriously. Following the Cabinet Office Review of Data Handling Procedures in Government, Departments have implemented a raft of measures to improve data security.

The Ministry of Justice is considering actively with the ICO how the Promise might add additional value to those measures we have already signed up to. These include the Information Charters, the recommendations of the Data Handling Review and the Thomas/Walport Review and, of course, our legal obligations under the Data Protection Act and other legislation and regulations.

Departmental Responsibilities

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when his Department will publish its corporate plan. [255163]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No decision has yet been made about this.

Electricity

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many homes were without electricity supply for a period of more than four hours during January 2009. [259498]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State does not collect detailed data on supply interruptions which would enable numbers of electricity customers interrupted for more than four hours to be calculated on a monthly basis. Existing statutory reporting requirements relate only to major interruptions and not to all interruptions.

Distribution Network Operators will, however, report interruptions data for the 2008-09 regulatory year to Ofgem on 30 April 2009.

Energy: Meters

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library of the House a copy of the minutes of each meeting held by officials in his Department at which smart meters have been discussed since the creation of his Department. [255847]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Officials have met a wide range of individuals and organisations to discuss smart metering issues, including energy supply companies, network operating companies, trade union representatives, metering businesses, environmental and consumer organisations and others with an interest in smart meter roll-out.

I do not intend to place records of the meetings in the Libraries of the House. There would be disproportionate costs involved, for instance in the clearance of such records with the relevant individuals and organisations.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals, officials in his Department have met to discuss smart meters since his Department's inception. [255992]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Officials have met numerous organisations and individuals to discuss smart metering issues, including energy supply companies, network operating companies, trade union representatives, metering businesses, environmental and consumer organisations and others with an interest in smart meter roll-out.

Energy: Supply

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the effect of the economic downturn on UK energy demand. [255218]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: National Grid estimates that current electricity demands are approximately 2 gigawatt's lower than they would expect under similar weather conditions but with last winter's usage patterns. It expects that over the summer the demand reduction will continue, and are forecasting electricity demand about 1.3 gigawatt's lower than last summer's.

National Grid believes gas demand from industrial, commercial and domestic customers has seen a significant downturn since the start of winter, when compared with the same period last year assuming normal weather conditions. However, growth in power generation and exports to mainland Europe have resulted in the same overall level of demand as last winter.

The Department estimates that in the three months to December 2008 petrol demand fell by 6 per cent. and diesel demand by 5 per cent. when compared with the previous year.

It is not known how much of the change in energy demand is due solely to the economic downturn.

Environmental Transformation Fund

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the revenue source of the Environmental Transformation Fund is. [256621]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* As announced in the 2007 Budget the Environmental Transformation Fund is funded equally from the Department for International Development and my Department's budgets. Prior to DECC's creation, funding was supplied by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Decisions on how much to allocate to departmental budgets are made at spending reviews.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has awarded under Phase 2 of the Low Carbon Buildings programme in each quarter since it was established. [258456]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Under the Low Carbon Buildings programme Phase 2 the following amount of money was committed in each quarter since the programme was established:

Quarterly commitment for LCBP2

£

	Committed rate (takes account of withdrawn projects)	*Grant committed (cumulative)*
November-December 2006	–	–
January-March 2007	119,290	119,290
April-June 2007	1,644,850	1,764,140
July-September 2007	2,253,115	4,017,255
October-December 2007	2,250,882	6,268,137
January-March 2008	2,768,237	9,036,374
April-June 2008	3,299,059	12,335,433
July-September 2008	4,819,009	17,154,442
October-December 2008	5,857,419	23,011,862
January 2009	3,429,338	26,441,200

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has awarded to microgeneration of heat and electricity projects under Phase 2 of the Low Carbon Buildings programme, broken down by specific technologies supported. [258457]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: To date under Phase 2 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme the total of £26,441,200 was allocated to 1,324 projects broken down by technologies as follows:

	£
Heat	
Solar thermal	2,789,912
Ground source heat pumps	2,591,002
Biomass	390,139
Total	5,771,053
Electricity	
Photovoltaic	19,547,780
Wind turbines	1,122,367
Total	20,670,147

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many addresses his Department has provided to the Legal Complaints Service in order to advise claimants under the Coal Health Compensation Scheme about their ability to complain about double charging by solicitors; and how many such addresses his Department holds. [253320]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department provided 3,651 living claimant addresses from the Rother Valley constituency to the Legal Complaints Service (LCS) in July 2007, following which each individual claimant was written to and invited to attend an information session headed by my right hon. Friend the Member for Rother Valley (Mr. Barron).

Since then, the LCS has amended its approach to taking this work forward and has reached agreement with some solicitors, representing a large proportion of all claimants under the Coal Health Compensation Schemes, for them to write directly to their clients explaining how they can seek redress. The Department may need to provide further data in future to enable the LCS to contact claimants whose solicitors do not agree to follow the LCS' preferred approach and arrangements for this are under discussion.

The Department holds the addresses of 588,739 claimants under the schemes and any requests for the disclosure of such personal data are considered in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the requirement for enhanced data security given the personal data involved.

Microgeneration

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has commissioned into the effectiveness of *(a)* ground and *(b)* air source heat pumps. [257586]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Energy Saving Trust is currently undertaking the first-of-its kind field trial of heat pumps in the UK with support from DECC and other stakeholders. The trial is measuring the in-situ performance of 80 ground and air-source heat pumps installed in domestic properties. The field trial was launched in 2008 after extensive consultation with relevant stakeholders in government, industry, and academia. The project will collect data for one calendar year from all sites. The trials are due to report in January 2010 and we look forward to the results.

Natural Gas

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to increase the capacity of storage facilities for gas. [259588]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government are working to facilitate new gas storage projects by implementing the reforms to the consents procedures under the Energy and Planning Acts 2008. National Grid's recent "10 Year Statement" identifies 17 commercial gas storage projects in various stages of development. A further major project has also recently been announced. If all these projects go ahead GB's gas storage capacity could increase to some 20 per cent. of current annual demand levels by around 2020.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of domestic gas consumption was obtained from domestic sources in each of the last 15 years; and if he will make a statement. [259589]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Because the UK's gas consumption needs are met by domestic production, imports (net of exports) and changes in gas stocks it is not possible to identify the exact proportion of domestic production physically consumed in the UK. Given the complexities a simplified measure is shown in the following table. This shows the UK's dependence on imported gas over 15 years to 2008. A negative net import figure means the UK was a net exporter of gas. The final column shows that between the years 1996 and 2003 (inclusive) the UK was self-sufficient in gas.

	Gas available for consumption in the UK (TWh)	*UK net imports (TWh)*	*UK net imports as a percentage of gas available for consumption in the UK*	*Implied UK consumption as a percentage of UK production*
1994	727	+23	3	97
1995	779	+8	1	99
1996	924	+5	0	100
1997	929	-8	-1	100
1998	955	-21	-2	100
1999	1,011	-72	-7	100
2000	1,064	-120	-11	100
2001	1,045	-108	-10	100

	Gas available for consumption in the UK (TWh)	UK net imports (TWh)	UK net imports as a percentage of gas available for consumption in the UK	Implied UK consumption as a percentage of UK production
2002	1,035	-90	-9	100
2003	1,031	-91	-9	100
2004	1,064	+19	2	98
2005	1,030	+77	7	93
2006	984	+123	13	87
2007	989	+215	22	78
2008 (provisional)	1,032	+284	28	72

Natural Gas: Russia

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of Russia's decision to stop European gas supply on such supplies in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [249518]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Russia's decision to stem European gas supply had no direct impact on gas supply in the UK as the UK is estimated to receive less than 2 per cent. of its gas from Russia. However, the shortage of gas supplies to the continent was likely to have been the reason for the exports of gas from the UK to Europe through the Interconnector of, on average, 35 million cubic metres per day, in response to price signals. This was at a time of year when the UK would normally be importing through the Interconnector. The UK's diverse sources of gas supplies helped to ensure that gas supply in the UK continued to meet demand, which was high due to cold weather conditions prevailing at the time.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to review the viability of the Nord Stream pipeline project. [255199]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No.

Natural Gas: Ukraine

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of gas consumed in the UK is sourced from the Ukraine. [259545]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: UK consumption of any gas sourced via the Ukraine (be it Russian or Ukrainian in origin) is negligible. Ukraine consumes its own domestic gas production with minute exports, but does act as a transit country for Russian gas entering the EU. There are only two routes to the UK for gas via the Ukraine. These are the Balgzand-Bacton pipeline from the Netherlands and the Bacton-Zeebrugge pipeline with Belgium. The physical origins of the gas through these pipelines are not available. It is possible that a very small amount of gas via the Ukraine finds its way across continental Europe to the UK, but given the gas pipeline infrastructure it is believed that most of the gas from the Netherlands is sourced from the Dutch sector of the North sea, and that most of the gas from Belgium is sourced from Norway via Zeepipe (which terminates at Zeebrugge).

Monthly imports and exports of natural gas by country are published in Energy Trends Table 4.3 on the DECC/BERR website at the following address:

http://stats.berr.gov.uk/energystats/et4_3.xls

Nuclear Power Stations

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) whether he proposes to provide further opportunities for the nomination of potential nuclear new build sites after the current period closes on 31 March 2009; [256855]

(2) what consideration he gave to providing for a period of evaluation of other than two months for the nomination of potential nuclear new build sites; and for what reasons two months was the preferred period. [256888]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The strategic siting assessment is a process for identifying and assessing sites which are strategically suitable for the deployment of new nuclear power stations by the end of 2025. The Government believes that it is important to focus on sites which can come on stream in good time to contribute to our goals on climate change and energy security. 2025 provides sufficient focus to facilitate the achievement of these goals whilst avoiding an unnecessarily long list of potential sites which may not come on stream for some years. Should the need arise the Government will issue a second call for nominations for credible sites which might be deployed after 2025.

The Government Response to Consultation on the SSA process and siting criteria, published in January this year set out the next steps, including nomination forms, guidance to nominators and the timetable of assessment. The deadline for nominations is 31 March 2009. The nominations will be published on the DECC website and there will be a month long period for public comment prior, and in addition, to public consultation later in the year.

In the consultation on the SSA process and siting criteria Government set out the proposal that the nomination window would be eight weeks. Having considered the responses to the consultation, the Government believes that an eight week window for nominations gives nominators sufficient time to absorb the changes to the criteria resulting from the consultation, to complete nominations and to perform their engagement activities. The Government did consider leaving time between the publication of the criteria in the Response and subsequently calling

for nominations, but felt that this would introduce complexity into the nomination period. The Government's conclusions in relation to the nomination window are set out more fully in the Government Response to the SSA Consultation.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many nuclear power stations he expects to begin being constructed in each of the next five years. [259509]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: It will be for energy companies to determine how much capacity is built and when.

There should be no cap on the amount of new nuclear build that industry can propose. We are taking active steps to facilitate rapid early deployment of new nuclear build in the UK.

Interest in building new nuclear power stations in the UK is strong. This is demonstrated by events such as EDF's recent purchase of BE, and by the development of Joint ventures by RWE and E.ON, and Iberdrola, GDF Suez and SSE to participate in the development of new nuclear power stations.

Renewable Energy: International Co-operation

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Morley and Rothwell of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 641-2W, on renewable energy: international co-operation, what recent assessment he has made of the merits of the establishment of an international renewable energy agency in the light of other existing organisations and initiatives in the field of renewable energy. [253724]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 10 February 2009]:* We have fully supported the proposal for an International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). During 2008, we were engaged in the process for establishing IRENA and more recently we participated in the founding conference on 26 January and the first session of the Preparatory Commission of IRENA on 27 January 2009.

We continue to be keen on joining IRENA and have been in close contact with the German Government on the details of the new organisation. For example, we have been talking to Germany about how IRENA can contribute to the roll-out and deployment of renewables and how we can help to get other countries such as Canada, China, Japan, India and the US to join. We also want to make sure that IRENA works closely with, and avoids overlap and duplication with, other international bodies and organisations, such as the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the renewable energy and energy efficiency partnership (REEEP). The IEA has a good understanding of the potential for renewable energy and its technology roadmaps published in its Energy Technologies Perspectives 2008 set out what needs to be done. The policy and analytical expertise of the IEA needs to be used by IRENA to accelerate deployment of renewable sources of energy.

United Nations Environment Programme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent meetings Ministers and officials from his Department have had with representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme on energy and climate change related matters. [255165]

Joan Ruddock: DECC Ministers have not had any recent meetings with representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme. However, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, attended a climate change meeting on 18 February 2009 as part of the United Nations Environment Programme Conference in Nairobi.

Windfall Tax: Energy

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on levying a windfall tax on the profits of energy companies; what representations he has received from *(a)* trades unions and *(b)* consumer groups on an energy windfall tax; what the reasons were for deciding against such a tax; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the transcript of his comments to Radio Five Live on 23 September on energy windfall taxes. [246222]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has regular discussions with the Chancellor on various economic issues relating to the energy markets, and receives representations on issues relating to the energy markets from a broad range of organisations. All taxes are kept under review by the Chancellor as part of the Budget and pre-Budget report process. Any decision to levy a tax on the profits of energy companies would need to consider the impact on UK competitiveness and the long term investment required to move to a low-carbon economy.

My officials have tried on a number of occasions to obtain from the BBC the transcript the hon. Gentleman requested without success so far.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Vocational Training

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many learner places funded by the Learning and Skills Council have been taken up by people with *(a)* learning difficulties, *(b)* disabilities and *(c)* mental ill health in each year since 2003-04. [258579]

Mr. Simon: Table 1 shows the number of learner enrolments/starts which were funded by the Learning and Skills Council, from 2004/05 to 2007/08 academic year.

Information is shown by: learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities; disability (including mental ill health) and learning difficulty. Data cannot be provided on a comparable basis for 2003/04.

Table 1: Number of learner enrolments/starts funded by the Learning and Skills Council, learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities; disability, including mental health; and learning difficult

Dimension	Category	ACL enrolments	FE college enrolments	Ufl enrolments	WBL starts	TtG starts
2004/05						
Learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities	Yes	113,300	934,900	95,300	38,500	[redacted]
	No	917,100	6,197,200	834,500	206,900	[redacted]
	Not Known	271,500	879,900	80,700	4,400	[redacted]
	Total	1,301,900	8,012,000	1,010,500	249,800	[redacted]
Disability	Yes	[redacted]	488,400	64,900	17,600	[redacted]
	Of which have: Mental Ill Health	[redacted]	40,700	6,600	400	[redacted]
	No	[redacted]	6,490,600	862,300	226,800	[redacted]
	Not Known	[redacted]	1,033,000	83,300	5,400	[redacted]
	Total	[redacted]	8,012,000	1,010,500	249,800	[redacted]
Learning difficulty	Yes	[redacted]	519,100	41,000	27,400	[redacted]
	No	[redacted]	6,468,900	885,100	217,300	[redacted]
	Not Known	[redacted]	1,023,900	84,400	5,100	[redacted]
	Total	[redacted]	8,012,000	1,010,500	249,800	[redacted]
2005/06						
Learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities	Yes	119,600	938,600	95,600	34,400	1,400
	No	861,700	5,683,000	768,300	190,300	30,400
	Not Known	201,200	649,100	73,200	3,500	700
	Total	1,182,600	7,270,700	937,100	228,200	32,400
Disability	Yes	[redacted]	466,700	64,400	16,700	900
	Of which have: Mental Ill Health	[redacted]	38,700	7,900	400	[redacted]
	No	[redacted]	6,021,800	797,300	207,400	30,900
	Not Known	[redacted]	782,200	75,300	4,100	700
	Total	[redacted]	7,270,700	937,100	228,200	32,400
Learning difficulty	Yes	[redacted]	533,800	42,400	23,700	1,000
	No	[redacted]	5,948,600	817,700	200,500	30,800
	Not Known	[redacted]	788,400	77,000	4,000	700
	Total	[redacted]	7,270,700	937,100	228,200	32,400
2006/07						
Learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities	Yes	116,600	879,100	64,300	35,500	14,000
	No	831,600	4,698,500	537,200	197,500	182,100
	Not Known	162,100	468,200	24,400	2,800	10,200
	Total	1,110,200	6,045,800	625,900	235,900	206,300
Disability	Yes	[redacted]	420,600	42,700	18,500	7,200
	Of which have: Mental Ill Health	[redacted]	33,100	6,200	400	200
	No	[redacted]	5,043,700	558,000	213,800	188,500
	Not Known	[redacted]	581,500	25,200	3,500	10,600
	Total	[redacted]	6,045,800	625,900	235,900	206,300
Learning difficulty	Yes	[redacted]	512,600	28,100	23,300	7,700
	No	[redacted]	4,941,300	571,600	209,200	188,000
	Not Known	[redacted]	591,900	26,200	3,400	10,700
	Total	[redacted]	6,045,800	625,900	235,900	206,300
2007/08						
Learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities	Yes	119,600	866,200	89,400	42,200	21,000
	No	776,000	4,444,100	632,000	235,400	298,500

Table 1: Number of learner enrolments/starts funded by the Learning and Skills Council, learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities; disability, including mental health; and learning difficult

Dimension	*Category*	*ACL enrolments*	*FE college enrolments*	*Ufi enrolments*	*WBL starts*	*TtG starts*
	Not Known	142,600	409,900	9,800	2,900	12,300
	Total	1,038,200	5,720,200	731,200	280,600	331,800
Disability	Yes	[1]...	429,900	57,700	23,200	9,400
	Of which have: Mental Ill Health	[1]...	34,000	9,100	700	300
	No	[1]...	4,775,900	660,700	253,600	309,500
	Not Known	[1]...	514,500	12,800	3,800	12,800
	Total	[1]...	5,720,200	731,200	280,600	331,800
Learning difficulty	Yes	[1]...	506,100	38,100	25,700	10,500
	No	[1]...	4,687,400	681,000	251,300	308,300
	Not Known	[1]...	526,700	12,100	3,500	13,000
	Total	[1]...	5,720,200	731,200	280,600	331,800

[1] Data is not available.
[2] A value of less than 50.
Notes:
1. Volumes are rounded to the nearest hundred, and therefore may not sum to totals.
2. Disability and learning difficulty is not shown separately for ACL as they are not mandatory ILR fields for this return.
3. Data for ACL, FE colleges and Ufi are based on learner enrolments. One learner may enrol on more than one course, e.g. two A-levels, and will be counted for each learning aim they are recorded on.
4. Data for WBL and TtG are based on learner starts, by year in which the programme of learning was started. Learners starting more than one course will appear more than once.
5. Data for WBL includes apprenticeships (all levels) and entry to employment.
6. Based on learner's self-assessment. It is recognised that many learners for whom information is recorded in this field will not be able to identify themselves as having learning difficulties. This information will be recorded as a result of interview.
7. Train to Gain was launched in April 2006, so comparable data does not exist for 2004/05.
Source:
Individualised Learner Record.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of hon. Members' questions to his Department for written answer on a named day in the 2008-09 Session of Parliament to date have received *(a)* a holding response on the day named, *(b)* a substantive response on the day named, *(c)* a substantive response after the day named and *(d)* no response. [258774]

Mr. Simon: The information requested is shown in the following table.

	Quantity	*Percentage*
Total named day PQs	74	—
Holding reply on named date	29	39
Substantive response on or before named day	38	51
No response on or before named day	7	10

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what purpose he has commissioned an analysis of academy schools from PricewaterhouseCoopers; what skills and capabilities provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers for this purpose are not available in his Department; and how much his Department has paid to PricewaterhouseCoopers for this project. [259670]

Jim Knight: In 2002, as the first cohort of academies opened, the Department decided that it was important to have an independent evaluation of the programme, given the high-profile and innovative nature of the scheme.

The Department tendered for an external organisation to carry out a five year evaluation and PricewaterhouseCoopers were selected on the strength of their proposals. They were able to provide a team of professional educationalists with experience in academic educational research, who were available to work on the evaluation for five years, bringing continuity of personnel. The value of the contract was £1,559,940 and their fifth and final report in the contract was published last November

Academies: Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which 10 academies had the highest *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of pupils with statements of special educational needs in the last school year for which records are available. [258348]

Jim Knight: The requested information is set out in the following table. In addition, provisional data from the School Census 2008 shows that the proportion of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) statements for all maintained schools is 2.8 per cent. Provisional School Census 2008 data also shows that the proportion of pupils with SEN (with and without statements) in academies is 32.7 per cent. compared to a national average of 20.0 per cent.

Top 10 academies by number of pupils with special needs with statements in 2008

		Number	Percentage
1	The King's Academy	90	8.12
2	Thomas Deacon Academy	66	3.14
3	The Business Academy Bexley	50	3.22
4	City of London Academy (Southwark)	47	4.85
5	St. Pauls Academy	45	6.17
6	The Academy at Peckham	45	3.83
7	Bradford Academy	43	4.75
8	London Academy	42	3.12
9	Northampton Academy	42	3.26
10	Mossbourne Community Academy	41	5.14

Source:
School Census File 2008

Top 10 academies by percentage of pupils with special needs with statements in 2008

		Number	Percentage
1	The King's Academy	90	8.12
2	St. Pauls Academy	45	6.17
3	Oasis Academy Wintringham	38	5.56
4	Mossbourne Community Academy	41	5.14
5	City of London Academy (Southwark)	47	4.85
6	Bradford Academy	43	4.75
7	John Madejski Academy	30	4.57
8	Madeley Academy Trust Ltd	32	4.52
9	Oasis Academy Enfield	8	4.47
10	New Line Learning Academy	39	4.42

Source:
School Census File 2008

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the reasons for changes to the cost of childcare. [260632]

Beverley Hughes: As part of the duty to secure sufficient child care local authorities have a responsibility to assess costs and affordability issues alongside demand and supply in order to ensure that the child care market is meeting the needs of local families.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which childcare settings he expects to be exempt from being on an Ofsted register. [260630]

Beverley Hughes: Child care provision for children aged 8+ is not required to register. For younger children the following categories of child care provision are exempt from registration:

Provision in hotels where this occurs between 6 pm and 2 am for no more than two clients;

Provision where individual children are looked after for two hours or less per day;

Childminding in the parents' own home (for example, nannies);

Childminding provided only between 6 pm and 2 am;

Activity-based provision designed to offer not more than two activities (and where children aged three to five spend less than four hours a day);

Provision where individual children are cared for for four hours or less and where parents remain on the premises or within their immediate locality;

All provision where this is being made as part of a "home education arrangement" for children of compulsory school age;

Open Access Schemes (for example supervised adventure playgrounds);

All provision made on particular premises for 14 days or fewer in any year and where Ofsted are notified in writing at least 14 days before the first day of operation;

Provision made in maintained, approved non-maintained or independent schools for a child who is a registered pupil at the school but has not yet attained the age of three when admitted but will do so before the expiry of his or her first term at the school.

Children in Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many English children in care were placed in children's homes in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Northern Ireland in each year since 1997. [259291]

Beverley Hughes: There were 59,500 looked after children in England at 31 March 2008, of which 6,300 were placed in children's homes. In total 540 of the children looked after by English local authorities at 31 March 2008 were in placements outside England and 90 of these were in children's homes, this includes those in placements in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. These figures exclude those children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

It is not possible to provide figures for earlier years or to give figures for Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland separately due to data availability.

Children in Care: Boarding Schools

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1418W, on children in care: boarding schools, when he expects the school census team to provide the information which is to be placed in the Library. [249909]

Beverley Hughes: The information has now been placed in the Libraries.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much Capgemini has been paid for its work on ContactPoint in each year since the inception of the project. [259398]

Beverley Hughes: The Department paid Capgemini £3.9 million in 2006-07, £19.7 million in 2007-08 and £9.9 million in the first 10 months of financial year 2008-09, for work on the ContactPoint Project.

Children's Centres

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the programme for the provision of Sure Start children's centres to be complete. [260678]

Beverley Hughes: The Government's aim is to have at least 3,500 Sure Start Children's Centres up operational during 2010. Local authorities are responsible for planning the delivery of Sure Start Children's Centres and they are currently finalising their local plans to achieve this target.

Children's Play

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether play workers running open-access schemes are required by his Department to register on the Ofsted *(a)* early years and *(b)* childcare register. [260124]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 2 March 2009]:* There is no requirement for open access provision—as defined by the Childcare (Exemptions from Registration) Regulations—to be registered on either the *(a)* Early Years Register or *(b)* the General Childcare Register.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy for his Department to sign the Information Commissioner's Personal Information Promise. [258972]

Jim Knight: The Government welcome the Promise as a commendable initiative to raise awareness of the importance of effective data protection safeguards, particularly for those organisations with no similar commitments already in place.

The Government take data protection very seriously. Following the Cabinet Office review of data handling procedures in Government, departments have implemented a raft of measures to improve data security.

The Ministry of Justice is considering actively with the ICO how the Promise might add additional value to those measures we have already signed up to. These include the Information Charters, the recommendations of the Data Handling Review and the Thomas/Walport Review and, of course, our legal obligations under the Data Protection Act and other legislation and regulations.

Departmental Operating Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the running cost of his Department and predecessor departments was in each of the last 10 years. [249887]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The following table shows the annual running costs of the Department and predecessor Departments for the last 10 years.

Table 1: Annual running costs for DCSF

£ million

	Post MOG	*Pre MOG*
Outturn		
1998-99	—	211
1999-2000	—	220
2000-01	—	230
2001-02	—	228
2002-03	183	214
2003-04	193	221
2004-05	209	258
2005-06	193	240
2006-07	196	244
Estimated outturn		
2007-08	194	238

Notes:
1. On 28 June 2007 a Machinery of Government change (MOG) was announced which meant a restructuring of Government responsibilities. DIES was split into DCSF and DIUS.
2. Post MOG figures were only restated from 2002-03 and match COINS. These figures are taken from the Departmental Report 2008 (CM 7391).
3. Pre MOG figures have been taken from Departmental report 2007 (CM 7092).

Ear to Listen

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what response he has made to the recommendation of the Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council that his Department give the findings of the Ear to Listen education advocacy project run by Save the Children UK serious consideration. [245087]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has studied the "Ear to Listen" report, and feels there is merit in a number of the recommendations.

The Department will be undertaking a consultation on giving pupils under 18 a right of appeal following their permanent exclusion from school, and as part of this will consult on a child's right of appeal in other related policy areas, including admissions and special education needs (SEN). The consultation will consider the type of support that pupils, particularly those with communication difficulties, might need in taking forward

their right of appeal. In addition, following a recent consultation on handling parents' and young people's complaints about individual school issues, we will consider the place of mediation as part of the complaints handling process and how it could be used to best effect.

On the recommendation related to providing children with a suitable education, since September 2007 schools have been required to arrange a suitable full-time education for all pupils excluded from the sixth day of any period of fixed period exclusion of six days or longer. Local authorities are likewise required to arrange suitable full-time education from the sixth day of permanent exclusion. The term "suitable" education is not defined by law but should be suitable in relation to the individual pupil's needs and take account of any special educational needs. Parents should be notified of their child's continuing educational entitlement in the letter that notifies them of the exclusion and either that letter or a subsequent letter should provide them with detail about the provision, its address and start times.

On the recommendation related to further investigating the reasons behind exclusions of children with SEN, as committed in the "Children's Plan", we are already working to identify good practice in this area, and are about to begin a fact-finding study to determine further the factors which lead to high numbers of exclusions of children with SEN.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Wiltshire

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students aged 16 to 18 years in receipt of an education maintenance allowance there are at each educational institution in North Wiltshire constituency. [259503]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for North Wiltshire with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries.

Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by his Department is in 2008-09. [258530]

Jim Knight: The cost of empty property business rates to the Department for Children Schools and Families for 2008-09 was £50,038.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils did not obtain five GCSEs at any grade excluding equivalents in 2008. [244293]

Jim Knight: The number of pupils that did not obtain five GCSEs at grades A*-G (excluding all equivalents) in 2008 was 88,430.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils eligible to receive free school meals attained a GCSE in *(a)* German, *(b)* French and *(c)* Spanish at grade A* in 2008. [246083]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The table shows the number and percentage of pupils achieving grade A* in French, German and Spanish by eligibility of free school meals in 2008 as a proportion of pupils at the end of KS4.

	Non-FSM		*FSM*		*Total*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
French	9,360	1.8	282	0.4	9,663	1.6
German	4,092	0.8	114	0.2	4,217	0.7
Spanish	4,494	0.9	195	0.3	4,703	0.8

The number and percentage of pupils achieving grade A* as a proportion of the total number of entries

	Non-FSM		*FSM*		*Total*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
French	9,360	6.8	282	2.8	9,663	6.5
German	4,092	6.8	114	3.6	4,217	6.6
Spanish	4,494	10.7	195	5.8	4,703	10.3

Source:
National Pupil Database

Please note that the data are provisional and subject to change. The data also relates to pupils at the end of KS4 in maintained schools only.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 845W, on general certificate of secondary education, how many and what percentage of pupils in the maintained

mainstream sector achieved a GCSE in *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry and *(c)* biology at grade (i) A* and (ii) A in 2008, broken down by index of multiple deprivation decile. [254487]

Jim Knight: The information is provided in the following table.

Results of pupils at the end of key stage 4 in maintained mainstream schools achieving a GCSE in Physics, Chemistry or Biology at grade A or A by IDACI deprivation decile[1] of known pupil residence in England, 2007/08[2]*

IDACI decile[1]	(a) Physics				(b) Chemistry				(c) Biology			
	(i) Grade A*		(ii) Grade A		(i) Grade A*		(ii) Grade A		(i) Grade A*		(ii) Grade A	
	No.[3]	%[4]	No.[3]	%[4]	No.[3]	%[4]	No.[3]	%[4]	No.[3]	%[4]	No.[3]	%[4]
0-10% most deprived	241	10.4	520	22.4	273	11.6	590	25.1	216	7.5	595	20.7
10-20%	286	10.6	628	23.4	341	12.4	644	23.3	291	8.7	700	21.0
20-30%	428	13.0	868	26.4	457	13.8	903	26.8	412	10.5	1,004	25.6
30-40%	543	13.5	1,072	26.7	558	13.7	1,087	27.3	518	11.1	1,159	24.8
40-50%	678	14.6	1,312	28.2	756	16.1	1,282	29.3	675	12.9	1,437	27.4
50-60%	988	18.1	1,618	29.6	1,019	18.5	1,616	30.8	930	15.4	1,839	30.5
60-70%	1,220	19.9	1,873	30.6	1,240	20.2	1,873	30.4	1,150	17.1	2,107	31.4
70-80%	1,389	19.9	2,165	31.0	1,396	19.9	2,160	30.8	1,253	16.7	2,452	32.6
80-90%	1,727	22.1	2,444	31.3	1,762	22.4	2,482	31.5	1,679	20.2	2,738	33.0
90-100% least deprived	2,378	25.8	3,019	32.7	2,375	25.7	3,084	33.3	2,201	22.8	3,429	35.5

[1] 2007 Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index at Super Output Area level based on the residence of the pupil.
[2] Provisional. Includes attempts and achievements by these pupils in previous academic years.
[3] Number of pupils entered for the subject who achieved the grade.
[4] Percentage of all entries for the subject.
Source:
National Pupil Database

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals did not gain one or more C grades or above at GCSE in 2008. [251297]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 26 January 2009]:* In 2008, 29,886 (40.0 per cent.) of pupils eligible for free school meals in maintained schools did not achieve one or more grades A*-C at GCSE.

National Curriculum Tests

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on the Key Stage 2 single level tests in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259487]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) develops and delivers the single level test (SLT) strand of the Making Good Progress pilot. QCA advises that the total amount spent on SLTs for both key stage 2 and key stage 3 in the period 1 February 2008 to 31 January 2009 was £6,986,404. This includes spending on development work associated with the June 2009 test round. It is not possible to extract the specific costs associated with key stage 2.

Nurseries: Vacancies

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1067-8W, on nurseries: vacancies, if he will estimate the number of full-time vacancies there were in local authority maintained nurseries in 2008. [260616]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on the number of childcare places in maintained nursery schools in England. Information regarding the number of full-time vacancies in maintained nurseries in 2008 is not yet available. The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey 2008 will be published later this year.

Ofsted: Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has provided to Ofsted in each year since 1997; and how much of this has been spent on *(a)* inspections and *(b)* inspections of early years settings in each year. [250969]

Jim Knight: Ofsted is a non-ministerial Government Department and its funding is provided by the Treasury through a separate estimates process. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has therefore written to the hon. Member on this matter and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 10 February 2008:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted is a non-ministerial government department and its funding is provided by HM Treasury. Table A shows the total funding provided to Ofsted in each year since 1997, as well as Ofsted's total expenditure and expenditure related to inspection and regulation activity, including that on early years settings.

Ofsted accounts refer to inspection costs under the category of total costs of inspection and regulation activity. The financial data in this response are derived from Ofsted's audited accounts using this wider definition, reflecting as consistently as possible the cost of inspection and regulation. The total programme cost of inspection and regulation activity includes only direct costs incurred by Ofsted in delivering inspection and regulation activity.

Please note that Ofsted has undergone considerable change since the financial year 1997-98. From 1997-98 to 2000-01, Ofsted was primarily responsible for the inspection of schools, local education authorities and teacher training. As stated above, from 2001-02, Ofsted's remit expanded to include early years inspection and regulation. Since April 2007, Ofsted has also had responsibility

for the inspection and regulation of care for children and young people, and the inspection of education and training for learners of all ages. Over the same period, improvements in the way we deliver inspection and regulation have enabled Ofsted to make substantial savings. These changes have affected the cost of early years regulation and inspection and year on year comparison of these costs. Further explanatory notes accompany the table below.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: Ofsted's total funding and expenditure in each year since 1997

£ million

Financial year	Total funding	Total gross expenditure	Total programme cost of inspection and regulation activity	Total programme cost of Early Years Inspection and regulation activity
1997-98	151.3	151.0	118.2	0
1998-99	133.4	112.1	79.8	0
1999-2000	96.5	87.2	53.6	0
2000-01	103.9	104.4	90.5	0
2001-02	155.6	155.0	130.5	40.8
2002-03	200.2	200.2	170.5	68.2
2003-04	211.6	211.1	181.3	68.4
2004-05	217.5	215.3	190.8	[1]82.3
2005-06	225.3	223.0	199.2	79.0
2006-07	208.4	185.7	157.7	[2]52.2
2007-08	236.3	228.1	206.6	[3]53.5

Notes

1. In the financial year 2005-06, Ofsted used an improved method for calculating total costs of inspection and regulation. The 2004-05 figures above are the recalculated figures based on this new method.
2. Between the financial years 2004-05 and 2006-07 Ofsted established a new regional structure, rationalising the support for inspections within three regional offices. These changes led to substantial reduction in the cost of inspection and regulation activity.
3. Since April 2007, Ofsted has had responsibility for the inspection and regulation of care for children and young people, and the inspection of education and training for learners of all ages. Consequently, total funding and gross costs increased sharply.

Parents: Advisory Services

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what legal requirements local authorities have to inform parents about choice in childcare and schools. [259085]

Jim Knight: Local authorities have a duty to ensure fair access to educational opportunity and to provide information to the public on childcare and related services.

Local authorities are required to consult on their school admission arrangements in accordance with the school admissions statutory framework once every three years, unless changes in the criteria are proposed. Each year, they publish information in a prospectus about each of the maintained schools, including academies, in their relevant area to ensure parents have access to information when applying for a school place.

The Childcare Act 2006 extended local authorities' existing duty to provide information to the public on childcare and related services.

Primary Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to change the age at which children start their reception year. [260631]

Beverley Hughes: The remit for the Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum, asks Sir Jim Rose to consider whether it be appropriate to allow more choice and flexibility in start dates for children entering school who are summer born.

Sir Jim Rose's interim report has recommended that entry into reception class in the September immediately following a child's fourth birthday should become the norm and the Review is exploring how this might be achieved without unduly restricting parental choice. The final report and recommendations will be published this spring. Ministers will consider the recommendations of the Review in due course and have not yet made any decisions.

Pupils: Food

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school age in each local authority area have been referred for food intolerance testing in the last 12 months. [250708]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This information is not collected by the Department.

Schools: Closures

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many secondary schools in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas closed in each of the last 10 years. [256451]

Jim Knight: The following table sets out the numbers of maintained secondary schools in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas that have closed in each year since 2000. We do not have reliable information about decisions made prior to 2000.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Rural	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2
Urban	3	6	11	11	22	12	6	8	7	86

Figures include middle deemed secondary schools

The table shows closures where the schools ceased to be maintained and were not replaced. There are other circumstances involving school closure which have been excluded from the table because replacement provision

was established, for example in the case of a change to a school's religious character or an amalgamation of an infant and junior school to form a primary school.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many rural schools have closed in each year since 1996. [259101]

Jim Knight: The following table sets out the numbers of maintained rural schools that have closed in each year since 2000. We do not have reliable information about decisions made prior to 2000.

	Primary	*Secondary*[1]
2000	2	—
2001	1	—
2002	5	—
2003	6	1
2004	11	—
2005	10	—
2006	10	—
2007	14	—
2008	14	1
Total	73	2

[1] Including middle deemed secondary.

The table shows closures where the schools ceased to be maintained and were not replaced. There are other circumstances involving school closure which have been excluded from the table because replacement provision was established, for example in the case of a change to a school's religious character or an amalgamation of an infant and junior school to form a primary school.

Schools: Construction

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects building work under the primary strategy for change programme to commence; and if he will make a statement. [259486]

Jim Knight: The 23 pathfinder authorities have already started work on their exemplar projects. We expect most to be completed by the end of this year. The programme is being rolled out nationally from April 2009. Early indications are encouraging. My statement of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 56WS, confirmed that 133 strategies for change have already been either fully approved or approved with modification, enabling the Department to confirm 2009-10 funding for around 90 per cent. of eligible authorities. Local authorities collectively have reported that they are planning to start projects at more than 1,500 schools over the three year period 2008-11.

Schools: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities will receive school capital funding brought forward under arrangements announced in the pre-budget report; and how much each will receive. [259086]

Jim Knight: Applications are in the final stages of consideration. I intend to make an announcement shortly regarding the school capital funding which will be brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10.

Schools: Inspections

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether Ofsted inspected all maintained schools and pupil referral units for progress towards his Department's Public Service Agreement 11, in the latest period for which data is available. [258082]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries.

Schools: Standards

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what methodology is used by his Department for the calculation of contextual value added scores. [259153]

Jim Knight: A detailed explanation of the statistical model and the calculations used to produce the Contextual Value Added measures can be found in the "Technical Guide to Contextual Value Added 2007/2008 Model" publication at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/schools_08/documents.shtml

I have also placed a copy in the Libraries.

Social Services: Parents

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Parenting Early Intervention pathfinders in meeting their objectives; and if he will make a statement. [247250]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has funded the Parenting Early Intervention Programme (PEIP) since 2006. Findings from an independent evaluation of the 18 PEIP pilots carried out by Warwick university found that the programme attracted a large number of parents in need of support to manage their children's behavioural difficulties. The evaluation found that the pathfinder was successful in rolling out three evidence-based parenting programmes across 18 local authorities with high levels of positive gains for parents and their children.

The final PEIP evaluation report was published in July 2008 and can be found on the DCSF website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/RRP/u014941/index.shtml

We do not believe there is any need for the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to make a statement on this matter.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009 to question 256859, what other ways of obtaining information on looked after children are being explored; and when he expects this process to have been completed. [259306]

Beverley Hughes: The Department is working on a project to match looked after children data from the SSDA 903 collection with the National Pupil Database. If successful this would enable us to produce analysis for looked after children on a range of attainment indicators and characteristics, including information on special educational needs.

We are hoping to report on the findings including on the robustness of the matching exercise by the end of 2009.

Specialised Diplomas

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils of each age are studying for each diploma subject. [259898]

Jim Knight: The information held centrally about the number of pupils studying each Diploma subject is broken down into two categories of pre and post-16, as follows:

	Pre-16	*Post-16*	*Total*
Construction and the Built Environment	1,372	330	1,702
Creative and Media	2,527	1,169	3,696
Engineering	2,293	538	2,831
Society, Health and Development	1,087	764	1,851
Information Technology	1,289	723	2,012

Teachers: Equality

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many responses there were to the recent consultation on the General Teaching Council draft code on diversity rules; and how many of them expressed concern about principle 4, bullet point 3. [260193]

Jim Knight: The General Teaching Council for England's (GTCE) public consultation on its draft Code of Conduct and Practice for registered teachers ran from 28 November 2008 to 27 February 2009. At the close of the consultation, 3,683 responses had been received by the GTCE to their online questionnaire and they are currently being analysed. A breakdown of subject areas that drew a response will be published by the GTCE after 16 March. In addition to the online questionnaire, the GTC received 563 letters from individual respondents specifically on Principle 4, Clause 3; each respondent has received a reply from the GTCE dealing with any concerns they may have raised about this aspect of the draft Code of Conduct and Practice.

Teachers: Male

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1969-70W on teachers: male, what the equivalent figures were in each local authority area in each of the last 10 years. [257576]

Jim Knight: The table, which is to be placed in the House Library, shows the number of local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in England that employed fewer than 10 per cent. 2 per cent. and 3 per cent. qualified full-time equivalent male teachers in each local authority in England, January 1997 to 2008.

Teachers: Offenders

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1710W, on teachers: offenders, whether his Department has information on where the requested information is held. [257821]

Jim Knight: Information on any convictions or police warnings that teachers have received may be held by their employers, local authorities or individual schools as appropriate.

The Department for Children Schools and Families does not hold information relating to convictions or any police cautions received by teachers as it does not employ them directly.

Truancy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of *(a)* male and *(b)* female (i) free school meal and (ii) non-free school meal pupils have been classed as persistent absentees in each of the last three years. [260615]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information enabling analysis of pupil enrolments classed as persistent absentees was collected for the first time for the school year 2005/06. The requested information for 2005/06 and 2006/07 is shown in the following tables:

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2]: persistent absentees, gender and free school meal eligibility[3]: 2005/06 and 2006/07: England

	Persistent absentees 2006/07							
	Boys				*Girls*			
	Eligible for free school meals		*Other pupils[4]*		*Eligible for free school meals*		*Other pupils[4]*	
	Number of enrolments	*Percentage of enrolments[5]*	*Number of enrolments*	*Percentage of enrolments[5]*	*Number of enrolments*	*Percentage of enrolments[5]*	*Number of enrolments*	*Percentage of enrolments[5]*
Primary schools[6]	13,980	4.77	59,240	1.24	12,600	4.46	46,170	1.15
State funded secondary schools[6, 7]	32,370	14.82	67,010	5.05	33,040	15.39	70,750	5.51
Special schools[6]	2,880	16.20	3,790	10.52	920	13.27	1,230	7.80
Total	49,210	9.31	89,040	3.14	46,560	9.23	88,150	3.25

	2005/06[1]							
	Boys				Girls			
	Eligible for free school meals		Other pupils[2]		Eligible for free school meals		Other pupils[2]	
	Number of enrolments	Percentage of enrolments[4]	Number of enrolments	Percentage of enrolments[4]	Number of enrolments	Percentage of enrolments[4]	Number of enrolments	Percentage of enrolments[4]
Primary schools[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
State funded secondary schools[3]	35,480	15.85	71,610	5.40	35,650	16.21	74,650	5.81
Special schools[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes CTC's and academies.
[3] Includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[4] Persistent absentees are defined as being absent for 20 per cent. of all sessions of attendance, this relates to being absent for more than 63 half days.
[5] Includes pupil enrolments for whom free school meal eligibility was missing.
[6] The number of persistent absentees expressed as a percentage of pupil enrolments with the same gender and free school meal eligibility.
[7] Information for 2005/06 is not available for primary or special schools.
[8] Not applicable.

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census

Young People: Leisure

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate his Department has made of the percentage of young people who live more than one hours' travel time by public transport from at least one of a bowling alley, an ice rink, a theatre, a cinema or a recording studio. [260672]

Beverley Hughes: The Government do not collect these data. Local authorities have a duty to secure access to positive activities for young people. Statutory guidance produced in relation to this duty sets out how local authorities and their partners should consider whether transport is a barrier to young people's access to positive activities, taking into account local circumstances. We also made a commitment in Aiming High for Young People: a 10-year strategy for positive activities (DCSF July 2007) to produce guidance for children's trusts and transport planners to encourage joined up planning and commissioning of local transport for young people. This guidance will be published in the spring and showcases a range of innovative transport solutions to accessing positive activities developed by local authorities and their partners.

Youth Services: Finance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many myplace projects have been initiated by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* young people. [260670]

Beverley Hughes: To date, myplace funding of £240 million has been awarded to 62 projects. Thirty-three of those projects are local authority led.

Myplace aims to deliver world class youth facilities driven by the active participation of young people and their views and needs. All myplace projects have demonstrated clear evidence that young people, particularly disadvantaged young people, have been and will be fully involved in the development, design and future running of the project.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many proposals for myplace projects have been rejected by local authorities. [260671]

Beverley Hughes: All myplace applications need to be endorsed by the relevant top tier local authority to demonstrate that the project responds to local needs and priorities. Of the 240 myplace applications received to date, 12 have been rejected due to the application not having local authority endorsement.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Broadband

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his most recent estimate is of the extent of broadband internet access. [249001]

Mr. McFadden: Ofcom Research indicates that over 99 per cent. of households are connected to a broadband enabled exchange. Satellite broadband is geographically available to 100 per cent. of the UK.

Broadband coverage of 512 kbps is available to over 98 per cent. 1 Mbps to over 97 per cent. and 2 Mbps to 93 per cent. Access to 50 Mbps service would be available to over 45 per cent. of households by the end of 2009.

Ofcom's Communication Market Report 2008 stated that the proportion of homes taking broadband services grew to 58 per cent. by Q1 2008, a rise of six percentage points on a year earlier.

Broadband: Pensioners

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of levels of broadband access for pensioners; and if he will make a statement. [255469]

Mr. McFadden: Over 99 per cent. of households are connected to a broadband enabled telephone exchange. Ofcom stated in 2008 that 46 per cent. of those over 65 had broadband access at home. This contrasts with 57 per cent. of adults in the same period.

The Government recognise digital inclusion as being a very important challenge facing the UK. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales and my noble Friend the Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting, have formed a dedicated Cabinet Committee—MISC 34 and established a cross-government co-ordination unit. The Government have engaged a wide range of stakeholders in developing the cross-government report "Delivering Digital Inclusion - An Action plan for Consultation" in order to have a coherent and concerted drive to address digital inclusion and increase access to broadband/digital technologies for pensioner households and people with disabilities. The action plan details over 70 Government actions taking place to advance digital inclusion. The action plan and details are available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/deliveringdigitalinclusion

and

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/digitalinclusionannex

Broadband: Rural Areas

Mr. Gray: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the likely economic effect on rural small businesses of not having access to broadband in the next two years. [258444]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has made no recent assessment on the likely economic effect on rural small businesses of not being able to access broadband in the next two years. However, I recognise the importance of broadband access in rural areas and will be developing plans for a universal service commitment to be effective by 2012 as part of the Digital Britain report. We will set out our plans for the level of service which we believe should be universal and anticipate that this consideration will include options up to 2Mbps.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it his policy for his Department to sign the Information Commissioner's Personal Information Promise. [258948]

Mr. McFadden: The Government welcome the promise as a commendable initiative to raise awareness of the importance of effective data protection safeguards, particularly for those organisations with no similar commitments already in place.

The Government take data protection very seriously. Following the Cabinet Office Review of Data Handling Procedures in Government, Departments have been required to implement a number of measures to improve data security.

The Ministry of Justice is considering with the Information Commissioner's office how the promise might add additional value to those measures that are already in place within Government, including published departmental information charters.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will publish a copy of his Department's website accessibility plan. [257234]

Mr. McFadden: The Department's website accessibility statement is available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/administration/accessibility

BERR is currently working with external accessibility specialists to develop a full accessibility plan, and this will also be published at the above address when completed.

The Department re-launched its website in September 2008 working with accessibility specialists to ensure that the site meets level double-A of the web content accessibility guidelines (WCAG 1.0). This included testing the site with disabled users and training web publishers. When content is discovered that fails to meet the double-A standard it is fixed immediately.

The Department will be moving to a new website content management system in March 2010. Achieving accessibility levels of at least WCAG level double-A will be a requirement of the new system and website.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what the cost of *(a)* flights, *(b)* accommodation, *(c)* gifts and *(d)* other expenses was for the Secretary of State's visit to Russia in October 2008; and how many departmental staff accompanied him; [254634]

(2) what the cost was of *(a)* flights, *(b)* accommodation, *(c)* gifts and *(d)* other expenses for the Secretary of State's visit to the Gulf region in November 2008; and how many departmental staff accompanied him; [254635]

(3) what the cost was of *(a)* flights, *(b)* accommodation, *(c)* gifts and *(d)* other expenses for the Secretary of State's visit to India in January 2009; and how many departmental staff accompanied him. [254671]

Mr. McFadden: Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year, 2007-08, was published on 22 July 2008 and for the first time included details in respect of all Ministers. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Employment Agencies

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will consult trade unions and employers on an extension of statutory periods of notice for agency workers. [258895]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 26 February 2009]*: The Government reviewed the current framework and coverage of employment rights, including the question of statutory notice periods, and the outcome was published in our policy document "Success at Work; protecting vulnerable workers, supporting good employers", in March 2006. We concluded that the existing framework met the labour market's current needs and there was no need for further legislation in this area.

We will be launching a consultation in the near future on the implementation of the EU Agency Worker's Directive, which will, consistent with the CBI-TUC agreement of June 2008, introduce equal treatment for agency workers in respect of basic working and employment conditions after 12 weeks in a given job.

Employment Agencies: EU Law

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what timetable he has set for consultation on the implementation of the EU Agency Workers Directive; [258850]

(2) what progress he has made on the implementation of the EU Agency Workers Directive. [258851]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 26 February 2009]*: Now that agreement has been reached in Europe on the EU Agency Workers Directive the Government hope to introduce the necessary legislation in the current parliamentary session. There will be a detailed consultation on how we intend to implement the directive. We hope to launch an initial policy consultation in the near future followed by a second stage consultation later in the year with the proposed draft regulations.

Environment Protection

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what studies his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the job creation potential of the UK's environmental industries. [256465]

Ian Pearson: This Department commissioned from Innovas Solutions Ltd. last year a study to asses the current size of growth potential of the UK Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services sector. We plan to publish this shortly.

Foreign Workers: North West

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much funding the North West Regional Development Agency has provided to Migrant Workers Northwest for employment support for migrant workers in 2008-09 to date. [259652]

Mr. McFadden: In 2008-09 NWDA provided £96,000 of funding for Migrant Workers North West. Further details of the work of Migrant Workers North West can be obtained from:

www.migrantworkersnorthwest.org

Insolvency

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses have entered administration in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the south west region and *(c)* England in the last 12 months. [259638]

Mr. McFadden: There were 4,820 administrations (Enterprise Act 2002) in England and Wales in 2008. Statistics covering business administrations are not currently available on a regional basis within England and Wales.

Insolvency: Hampshire

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses have entered administration in *(a)* Winchester constituency and *(b)* Hampshire in the last 12 months. [260277]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 3 March 2009]*: There were 4,820 administrations (Enterprise Act 2002) in England and Wales in 2008. Statistics covering business administrations are not currently available on a regional basis within England and Wales.

Motor Vehicles: Sales

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of car sales during each month since January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [259053]

Ian Pearson: According to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), new car registrations in the UK since January 2008 were as follows:

	Number
January 2008	162,097
February 2008	69,610
March 2008	451,642
April 2008	175,668
May 2008	179,272
June 2008	209,190
July 2008	153,420
August 2008	63,225
September 2008	330,295
October 2008	128,352
November 2008	100,333
December 2008	108,691
January 2009	112,087

One NorthEast: Finance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the estimated monetary value is of the assets transferred to the North East Property Partnership by One North East (ONE); and what income from the Partnership has been received by ONE in each year since 2004-05. [260369]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 3 March 2009]:* Assets valued at £122 million at 31 March 2004 were transferred on 1 April 2004 to the North East Property Partnership in exchange for loan notes valued at £148 million.

The income received from the partnership in each financial year from 2004-05 is:

	£ million
2004-05	14.3
2005-06	26.2
2006-07	14.2
2007-08	17.6
2008-09[1]	8.4

[1] Forecast figure only

Postal Services

Colin Burgon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions since his appointment the Secretary of State has met Richard Hooper to discuss his review of the UK postal services sector; and on what dates. [259338]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 27 February 2009]:* My noble Friend the Secretary of State met Richard Hooper on 8 October and 21 November 2008 to discuss Hooper's analysis of the challenges facing the postal sector, and his recommendations for policies which will sustain the universal postal service.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of each regional development agency's budget for 2008-09 comes from developer contributions. [258150]

Mr. McFadden: Developers routinely make contributions as part of an overall funding package for projects that are supported by RDAs. They do not, however, make a direct contribution to the budget of a RDA.

Regional Development Agencies: Trade Unions

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the names are of the trade union representatives appointed to each regional development agency. [259687]

Mr. McFadden: The names of the trade union representatives appointed to each regional development agency are as follows:

RDA	*Trade union representative*
Advantage West Midlands	Mr. Gerard Coyne
East of England Development Agency	Ms Karen Livingstone
East Midlands Development Agency	Ms Elizabeth Donnelly
One Northeast	Ms Gill Hale
Northwest Regional Development Agency	Mr. Dave McCall
South East of England Development Agency	Mr. Phil Wood
South West Regional Development Agency	Mr. Ian Ducat
Yorkshire Forward	Mr. Bill Adams

Royal Mail

Kate Hoey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department has spent in hiring UBS to evaluate interest from prospective bidders for a stake in Royal Mail. [259658]

Mr. McFadden: Details of the fees agreed between the Government and UBS for this work is commercially sensitive information and the Department is unable to release it.

Royal Mail: Finance

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the merits of options for raising revenue for Royal Mail apart from selling a minority shareholding. [260125]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 2 March 2009]:* The Government are taking forward a package of measures to maintain the universal postal service and to secure the future of Royal Mail. These include Royal Mail entering into a strategic partnership with an experienced postal or network operator. Partnership is not simply about giving Royal Mail access to capital. A partner will deliver corporate experience of major transformation of a network business at all levels of the business. This will reduce the current risks to a successful modernisation of the company and accelerate the company's response to changes in the communications market.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the effects on Royal Mail's finances of establishing a universal support fund as provided for under the EU Postal Directive. [260128]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 2 March 2009]:* The Government recognise that the universal service has a cost. We do not believe that a levy and fund to finance the universal service is necessary at this time. However, we intend to legislate for a power to create such a levy and fund if this is needed in the future.

Mr. Byers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much of the £1.2 billion loan made by the Government

to Royal Mail has been spent; when the loan was expected to be taken up; when the full amount of the loan will have been taken up; and if he will make a statement. [260309]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 3 March 2009]:* Royal Mail has spent or committed £600 million on modernisation so far and is expected to draw down the full £1.2 billion loan facilities Government have made available over the next two years, to assist with implementation of their existing transformation plan.

Royal Mail: Pensions

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what independent assessment Royal Mail's Pension Fund trustees have commissioned of the projected numbers of new pensioners to the fund between 2010 and 2015; [259627]

(2) what independent assessment Royal Mail pension trustees have commissioned of their fund's deficit projections between 2010 and 2015; [259628]

(3) upon what independent actuarial analysis the Chairman of the Royal Mail's Pension Fund trustees based her estimate of the 2009 fund deficit. [259629]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 27 February 2009]:* This is a matter for the Royal Mail Pension Fund trustees.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many meetings the Chairman of Royal Mail's Pension Fund trustees has had with Ministers and officials in his Department since September 2008; and what matters relating to the Pension Fund were discussed. [259630]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 27 February 2009]:* My noble Friend the Secretary of State has had three meetings with the Chair of the Royal Mail's Pension Fund Trustees during this period. The discussions at these meetings related to the upcoming triennial valuation and the challenges presented by the large deficit in the scheme.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform who the trustees of the Royal Mail Pension Fund are; what recent discussions he has had with those trustees on the status of the pension fund; and when he was first informed of the recent report issued by the trustees on the fund deficit. [259844]

Mr. McFadden: Royal Mail Pension Trustees Ltd. are the trustees of the Royal Mail pension plan. Its board comprises an independent chair, Jane Newell OBE, plus ten other members, five nominated by Royal Mail Group (of which two are independent), four nominated by the unions and one is selected by a pensioner ballot.

My noble Friend the Secretary of State has had three meetings with the chair of the Royal Mail Pension Plan Trustees since September 2008. The discussions at these meeting related to the upcoming triennial valuation and the challenges presented by the large deficit in the scheme.

My noble Friend the Secretary of State was updated by the chair of the Trustees on the current position of the fund in her letter of 19 February 2009.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether there has been a meeting of the Royal Mail Pension Fund Trustees to discuss the Fund's deficit, since the Secretary of State's recent meeting with the Chairman of Trustees. [259869]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 2 March 2009]:* This is a matter for the Royal Mail Pension Fund trustees.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what mechanisms his Department plans to use to assess the *(a)* financial strength and *(b)* current and future pension funding liabilities for existing employees of overseas companies expressing interest in a minority shareholding in Royal Mail. [260126]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 2 March 2009]:* Negotiations with companies interested in entering into a partnership with Royal Mail will be commercially sensitive. The Government will use the following criteria to judge potential partners' suitability:

the price offered for a minority stake or partnership and their ability to finance the investment;

ability to add value to Royal Mail as a whole, including by assisting in the transformation of Royal Mail's letters business and the modernisation of its network; and

capacity to manage stakeholder issues successfully, including relations with trade unions.

Trade Unions: Political Levy

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what proportion of members of each trade union with a political fund have exercised their right to opt out of the political levy, according to the records held by the Certification Officer. [258377]

Mr. McFadden: The figures requested are in the following table.

Union name	*Total number of union members contributing to General Fund*	*Number of members contributing to the political Fund*	*Numbers of members who have completed an exemption notice and therefore do not contributed to the political fund*	*Numbers of members who have completed an exemption notice as a percentage of total number of union members contributing to the General Fund*
Aspect	3,854	3,636	0	0.0
Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen	16,156	15,788	368	2.3

Union name	Total number of union members contributing to General Fund	Number of members contributing to the political Fund	Numbers of members who have completed an exemption notice and therefore do not contributed to the political fund	Numbers of members who have completed an exemption notice as a percentage of total number of union members contributing to the General Fund
Association of Revenue and Customs	2,624	2,547	77	2.9
Bakers Food and Allied Workers Union	23,266	22,658	0	0.0
Broadcasting Entertainment Cinematograph and Theatre Union	26,210	25,465	161	0.6
Communication Workers Union	236,679	195,770	29,081	12.3
Community	30,291	28,053	2,712	9.0
Connect: The Union for Professionals in Communications	19,316	14,415	4,901	25.4
Educational Institute of Scotland	59,539	54,196	1,360	2.3
Fire Brigades Union	45,410	35,487	8,667	19.1
GMB	590,125	562,173	27,952	4.7
Musicians Union	30,579	29,657	730	2.4
National Association of Colliery Deputies and Shotfirers	317	336	108	34.1
National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Woman Teachers	265,202	212,899	9	0.0
National Union of Mineworkers	2,871	1,950	106	3.7
Energy and General Workers Union	16	16	0	0.0
National Union of Rail Maritime and Transport Workers	67,315	65,729	1,586	2.4
POA	36,172	31,850	4	0.0
Public and Commercial Services Union	304,829	284,216	361	0.1
Prospect	91,225	78,559	262	0.3
Transport Salaried Staffs Association	28,954	27,081	1,722	5.9
Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians	125,065	91,757	16,838	13.0
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	2,166	2,166	0	0.0
Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers	356,046	337,613	18,433	5.2
UNISON: The Public Service Union	1,344,000	883,562	17,065	1.3
University and College Union	110,774	96,048	14,726	13.3
Unite the Union	1,630,585	1,291,408	332,202	20.4
Unity	6,376	5,993	265	4.2
Totals	5,459,962	4,401,028	479,696	[1]8.8

[1] Average

Union Modernisation Fund

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1319W, on the union modernisation fund, what his Department's policy is on taking minutes at official meetings. [257527]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has a general requirement to keep an appropriate record of departmental business; but does not have a specific policy on taking minutes.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1319W, on the union modernisation fund, what the *(a)* remit and *(b)* function of the Supervisory Board is. [257528]

Mr. McFadden: The functions and remit of the UMF supervisory board, established following a public consultation, are:

The board advises Ministers on the projects which they consider should be supported by the fund in each bid round in the light of their assessment against the selection criteria. The final authority for approving bids rests with Ministers;

At the request of Ministers, the board will advise Ministers on matters relating to the performance or operation of the fund, including its future development; and

The board will be advised and supported by BERR officials. Subject to this, the board is responsible for determining its own procedures, including protocol in cases of possible conflicts of interest.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1319W, on the union modernisation fund, on what dates the Supervisory Board has met in the last 24 months. [257530]

Mr. McFadden: The UMF supervisory board has met twice over the last 24 months on

2-3 July 2007;

7 November 2008.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1319W, on the union modernisation fund, for what reasons minutes were not produced for the Supervisory Board meetings. [257531]

Mr. McFadden: No minutes are taken at the UMF supervisory board at the request of the board members in line with its terms of reference.

World Economic Forum

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost of *(a)* flights, *(b)* accommodation, *(c)* gifts and *(d)* other expenses was for the visit by the Secretary of State, the Minister for Economic Competitiveness and Small Business and Minister for Trade, Investment and Consumer Affairs to the Davos summit in January 2009; and how many departmental staff accompanied them. [254633]

Mr. McFadden: The BERR Ministers who went to Davos were the Secretary of State, the Minister for Competitiveness and Small Business and the Minister for Trade and Investment.

Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the last financial year, 2007-08, was published on 22 July 2008 and for the first time included details in respect of all Ministers. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has plans to provide for penalty notices for disorder to be issued to 10 to 16 year olds; and what conclusions were drawn from the pilot scheme that ran from July 2005 to June 2006. [260073]

Mr. Hanson: The evaluation report on penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) for 10 to 15-year-olds was published on 5 November 2008. The report highlighted the benefits of the scheme, such as the impact of PNDs on young people's behaviour and savings in police time. Some of the police forces involved in the pilots are continuing to use PNDs because they consider them an effective tool for dealing with certain offences by this age group. The evaluation report also suggests improvements that could be made to the administration of the scheme. We are discussing the learning from the report with key stakeholders.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether *(a)* consultants and *(b)* other external staff were engaged to develop and maintain his Department's Youtube video channel. [259767]

Mr. Straw: No consultants or external staff were engaged to develop and maintain the Ministry of Justice Youtube channel, which we are not actively using at present, and the Youtube channel set up for the Governance of Britain programme which has been used as an embedded mechanism to engage and inform external audiences. Youtube hosts video free of charge.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent on video recording equipment for the purposes of providing content for his Department's Youtube video channel. [259768]

Mr. Straw: A total of £785.34 has been spent on two cameras and a camcorder which are used for ministerial visits and events. These are used for press and media purposes as well as providing content for the Department's Youtube video channel.

No video recording equipment costs have been incurred for work done for the Governance of Britain Youtube channel.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many staff in each pay grade work on his Department's YouTube video channel; [259769]

(2) how many staff work on *(a)* maintaining and *(b)* supplying content for his Department's YouTube video channel. [259770]

Mr. Straw: We currently have no members of staff who are solely dedicated to work on the YouTube video channels. Ad hoc work has been undertaken but this has minimal resourcing implications and does not constitute an ongoing resource requirement at present.

In addition to the small proportion of time spent by the permanent staff, some content was supplied by a contractor on a short-term contract as part of other work. This did not constitute a full headcount.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has paid to website designers for the design of its YouTube video channel. [259771]

Mr. Straw: No website designers were employed to work on the design of its YouTube channel or of the Governance of Britain Youtube channel, and so no costs were incurred.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of producing each video available for the Department's YouTube video channel. [259772]

Mr. Straw: Videos produced for the Ministry of Justice YouTube channel have been prepared by existing staff and a contractor on a short-term contract as a small part of their work during the year, for example when attending ministerial visits, and because of this it is difficult to separately cost the proportion of work undertaken for the YouTube channel.

Videos produced for the Governance of Britain YouTube channel were part of a wider programme of work to support the Governance of Britain programme.

Five of these were produced to provide a record of public regional events in June and July 2008 in Bristol, Brighton, Newcastle, Nottingham and London. The total cost of producing and editing these five videos was £3,965.62

Four other videos produced as part of the Governance of Britain programme of work were produced by an in house film crew who work for HM Prison Service, and the estimated costs of all four videos amount to £1,434.20.

Departmental Legislation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what Acts for which his Department has policy responsibility received Royal Assent between 1 May

1997 and 1 January 2009; which provisions of those Acts *(a)* have not yet come into force, *(b)* have been repealed prior to coming into force and *(c)* have been repealed after coming into force; and how many prosecutions have taken place for each offence created under each of those Acts. [260666]

Mr. Wills: There is currently no central record of the information required. In order to obtain this information, a detailed investigation will need to be undertaken which will take some time. This information is being collated and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as it is available. A copy will be placed in the House Library.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in 2008-09 to date. [260359]

Mr. Straw: Between 1 April 2008 and 28 February 2009. a total of £640.85 was claimed in reimbursable expenses by the Department's special advisers.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on staff surveys in each of the last five years; and which companies were contracted to carry out the surveys. [260253]

Mr. Wills: There has been one staff survey for the Ministry of Justice since its creation on 9 May 2007. This was a Staff Engagement Survey held in September 2008.

In 2007-08 £30,000 (£35,250 inc. VAT) was spent on preparatory work. The cost incurred in 2008-09 was £186,184.70 (£212,459.70 inc. VAT).

Towers Perrin-ISR conducted the survey and ORC International provided the analysis and reporting outputs.

Domestic Violence

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions for offences relating to domestic violence there were in (i) North West Cambridgeshire constituency, (ii) Cambridgeshire, (iii) the East of England and (iv) England and Wales in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion of victims of the offences were (A) male and (B) female. [254428]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the number of defendants in domestic violence proceedings, prosecuted by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), whose case was completed in each of the three years for which reliable data are available. The table also shows the number and the proportion which resulted in a conviction and in an unsuccessful outcome.

No separate data are held for the hon. Member's constituency. The data provided represent the domestic violence cases prosecuted by the Northern Prosecution Team within CPS Cambridgeshire, which covers the city of Peterborough and surrounding villages. These cases comprise part of the data shown in the next section of the table covering the whole of CPS Cambridgeshire. Figures are also provided for the Eastern Group of the CPS, comprising Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk; and for England and Wales as a whole.

The CPS capacity to record data relating to the gender of victims of crime is under development. In those cases where gender was recorded nationally during 2007-08, 85.7 per cent. of victims of domestic violence were women and 14.3 per cent. were men. No comparable figures are held for CPS Cambridgeshire.

The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

From these centrally reported data we are not able to identify specific offences from within the main offence groups.

Domestic violence prosecutions

	Convictions		*Unsuccessful*		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Total prosecutions*
Northern Prosecution Team of CPS Cambridgeshire (Peterborough)					
2005-06	149	54.2	126	45.8	275
2006-07	152	58.7	107	41.3	259
2007-08	230	64.4	127	35.6	357
CPS Cambridgeshire					
2005-06	339	60.8	219	39.2	558
2006-07	412	65.5	217	34.5	629
2007-08	476	68.6	218	31.4	694
CPS Eastern Group[1]					
2005-06	2,043	62.8	1,211	37.2	3,254
2006-07	2,320	70.1	988	29.9	3,308
2007-08	2,654	74.5	909	25.5	3,563

Domestic violence prosecutions

	Convictions		*Unsuccessful*		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Total prosecutions*
CPS England and Wales					
2005-06	29,719	59.7	20,063	40.3	49,782
2006-07	37,383	65.2	[1] 19,978	34.8	57,361
2007-08	43,977	68.9	19,842	31.1	63,819

[1] Comprising Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what steps his Department has taken to encourage electoral registration officers to obtain information from other local government databases to improve their electoral registers; [260135]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals to amend data protection legislation to allow the exchange of information between local authority departments for purposes of compilation of the electoral register; and if he will make a statement. [260172]

Mr. Wills: Electoral Registration Officers are required to take all steps that are necessary for the purpose of complying with their duty to maintain the electoral registers, and these steps include inspecting any record which the ERO is permitted to inspect by law.

The Electoral Commission has issued guidance to EROs encouraging them to use the power to inspect records and advises on the sources that may be inspected, which will help EROs to obtain and cross-check information to assist them in their registration duties. In addition, the Commission has published a final set of Performance Standards for Electoral Registration Officers in Great Britain in July 2008. These standards require EROs to provide information on their use of the databases available to them. The Commission intends to publish the results of ERO self-assessments against the performance standards in spring 2009.

The Government remain concerned about the need to address levels of under-registration in Great Britain. To this end, we have recently tabled amendments to the Political Parties and Elections Bill that will allow the Secretary of State to pilot data matching schemes, under which public authorities will provide registration officers with information to assist them in maintaining an accurate and comprehensive register. In addition, we plan to introduce secondary legislation to enable EROs in areas where there are two-tiers of local government to access data held by the higher tier to help them identify individuals who are not registered to vote. This will mirror arrangements in place for EROs in single tier areas.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which local authorities *(a)* do and *(b)* do not give turnout targets for their electoral registration departments as part of their corporate policy goals; [260169]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people eligible to but not registered to vote in each region of the UK; [260171]

(3) if he will commission further research into the reasons for low levels of voter registration; [260173]

(4) if he will *(a)* issue guidelines to local authorities on how to increase voter registration and *(b)* regularly publish a league table of the local authorities in respect of levels of voter registration they achieve; and if he will make a statement. [260175]

Mr. Wills: Issuing guidelines to electoral registration officers (EROs) on how to increase electoral registration falls within the remit of the Electoral Commission. The current guidelines, published in February 2008, include advice on the activities that EROs should undertake to comply with their duty to take all steps that are necessary to maintain the electoral register, including sending the annual canvass form more than once, making house to house inquiries in connection with the canvass, making contact by such other means as the ERO thinks appropriate with a person who does not have an entry in the register, and inspecting any record that the ERO is permitted by law to inspect.

The Government have not made an estimate of the number of people eligible, but not registered, to vote, in each region of the UK and there are currently no plans to commission research into low levels of registration. However, in their research report, "Understanding Electoral Registration", published in September 2005, the Electoral Commission estimated that 3.5 million eligible electors were not registered to vote.

Since this report was published the number of people registered to vote in the UK as reported by the Office for National Statistics has continued to increase. Following the 2007 annual canvass the number of parliamentary electors grew by 307,669 to 45,082,854 and the number of local government electors grew by 463,340 to 45,920,503. In 2008, the number of parliamentary electors grew by 111,595 to 45,194,449 and the number of local government electors grew by 227,374 to 46,147,877.

The Government remain concerned about the need to address levels of under-registration in Great Britain. To this end, we have recently tabled amendments to the Political Parties and Elections Bill that will allow the Secretary of State to pilot data matching schemes under which public authorities will provide registration officers with information to assist them in maintaining an accurate and comprehensive register. In addition, we plan to introduce secondary legislation to enable EROs in areas where there are two tiers of local government to be able to access data held by the higher tier to help them identify individuals who are not registered to vote. This will mirror arrangements in place for EROs in single tier areas.

The Government have no current plans to produce a league table of electoral registration officers' performance in respect of registration rates. However, the performance standards framework established by the Electoral Administration Act 2006 provides for the Electoral

Commission to set and monitor performance standards for electoral administrators, including EROs.

The Electoral Commission published a final set of performance standards for Electoral Registration Officers in Great Britain in July 2008, details of which have been laid before the House. The Commission will publish the results of EROs' self-assessments against the standards in spring 2009.

It is not known which local authorities (a) do and (b) do not give turnout targets for their electoral registration departments as part of their corporate policy goals as this is not collected centrally.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many electoral registration staff in each local authority area have a recognised national certificate or diploma; and what plans he has to encourage electoral registration staff to study for such qualifications. [260170]

Mr. Wills: Working in partnership with key stakeholders, including the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA), the Electoral Commission (EC) undertook to produce a set of National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Electoral Registration Officers. A final set of NOS for this group of workers was approved by Skills Plus in August 2007.

Information on the number of electoral registration staff in each local authority area who have a recognised national certificate or diploma is not collected centrally and to do so now would result in disproportionate costs as each authority would have to be contacted individually. However, the following numbers have been awarded since 1997 when the AEA Qualification (which is now linked to NOS) was launched:

AEA Certificate

England/Wales—296

Scotland—42

AEA Diploma

England/Wales/Scotland—30

The Qualification was only launched in Northern Ireland in 2008.

While it is for each local authority to identify their employees' training needs, officials from the Ministry of Justice will meet with representatives from the EC and AEA to see if there is anything we can do to help encourage electoral registration staff to study for such qualifications.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the merits of using *(a)* council tax registration, *(b)* census and *(c)* labour force survey data to augment the electoral register; and if he will make a statement. [260174]

Mr. Wills: Electoral registration officers (ERO) are authorised to inspect the records kept by the local authority that appointed them, and those kept by any registrar of births and deaths, for the purpose of their registration duties. Those records include council tax records. By virtue of provision made in the Electoral Administration Act 2006, EROs are required to make such use of these powers as are necessary to comply with their duty of maintaining electoral registers. The Government remains concerned about the need to address levels of under-registration in Great Britain. To this end, the Government tabled amendments to the Political Parties and Elections Bill that we accepted at Commons report that will allow the Secretary of State to pilot data matching schemes under which public authorities will provide registration officers with information to assist them in maintaining an accurate and comprehensive register.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent per elector on voter registration in each local authority area ranked in descending order of expenditure for the last year in which figures are available. [260176]

Mr. Wills: As my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice (Bridget Prentice) explained in answer to a similar question from the hon. Member on 18 June 2008, (Official Report, columns 999-1000W), funding for electoral registration activities such as advertising is included in the local authority formula grant issued by central Government. Once these funds are allocated, decisions on how they are utilised are a matter for the local authorities concerned. It is not known how much was spent in total or per elector for electoral registration in each local authority area, as these figures are not collected, and therefore no rankings are available. There has been no recent UK-wide assessment of the trends in the annual expenditure of local authority electoral registration officers. However, as part of its work in developing Performance Standards for electoral services, the Electoral Commission launched a financial information survey across Great Britain on 10 September 2007. Electoral Registration Officers and Returning Officers were asked to complete the survey and return it by 31 July 2008. The Commission is currently analysing this information in conjunction with CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants) and will publish results in due course.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the main reasons for non-registration of voters. [260177]

Mr. Wills: The Government have not commissioned or evaluated any recent research on the reasons for non-registration. However, the Government did utilise some existing research concerning the attitudes and motivations of the electorate, as commissioned by the then Department of Constitutional Affairs in 2005, as a basis for further work towards identifying an evidence base for policy development and service targets in the electoral field.

The Electoral Commission found in their report, 'Understanding Electoral Registration', published in September 2005 that the most likely electors not to be registered to vote included young people, those residing in private rented accommodation and those belonging to certain minority ethnic groups.

Section 9 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 placed a new, explicit duty on Electoral Registration Officers (ERO) to take all steps that are necessary for the purpose of complying with their duty to maintain the registers. These steps include sending the annual canvass form more than once, making house to house inquiries in connection with the canvass, making contact

by such other means as the ERO thinks appropriate with a person who does not have an entry in the register, and inspecting records that the ERO is permitted to inspect, which should help to tackle under-registration.

The Government remain concerned about the need to address levels of under-registration in Great Britain. To this end, we have recently tabled amendments to the Political Parties and Elections Bill, that will allow the Secretary of State to pilot data matching schemes, under which public authorities will provide registration officers with information to assist them in maintaining an accurate and comprehensive register. In addition, we plan to introduce secondary legislation to enable EROs in areas where there are two tiers of local government to be able to access data held by the higher tier to help them identify individuals who are not registered to vote. This will mirror arrangements in place for EROs in single tier areas.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidelines have been issued on follow-up procedures to be used by electoral registration officers in relation to individuals who have failed to register; whether he plans to amend those guidelines; and if he will introduce a duty on local authority canvassers to visit people eligible to but who do not register to vote. [260178]

Mr. Wills: The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a new, explicit requirement for Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) to take all steps that are necessary for the purpose of complying with their duty to maintain the electoral registers. These steps, as set out in the legislation, include sending the canvass form more than once, making house to house inquiries in connection with the canvass, making contact by such other means as the ERO thinks appropriate with a person who does not have an entry in the register, and inspecting any record that the ERO is permitted by law to inspect. There are, therefore, already requirements on EROs to make contact with people who are not included on the register where necessary. We are happy to keep under review ways in which the duty could be made more explicit in a way that would be useful.

Issuing guidelines for EROs falls within the Electoral Commission's remit and they published a guidance manual on all aspects of managing electoral registration to support EROs in Great Britain on 24 February 2008. This manual is regularly updated and specifically deals with matters in relation to undertaking an annual canvass, the appointment of canvassers and the requirement to make house visits to non-responding households.

Freedom of Information

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward legislative proposals to repeal section 53(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [260040]

Mr. Wills: The Government have no plans to bring forward legislative proposals to repeal section 53(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Government's Trading Funds Review

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what consultation his Department has conducted with external organisations as part of the review of Government Trading Funds; [260199]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with Treasury officials on the future of the Land Registry as part of the Government's Trading Fund Review; and if he will make a statement; [260202]

(3) what discussions his Department has had with the Shareholder Executive as part of the Government's Trading Fund Review; and if he will make a statement. [260203]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice have not consulted external organisations as part of the review of Government trading funds, prior to the emerging findings of the study being reported at Budget 2009. However, officials leading the trading funds assessment held discussions with interested public, private and third sector organisations in helping to develop the work of the study.

MOJ officials are, however, fully involved in continuing discussions with HM Land Registry, the Shareholder Executive and Treasury as part of the trading funds assessment.

Jean Charles de Menezes

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what his latest estimate is of the cost of the de Menezes inquest; and if he will make a statement; [260586]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 405, on the de Menezes inquest, what discussions he has had with the London boroughs of Southwark, Lambeth, Lewisham and Greenwich on sharing the cost of the inquest; and if he will make a statement. [260585]

Mr. Straw: The estimated cost at 17 December 2008 is £2.157 million although this figure is not final. The Government have agreed that this inquest is exceptional and financial support to the local authorities will therefore be provided. Officials from the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office are now discussing the details with the local authorities.

Prison Sentences

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* shortest, *(b)* longest and *(c)* average sentence tariff handed down to offenders sentenced to indeterminate sentences for public protection was in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [260437]

Mr. Hanson: In 2007 the shortest tariff handed down to a prisoner sentenced to an indeterminate sentence for public protection was 28 days. The longest tariff was 11 years and 11 days. The average tariff was two years and 348 days.

In 2008 the shortest tariff was 39 days. The longest tariff was 14 years and 235 days. The average tariff was three years and 140 days.

The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 introduced changes to the sentencing framework for indeterminate sentenced for public protection. The amendments introduced a minimum tariff of two years below which an indeterminate sentence for public protection cannot be given except where offenders have committed extremely serious crimes in the past. These changes apply to cases sentenced on or after 14 July 2008.

These figures are taken from the Public Protection Unit Database within the National Offender Management Service. As with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much expenditure has been incurred by *(a)* prison governors and *(b)* his Department making subsistence payments to offenders on end-of-custody licence. [259775]

Mr. Straw: The End of Custody Licence (ECL) scheme was announced on 19 June 2007 and came into effect on 29 June. The available information covers the period from 1 July 2007 to 31 December 2008 and is set out in the following table.

	£
Paid direct to prisoners by Prison Governors and Directors of contracted out prisons	2,368,300
Paid to prisoners by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) on behalf of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS)	3,115,874
Paid to DWP by NOMS for provision of the payment service	428,957
Total Expenditure	5,913,131

When the ECL scheme was first introduced, offenders released for the maximum of 18 days received their subsistence payments in instalments through the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), who make payments on behalf of the Ministry of Justice. Prisoners released for less than 18 days were paid in full by prisons on release. From 23 June 2008, payment in instalments by DWP was extended to prisoners spending 15 days or more on ECL. From 15 December, payment in instalments by DWP has been further extended to offenders spending 8 days or more on ECL. The advantage of the system of payments through DWP is that prisoners receive their subsistence in instalments rather than in a single lump sum.

The administrative costs incurred in individual prisons in arranging payments cannot be separately identified as the work is carried out as part of the wider discharge process.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons in England and Wales have the integrated drug treatment system (IDTS) in operation; and in those prisons, how many and what proportion of prisoners with an identified need for IDTS do not have access to it. [260438]

Mr. Hanson: From 2006-08 onwards 29 prisons receive both NOMS and DH funding for full IDTS. A further 24 receive DH funding for enhanced prison clinical drug treatment only. In 2008-09, a further 38 prison/PCT partnerships received funding for enhanced prison clinical drug treatment.

All 53 first and second waves of Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) prisons have an operational service providing all key elements of IDTS clinical services.

The 91 prisons currently funded are listed.

IDTS 2006-07 first wave—full IDTS (NOMS and DH) (18)

Prison

Doncaster
Foston Hall
Nottingham
Ranby
Chelmsford
Wormwood Scrubs
Low Newton
Styal
Dorchester
Eastwood Park
Gloucester
Highdown
Bullingdon
Birmingham
Featherstone
Hull
Moorland (Closed)
Moorland (Open)

IDTS 2006-07 first wave—clinical element of IDTS (DH) (27)

Prison

Brixton
Stafford
Onley
Rye Hill
The Mount
High Point
Edmonds Hill
Wayland
Coldingley
Blundeston
Acklington
Durham
Lindholme
Everthorpe
Wolds
Deerbolt
Northallerton
Guys Marsh
Dartmoor
Erlestoke
Wealston
Haverigg
Stocken
Ashwell
Sudbury
North Sea Camp

Lowdham Grange
Standford Hill

IDTS 2007-08 second wave—clinical element of IDTS (DH) (7)

Elmley
Maidstone
Rochester
Swaleside
Channings Wood
Bristol
Portland

IDTS 2007-08 second wave—psychosocial elements of IDTS (NOMS) (11)

Ashwell
Everthorpe
Lindholme
Wealstun
Durham
Edmunds Hill
Elmley
Highpoint
Bristol
Brixton
Guys Marsh

IDTS 2008-09 third wave—clinical element of IDTS (DH) (38)

Altcourse
Buckley Hall
Forest Bank
Garth
Kennet
Kirkham
Lancaster Castle
Liverpool
Manchester
Preston
Risley
Wymott
Bronzefield
Camp Hill
Downview
Lewes
Reading
Bedford
Hollesley Bay
Norwich
Peterborough(Male/Female)
Whitemoor
Exeter
Belmarsh
Pentonville
Holme House
Blakenhurst
Brockhill
Dovegate
Drake Hall
Hewell Grange
Shrewsbury
Stoke Heath
Leeds
New Hall
Leicester
Lincoln
Wellingborough

Prisons: Religious Practice

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were banned from attending religious services in each prison in England and Wales on the most recent date for which information is available; what the reason for the ban was in each case; and if he will make a statement. [260435]

Mr. Malik: Information on this is not collected or collated centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. Prisoners are free to attend corporate worship for the faith in which they are registered subject to certain specified circumstances set out in Prison Service Order 4550, a copy of which is in the House Library.

Prisons: Security

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons in England and Wales have Boss body-scanning chairs in operation. [260434]

Mr. Hanson: The following prisons currently use one or more Body Orifice security scanner:

HMP Altcourse
HMP Belmarsh
HMP Brixton
HMP/YOI Chelmsford
HMP/YOI Doncaster
HMP Dovegate
HMP Frankland
HMP Full Sutton
HMP Lowdham Grange
HMP Long Lartin
HMP Manchester
HMP/YOI Pare
HMP Rye Hill
HMP Wakefield
HMP Wandsworth
HMP Whitemoor
HMP Woodhill

The Government response to David Blakey's report, "Disrupting the Supply of Illicit Drugs into Prisons", published in July 2008, committed to providing all prisons with BOSS chairs. The chairs have now been procured and will be distributed during March.

Public Interest Immunity Certificates

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many public interest immunity certificates Ministers in his Department have signed since the Department was established; and what matters such certificates relate to. [260039]

Mr. Wilks: No Ministry of Justice Minister has signed a public interest immunity certificate since the department was created in May 2007.

Women's Prisons

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what account was taken of the recommendations of the Corston Report in the redesignation of HMP/YOI Drake Hall and HMP Morton Hall. [260408]

Mr. Hanson: The re-designate of HMP/YOI Drake Hall and HMP/YOI Morton Hall as closed prisons takes account of Baroness Corston's recommendation of the establishment of multi-functional units close to population centres. I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer of 23 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 360W.

The effect of the change allows for greater flexibility in the use of the estate; improving closeness to home and families for some women, allowing appropriate lifer and indeterminate sentenced women to be placed so as to better meet their needs, and in general enable more women to access the resettlement regimes available at the two prisons.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 5 March 2009

SCOTLAND

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which works of art from the Government Art Collection each Minister in his Department has selected for display in a private office. [259431]

Ann McKechin: The Secretary of State has not selected any works of art from the Government Art Collection for display in his private office. I have selected 10 prints of modern sketches by Christine Borland, an artist from Glasgow.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Billy Wright Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many press officers the Wright Inquiry employs; how many press releases the Inquiry has published, broken down by month; and what the budget for the press office is in 2009. [257102]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Billy Wright Inquiry that the Inquiry does not employ a press officer. Media inquiries and media relations are handled as part of the duties of other Inquiry staff.

The Inquiry has issued 18 press notices, as follows:

Press notices issued

	Number
May 2005	1
June 2005	1
November 2005	1
April 2006	1
June 2006	1
August 2006	1
October 2006	4
November 2006	1
February	1
May 2007	1
August 2007	2
October 2007	1
December 2007	1
June 2008	1

The Billy Wright Inquiry does not have a budget for a press office in 2009.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people the Wright Inquiry has employed since its inception, broken down by *(a)* month and *(b)* role. [257110]

Mr. Woodward: From October 2004, there has been one civil servant working as solicitor to the Inquiry.

The following staff changes have occurred:

In February 2005, a secretary to the Inquiry was recruited

In April 2005, a deputy solicitor to the Inquiry was recruited

In June 2005, an assistant solicitor was recruited

In July 2006, the assistant solicitor was released

In November 2006, a document evidence manager and a finance accommodation officer were recruited

In April 2007, two personal secretaries were recruited

In May 2007, a witness liaison manager was recruited

In November 2007, an assistant solicitor was recruited.

Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many press officers the Saville Inquiry employs; how many press releases the inquiry has published, broken down by month; and what the budget for the press office is in 2009. [257109]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Bloody Sunday Inquiry that the Inquiry does not currently employ a press officer and there is no dedicated budget for press office facilities. Since November 2004, all press enquiries have been handled by the Secretary and Deputy Secretary to the Inquiry. An average total on-call allowance of £400 per month is paid to cover out-of-hours press inquiries.

The Inquiry has released 196 press notices to date:

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
January	—	—	—	3	5	4	6	1
February	—	1	1	4	6	4	3	—
March	—	—	1	5	5	4	1	—
April	—	2	—	1	2	4	1	—
May	—	1	—	5	5	9	—	—
June	1	4	1	4	2	4	3	—
July	1	3	—	—	—	5	—	—
August	—	—	1	2	2	—	1	1
September	—	1	1	4	6	5	—	—
October	1	1	2	4	6	11	1	—
November	2	—	4	3	4	4	3	—
December	3	—	1	3	3	3	1	—
Total	8	13	12	38	46	57	20	2

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people the Saville Inquiry has employed since its inception, broken down by *(a)* month and *(b)* role. [257117]

Mr. Woodward: The Bloody Sunday Inquiry does not directly employ staff. The inquiry has engaged a number of people on loan or secondment from Government Departments/agencies to undertake specific posts and roles. A number of other people have been issued with Northern Ireland Office fixed-term contracts to work with the inquiry. Given the duration of the inquiry, detailed monthly breakdowns could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Over its lifespan, the number of staff in the inquiry peaked at 38 during hearings in April 2003. Posts included the secretary and deputy secretary to the inquiry, five inquiry solicitors, one costs solicitor, one assistant solicitor,

one press officer, one assistant press officer, three legal assistants, two researchers, six witness liaison, one finance assistant, one archivist, two personal assistants and 12 administrative support staff.

The inquiry has since reduced its complement to eight staff, including the secretary to the inquiry (part-time), costs solicitor (and acting inquiry solicitor), deputy secretary, finance assistant, personal assistant to the chairman, legal assistant to the tribunal, archivist and an administrative officer.

The inquiry also holds contracts with employment agencies for the provision of temporary staff for administration services. These have not been included in this response, as their employer is the temporary staff agency.

Economic Situation

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with EU officials on the current economic climate. [257143]

Mr. Woodward: I have held no such discussions recently.

The Government have put in place a raft of targeted and co-ordinated measures to underpin the financial sector, stimulate growth, increase employment and provide real help now. Northern Ireland will benefit from many of these measures and I will continue to represent the interests of Northern Ireland at the National Economic Council and consult with Northern Ireland Ministers to establish how we can best work together for the benefit of the Northern Ireland economy.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the economic situation in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [260045]

Mr. Woodward: Economic policies are partly reserved and partly devolved. It is the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland who monitors, and regularly comments on, the state of the Northern Ireland economy within the devolved field.

Her Department published its latest Quarterly Economy Review on 6 February 2009. It indicated that Northern Ireland, in common with other UK regions, is facing very significant economic pressures and will not be sheltered from the impacts of the downturn. The review revealed that 2009 will see continuing falls in output and employment in the region. The Minister also highlighted that the structure of the economy—with its large public sector and small financial services sector—should help ensure that Northern Ireland is, broadly speaking, no worse affected than other UK regions.

I concur with this assessment. The Government have put in place a raft of targeted and co-ordinated measures to underpin the financial sector, stimulate growth, increase employment and provide real help now. Northern Ireland will benefit from many of these measures and I will continue to represent the interests of Northern Ireland at the National Economic Council and consult with Northern Ireland Ministers to establish how we can best work together for the benefit of the Northern Ireland economy.

Robert Hamill Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many press officers the Hamill Inquiry employs; how many press releases the inquiry has published, broken down by month; and what the budget is for the press office in 2009. [257116]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Robert Hamill Inquiry that the inquiry does not employ a press officer. It retains the services of a public relations consultancy, which provides the full range of press office support, including duties such as handling day-to-day media enquiries, out-of-hours media enquiries, monitoring media coverage and providing professional advice to the inquiry staff and panel.

The Hamill Inquiry has issued 14 press releases to date:

	Press notices issued
2005	
May	1
June	1
July	1
2006	
August	2
November	2
December	1
2007	
July	1
August	1
2008	
March	1
July	1
November	1
2009	
January	1

The Hamill Inquiry does not have a budget for a press office. The predicted expenditure on public relations consultancy services in the calendar year 2009 is £49,222.50.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people the Hamill inquiry has employed since its inception, broken down by *(a)* month and *(b)* role. [257124]

Mr. Woodward: From November 2004 there have been two civil servants working as secretary and solicitor to the inquiry.

The following staff changes have been made:

In January 2005, a deputy solicitor, assistant solicitor and deputy secretary were recruited.

In February 2005, a finance officer was recruited.

In March 2005, a higher executive officer and administrator were recruited.

In August 2005, the deputy secretary was released.

In November 2005, the deputy solicitor and assistant solicitor were released.

In January 2006, the administrator was released and a deputy solicitor was recruited.

In September 2006, the deputy solicitor was released and an assistant solicitor was recruited.

In January 2007, a finance/administration officer was recruited.

In May 2007, a deputy solicitor was recruited.

In July 2007, the assistant solicitor was released.

In September 2007, the secretary was released and the solicitor took on the secretarial role.

In January 2008, a witness information officer (50 per cent. full-time employment), a personal assistant (75 per cent. full-time employment) were recruited, and the finance officer moved to 50 per cent. full-time employment.

In February 2008, the witness information manager and personal assistant became full-time, and the 50 per cent. FTE finance officer was released.

In April 2008, a senior finance officer was recruited.

In July 2008, a witness team member (50 per cent. FTE) was recruited.

In August 2008, the witness team member became full time.

In November 2008, an assistant to counsel was recruited.

Rosemary Nelson Inquiry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many press officers the Nelson Inquiry employs; how many press releases the Inquiry has published, broken down by month; and what the budget for the press office is in 2009. [257101]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Rosemary Nelson Inquiry that the Inquiry uses one press officer on an ad-hoc basis. The press officer is available to provide the full range of press office support, including duties such as handling day-to-day media inquiries, out-of-hours media inquiries, and providing professional advice to the Inquiry staff and Panel.

The Inquiry has released 10 press notices to date:

Press notices issued

	Number
March 2005	2
May 2005	1
June 2005	1
December 2005	1
September 2006	1
October 2006	1
July 2007	1
October 2007	1
April 2008	1

The Rosemary Nelson Inquiry does not have a budget for a press office. The predicted expenditure for the Rosemary Nelson Inquiry's press officer in the calendar year 2009 is £12,405.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people the Nelson Inquiry has employed since its inception, broken down by *(a)* month and *(b)* role. [257103]

Mr. Woodward: From November 2004, there have been two civil servants working at the Inquiry, acting as solicitor and secretary to the Inquiry. The following staff changes have occurred:

In January 2005, two legal support officers, an evidence manager, a finance officer and an admin support officer were recruited.

In February 2005, a deputy secretary was recruited.

In March 2005, a deputy solicitor was recruited.

In May 2005, a finance manager was recruited.

In June 2005, one legal support officer was released and a second finance officer recruited.

In September 2005, an admin support officer was released.

In October 2005, one finance officer was released.

In November 2005, the evidence manager was released and one legal support officer was recruited.

In December 2005 one assistant solicitor, one legal support officer and one admin support officer were recruited.

In January 2006, one legal support officer was recruited.

In April 2006, a second assistant solicitor was recruited.

In August 2006, a team secretary was recruited.

In January 2007, a bundle manager was recruited.

In February 2007, an admin support officer was released.

In March 2007, one legal support officer was released.

In April 2007, three legal support officers were recruited.

In August 2007, an admin support officer was recruited.

In September 2007, a finance officer was released.

In October 2007, an assistant solicitor and a legal support officer were released.

In January 2008, an admin support officer was released and a writer/researcher was recruited.

In March 2008, an admin support officer was recruited.

In April 2008, one legal support officer was released.

In June 2008, a finance officer, one legal support officer and a witness co-ordinator were recruited.

In July 2008, one legal support officer and a witness co-ordinator were released.

In August 2008, an admin support officer was recruited.

In November 2008, a team secretary and a bundle manager were released.

TRANSPORT

A14

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to publish the documentation on the environmental impact of the A14 improvement scheme between Ellington and Fern Ditton. [261101]

Paul Clark: The A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton scheme was included in the roads programme announcement "Britain's Transport Motorways and Major Trunk Roads" on 15 January 2009.

As part of the scheme development work the Highways Agency is producing an Environmental Statement that will set out the environmental impacts of this scheme. This Environmental Statement is due to be published alongside draft Highways Act Orders in the early summer 2009.

Air Travel Trust Fund

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the current balance of the Air Travel Trust Fund is; and what the limit of its overdraft is. [260903]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The balance of the Air Travel Trust Fund at the end of the 2007-08 financial year and its credit facilities are both detailed in the Air Travel Trust 2008 Report and Accounts at:

http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/ATT2008web.pdf

Audited accounts for 2008-09 are not yet available. However, given the collapse of XL Leisure Group in September 2008 we expect that the fund will be more in deficit at the end of the 2008-09 financial year.

Aviation

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to amend reform to the Chicago Convention to allow the market pricing of airport departure slots. [259390]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The main legal framework for the management of airport slots is set out in the EC slot allocation regulations (the EC regulations). In April 2008 a European Commission Communication clarified the Commission's view that secondary slot trading, whereby the exchange of slots takes place with monetary and any other consideration, is compatible with the EC regulations.

Any further moves towards market pricing of slots would require the EC regulations to be amended. We understand that the Commission has no current plans to review the EC regulations. In the case of any proposed change, the Government would consult fully with stakeholders.

Aviation: Taxation

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to extend the one pound levy per passenger per flight to all operators of leisure flights originating in the UK; and if he will make it his policy not to increase the amount of the levy. [260908]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are not planning to extend financial protection for consumers to flight-only sales. However, we are exploring other options for the reform of the ATOL scheme, with a view to increasing the clarity and simplicity of ATOL for the consumer and reducing burdens to ATOL companies.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) intends to consult ATOL license holders this spring on a proposed increase to the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC), currently £1 per passenger. All consultation responses will be carefully considered and a final decision will be made by the Secretary of State in due course.

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated average time was for planning clearance of major infrastructure projects commissioned by his Department in each year since 1997. [261008]

Paul Clark: The Crossrail project was given outline planning approval by means of legislation that took three years five months to pass through Parliament.

Otherwise, the only major infrastructure projects specifically commissioned by the Department for Transport are schemes undertaken by the Highways Agency on the Strategic Road Network. The information requested on the planning timetable for such schemes is not held centrally and could be assembled only at disproportionate cost.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what procedures his Department has in place to remind drivers of the expiry date of 10 year driving licences. [260869]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Photocard licence holders are sent a personalised renewal reminder two months in advance of the date of expiry of their photograph.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency also provide advice on how to check the expiry date on the photocard in a leaflet issued with every new licence.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many drivers were stopped and fined in Scotland for driving without a valid licence in each of the last five years. [260870]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This is a devolved matter for the Scottish Executive.

eCall

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the merits of mandatory equipping of new vehicles with an eCall facility. [261099]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Reducing the numbers of people killed or seriously injured on our roads is one of the Department's key objectives and we believe that technology has an important role to play. However, any potential measure needs to be assessed against its expected costs and benefits.

Our most recent research suggests that the costs of mandatory eCall implementation would be greater than the benefits it would bring. However, we are working closely with the European Commission to ensure we have the best available data and will review our position in the light of any new evidence. The Department is also actively supporting the recently established group that will advise on issues around the voluntary implementation of eCall across Europe.

Electric Vehicles

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress the Government is making in the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions through the development of battery-powered vehicles. [260740]

Jim Fitzpatrick: On 15 January 2009, the Secretary of State for Transport announced that £250 million would be made available to create a system of consumer incentives to build the market for ultra-low emission vehicles, including battery-powered vehicles. Final decisions on how this money will be used are yet to be taken, but we expect that the bulk of the money will be available

between 2011 and 2014 and will mainly be used reduce the purchase price of the vehicles, with the remainder used for targeted infrastructure provision.

This money is in addition to support, worth over £100 million, provided for research, development and demonstration of battery-powered, and other low emission, vehicles through the Technology Strategy Board's Low Carbon Vehicle Innovation Platform.

Battery-powered vehicles are also generously supported through the taxation systems, for example, exemption from paying vehicle excise duty and fuel duty. Government have also provided funding, through the Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Grant Programme, to support the installation of electric vehicle charging points.

Freight: North West

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the availability of freight facilities grants in the North West; and if he will make a statement. [261098]

Jim Fitzpatrick: On 22 January 2008 the Department announced that Freight Facilities Grants (FFG) will no longer be available for investment in intermodal terminals in the North West of England (i.e. the Manchester, Liverpool, and Widnes conurbations).

This decision reflected the increasing competitiveness of the sector with a number of terminals and freight hauliers active in the market. The Department's decision was taken to ensure that FFGs do not distort the market and give competitive advantage to those receiving grants versus those who do not.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the responses to the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation said *(a)* that they were partially or totally opposed to Heathrow expansion, *(b)* that they did not believe Heathrow expansion could take place whilst meeting the Government's air quality limits without further measures and *(c)* that they did not believe Heathrow expansion could take place whilst meeting the noise contour limit of 127 square kilometres at the indicated levels of air traffic, broken down by (i) campaign postcards and petitions and (ii) postal response, (iii) free-text responses and (iv) online response form; and if he will make a statement. [261096]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A detailed analysis of the responses to the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation can be found in the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport Report on consultation responses, which was published on 15 January. Sections 2.2 to 2.13 of the above report provides an executive summary, detailing responses to the consultation.

25,331 respondents stated that they did not want any further expansion at Heathrow. Of these, 4,945 used the postal response form, 2,500 the online response form, 4,614 were free text responses, and there were 13,272 postcards/petition responses. The responses were not coded as being either 'partially' or 'totally' opposed to expansion.

61 respondents specifically stated that air quality limits could not be met without further measures. Of these, nine used the postal response form, 51 were free text responses, and there was one postcard/petition response. In addition, of 16,049 respondents who replied to the question about air quality using the online response form, 73 per cent. disagreed with the statement that expansion was possible while meeting the air quality limits.

37 respondents stated that they did not believe that expansion could take place while meeting the noise contour limit. Of these, three used the postal response forms, 33 were free text responses and there was one postcard/petition response. In addition, of 15,999 respondents who replied to the question about the noise contour limit using the online response form, 74 per cent. disagreed with the statement that expansion was possible whilst meeting the noise contour limit.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport: Report on consultation responses publication in relation to *(a)* fees for analysis and preparation of the report paid to Detica, *(b)* fees for analysis and preparation of the report paid to Ipsos Mori and *(c)* production and distribution costs; and if he will make a statement. [261097]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department procured Detica to analyse consultation responses and produce the report Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport: Report on consultation responses. The total costs paid to Detica were £939,989.18 including VAT. Ipsos Mori was subcontracted by Detica for their input into this work.

The Department printed 1,500 copies of the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport: Report on consultation responses. The cost for this was £13,947 including VAT. Copies of the report were placed in the House Libraries, and can also be obtained from the Department's distribution centre. Distribution costs have been marginal.

Heathrow Airport: Air Pollution

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to question 259633, on what date the work carried out by the Project for Sustainable Development of Heathrow was first assessed as sufficiently robust to conclude the *(a)* air quality limits and *(b)* noise contour limit of 127 sq km had been met in relation to (i) third runway scenarios and (ii) mixed mode scenarios consulted on in the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport public consultation; and if he will make a statement. [261275]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Further to the reply I gave on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1270W, on air quality, the critical point on noise was to establish the number of movements that could initially be accommodated within the noise contour limit with a third runway around 2020; that was not clear until mid-September 2007. Similarly, the results reported in the consultation document for mixed mode were not complete until mid-September 2007.

High Speed Trains

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to encourage the provision of a direct high-speed rail service from London to Amsterdam to coincide with the completion of the Brussels-Amsterdam high-speed line. [259392]

Paul Clark: The Government are currently undertaking the restructuring of London And Continental Railways, as enabled by the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (Supplementary Provisions) Act 2008. Among the principal aims of this restructuring is to free Eurostar from past liabilities, enabling it to further develop its service offering; and to encourage the introduction of more services from a potential range of operators onto High Speed 1.

Motor Vehicles

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's most recent estimate is of the number of vehicles operating outside the law on *(a)* registration, *(b)* vehicle testing and *(c)* insurance on the basis used in its Roads Policing Operations V79 paper published in September 2006. [261545]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The most recent Operation V79 was carried out in March 2008. 6,689 vehicles were stopped at random by police and checked for compliance with driver and vehicle licensing regulations. The full report of the operation was published in November 2008 and is available on the Department for Transport's website.

The 2008 results show increased compliance levels in respect of vehicle registration, vehicle testing and insurance compared with the previous survey in 2006.

The level of incorrectly registered vehicles was recorded at 3.6 per cent. of vehicles stopped, compared with 6.1 per cent. in 2006.

The recorded level of uninsured drivers fell to 1.2 per cent. from 1.9 per cent. in the previous survey.

The level of vehicles found without a valid MOT was 1.5 per cent. as opposed to 4.2 per cent. in 2006.

Public Transport: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by his Department per capita on public transport in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. [260080]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport supports local authority capital expenditure on public transport mainly through the allocation of Integrated Transport block funding, which is used for capital investment in small-scale transport improvements. This funding is not ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities. Local authority revenue expenditure on transport, for example spend on supporting bus services or concessionary fares, is mainly supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's formula grant.

The Department also supports bus services through Bus Service Operators' Grant, and provides funding for rail services, but these amounts are not available on the basis of local authority boundaries.

Integrated Transport block allocations provided to Hertfordshire county council by the Department, together with specific funding provided for urban and rural bus projects and, in 2008-09, for concessionary travel, are shown in the following table. Comparable data are available for 2000-01 onwards.

DFT allocations to Hertfordshire county council

	Allocation on public transport (£ million)	*Per capita (£)*
2008-09	15.034	14.103
2007-08	12.369	11.602
2006-07	12.148	11.476
2005-06	13.692	13.022
2004-05	13.613	13.029
2003-04	16.292	15.623
2002-03	14.459	13.916
2001-02	13.196	12.743
2000-01	5.851	5.682

Note:
Per capita figures are based on Office for National Statistics population estimates for Hertfordshire. Estimates were not available for 2008-09—the 2007-08 estimate has been used for this year.

Rescue Services: Northern Ireland

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many emergency calls were received by each HM Coastguard office in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [260140]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has one Maritime and Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) in Northern Ireland at Bangor, Belfast MRCC.

The MRCC can receive multiple calls about a single incident as well as hoax calls.

The MCA does not have data on the number of individual emergencies in a readily available format. However, the MCA's records show that from October 2004 (when the current search and rescue recording system was introduced in Belfast) to date, that Belfast MRCC allocated resources to respond to 1,756 incidents of an emergency category, a number of which would have attracted multiple calls or resulted in the calls being of a false nature.

Road Markings: Safety

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the merits of road markings on motorways to inform drivers of safe minimum distances between vehicles. [261100]

Paul Clark: Since the Department for Transport published their guidance on road separation markings in 2005, further research work on this type of road marking and the associated signing options is being carried out by the Highways Agency on the A34 in Oxfordshire.

Roads: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of road safety partnership grants in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire. [260776]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No projects led by Hertfordshire county council or any other local authorities within Hertfordshire have been supported by road safety partnership grants.

Shipping

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to publish the results of his recent consultation on proposed regulations under section 130 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 to control ship-to-ship oil transfers within UK territorial waters; and when he expects to lay regulations before Parliament. [260915]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department's Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has been considering the responses to the consultation exercise, and I anticipate that the summary of the responses will be published on the MCA website later this month.

The MCA are developing the draft regulations in the light of the consultation responses and have identified areas of the draft regulations which will need to be changed. We will also be discussing possible changes to the draft regulations with other Government Departments which have a policy involvement. In view of the developments to the draft regulations arising from the consultation responses, and the discussions with other Government Departments, it is possible that we will have to conduct a second consultation exercise. Accordingly, it is not possible to say at this stage when we will lay the regulations before Parliament.

Tour Operators: Licensing

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people flew overseas for tourism or leisure purposes in 2008; and how many of them were *(a)* covered and *(b)* not covered for consumer protection through the ATOL scheme. [260905]

Jim Fitzpatrick: According to the Office for National Statistics' "MQ6 Transport, Travel and Tourism" reports, around 37 million visits abroad were made by UK residents for holiday purposes in the period from the final quarter of 2007 to the third quarter of 2008 at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=1905

According to the Civil Aviation Authority, the total number of visits abroad made under the ATOL scheme in the same period was around 19 million.

Transport Infrastructure

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 355-60W, on transport infrastructure, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of using the green slot principle on levels of carbon dioxide emissions. [261274]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As set out in the statement of 15 January, the Department for Transport will be consulting on the green slots principle for use in allocating slots created by additional capacity at Heathrow. Subject to the outcome of the consultation, the intention is that the use of green slots will mean that airlines will need to allocate their cleanest and least noisy aircraft to secure priority for slots from the additional capacity at Heathrow.

Box 3.2 of our latest 'UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts' (published in January 2009) shows the extent to which the fuel efficiency of the newest aircraft—and thereby CO_2 emissions—has improved in recent years and is forecast by various independent sources to continue improving in years to come.

'UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts' is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/atf/co2forecasts09/

Aircraft using 'green slots' are likely to be younger than the average and, like for like, there would therefore also be consequential CO_2 benefits.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1062W, on future strategic tanker aircraft, what initial payment is specified in the private finance initiative contract relating to the Future Strategic Aircraft Carrier; when he expects that payment to be made; what estimate he has made of his Department's monthly expenditure on invoices to be presented under the contract; and if he will make a statement. [261288]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Information on the estimated unitary charges over the lifetime of the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (FSTA) project is recorded centrally on the Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm

The first invoice for the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (FSTA) programme should be presented in December 2011 with the first payment being made in January 2012.

Armed Forces: Animals

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what re-homing schemes his Department uses for animals which have been utilised in defence-related activity. [260702]

Mr. Kevan Jones: When considering a military animal for re-homing, the key issues are the care and welfare of the animal and the duty of care to the public.

In the case of dogs, service units will often identify an appropriate home with the dog's last or former handler. Otherwise, the dog is returned to the Defence Animal Centre who seek to retire it as a pet with a member of the armed forces or the public.

With regard to horses, those that have served for long periods will, wherever possible, be sent to a home that has been found suitable following inspection.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British armed forces personnel are deployed in East Africa; and in which countries such personnel are based. [259921]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: While exact numbers fluctuate on a regular basis, there are currently some 1,200 armed forces personnel deployed in Kenya, the majority of whom are on exercise, and two in the defence section in Uganda. There are no armed forces personnel deployed in Tanzania.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy for his Department to sign the Information Commissioner's Personal Information Promise. [258944]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Government welcomed the promise as a commendable initiative to raise awareness of the importance of effective data protection safeguards, particularly for those organisations with no similar commitments already in place.

The Government take data protection very seriously. Following the Cabinet Office Review of data handling procedures in Government, Departments have implemented a raft of measures to improve data security.

The Ministry of Justice is considering actively with the ICO how the promise might add additional value to those measures we have already signed up to. These include the Information Charters, the recommendations of the Data Handling Review and the Thomas/Walport Review and, of course, our legal obligations under the Data Protection Act and other legislation and regulations.

Departmental Private Finance Initiative

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what private finance initiatives have been entered into by his Department since 1997, indicating in each case *(a)* the total value of each contract, *(b)* the name of the contractor and *(c)* whether each contract has been subject to refinancing arrangements; what the monetary value of the refinancing arrangement was in each such case; and what the extent of the claw back has been. [259549]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Information on the capital value and estimated revenue payments for the lifetime of each private finance contract as well as the primary contractors (equity stakeholders in the project companies) are recorded centrally on the Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm

Since November 2000, it has been the MOD's policy, in common with other government departments, that all Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts and those Public Private Partnership contracts involving the use of private finance must contain legally binding conditions whereby any gains from refinancing are shared with the MOD on a 50:50 basis. For contracts signed before November 2000, the right to share a refinancing gain is governed by a code of conduct agreed with industry.

PFI projects that have been the subject of a refinancing agreement together with details of the value and the extent of the claw back to the MOD in each case are shown in the following table:

Project Name	*Date refinanced*	*Refinancing share (Percentage)*	*MOD share of refinancing gain (£ million)*
Joint Services Command and Staff College	June 2002	30	0.38
Central Scotland Family Quarters—Bannockburn	June 2003	30	1.82
Medium Support Helicopter	December 2004	[1]28	1.35
VLF Fleet Communications (MOD project)	December 2006	30	1.62
Tornado GR4 Simulator	March 2007	30	0.562
Strategic Sealift	December 2007	30	0.464

[1] The calculation of the refinancing gain was based on HMT policy but it also includes a package of contract changes guaranteeing the Department a total of £1.35 million.

Future Large Aircraft

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what formula has been used to calculate the cost of the contract for the A400M aircraft. [259669]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Development and production costs are based on a negotiated agreement between Airbus Military and the customer Nations. Development costs are shared on a pro-rata basis with other Nations according to numbers of aircraft being purchased; UK therefore pays 25/180 of the total development cost. There is a variation of price formula to cover variation of economic conditions, in prescribed circumstances.

RAF Menwith Hill

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* US and *(b)* UK contractors are currently working at RAF Menwith Hill. [260260]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The contractors presently working at RAF Menwith Hill are:

US Contractors

Lockheed Martin

Northrop Grumman

UK Contractors

Haden Young

Clark Construction

Britcon

SGW (Middlesbrough)

Shaylor Construction

IUS

Paragon

HC Engineering

Balfour Beatty
Wrekin
Carillion AMBS
T Clarke
Landscape Centre

OLYMPICS

Government Olympic Executive: Pay

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much was spent on the salaries of civil servants working in the Government Olympic Executive in each of the last three years. [260983]

Tessa Jowell: In each of the last three years, the amount spent on the salaries of civil servants working in the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) was:

	£
2006-07	1,687,876.45
2007-08	2,869,649.18
2008-09 (to end February 2009)	3,899,380.87

The amount spent on salaries reflects the increase in the number of civil servants (full-time equivalents (FTEs)) working in the GOE, from 34.8 FTEs in February 2007 to 69.4 FTEs in February 2009.

This planned increase in staffing (a) reflects the wider role the GOE has taken on during this period—GOE is now the only organisation overseeing the entire Olympic project, integrating the work of multiple delivery bodies, and ensuring the games is delivered within the £9.3 billion public sector funding provision; (b) is a planned response to the expected growth in work to deliver the Government's commitments and guarantees, as 2012 approaches; and (c) is consistent with GOE's staffing and resource plan for 2008-09 to 2010-11, which was agreed early in 2008.

Olympic Delivery Authority: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many businesses from the London Borough of Bexley have won contracts from the Olympic Delivery Authority. [261426]

Tessa Jowell: To the end of January 2009, five businesses registered in the London borough of Bexley had won contracts directly supplying the Olympic Delivery Authority.

Businesses interested in getting involved in the games should be encouraged to sign up to CompeteFor, the electronic brokerage service that is designed to give business across the country access to contracts in the London 2012 supply chains and any support they need to get ready to compete for them. To date, over 2,000 opportunities have been posted on CompeteFor.

Olympic Games 2012: Expenditure

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much had been spent on the velopark at the latest date for which figures are available; and what its estimated final cost is. [256584]

Tessa Jowell: At the end of December 2008 £5.6 million had been spent on the VeloPark project. As reported in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Annual Report 2009, the potential final cost of the project is £105 million. This figure takes into account all known cost pressures and opportunities, in particular the more complex foundations and ground conditions encountered on the VeloPark site, following its slight relocation to the west to enhance the legacy configuration of facilities.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on staff surveys in each of the last five years; and which companies were contracted to carry out the surveys. [260251]

Mr. Simon: The Department was created on 28 June 2007. Since it was established, the Department has conducted one full staff survey in October 2008. The survey was delivered in house and the results were analysed by ORC International Ltd.

The cost of the staff survey was £19,515 inc. VAT.

Graduates: Employment

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he plans to take in response to the decline in the number of graduates being recruited by businesses. [260787]

Mr. Lammy: We recognise that graduates will not be immune from the downturn. However, graduates should not panic: a recent AGR survey suggests that many companies will continue to recruit graduates in the knowledge that it is in their long term interests, and that many graduates will still get graduate level jobs. The Government are committed to helping new graduates to improve their prospects for work, so we are promoting volunteering, development of entrepreneurial skills and further study to graduates who do not yet have a job, and working alongside major employers to encourage more internships.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to make students aware of Government initiatives to help them into employment. [260796]

Mr. Lammy: The Government are committed to helping new graduates to improve their prospects for work. Our message to students is that they should take advantage of the professional support available from university careers services and take every opportunity to gain the experience and broad range of work related skills that are valued by employers. To help them to do this we are working with employers in the public, private and charitable sectors to increase the availability of volunteering and

internship opportunities, and are encouraging new graduates to consider self employment opportunities. The Department has recently created a new section on DirectGov:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/UniversityAndHigherEducation/ChoicesAfterYouGraduate/DG 4017755

to get these messages across to graduates and to offer detailed advice and information on graduate options. We are also working in partnership with the National Union of Students to produce further guidance in time for the spring graduate fairs.

Work Experience

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which companies have agreed to take part in the National Internship Scheme in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and (i) how much the Government plans to spend on the scheme for internships in the (A) private and (B) public sectors and (ii) how many graduates are expected to take part in the scheme in each of those years. [260606]

Mr. Lammy: The Government are committed to helping new graduates to improve their prospects for work in these challenging economic times. We are encouraging graduates to consider the range of opportunities available to them including internships which will help them to build the work ready skills they will need for permanent employment. We are currently talking to key stakeholders in the public, private and charitable sectors about the best way to increase internships this autumn and it is too early to confirm any details.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Standard Employment Contract

4. **David Taylor:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what representations the House of Commons Commission has received on the merits of a standard employment contract for the staff of hon. Members; and if he will make a statement. [260753]

Nick Harvey: The issue of a standard employment contract for hon. Members' staff was considered in the Members Estimate Committee's Review of Allowances last year (HC 578). Discussions were held with a number of Members on employment arrangements for staff. The MEC concluded that the current arrangements, whereby a standard contract is provided by the Department of Resources, continued to be the most appropriate employment model for Members' staff. No additional representations have been received.

Energy Efficiency

5. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what steps the House authorities have taken to improve the energy efficiency of the Palace of Westminster in the last 12 months. [260754]

Nick Harvey: The House authorities have, in the last 12 months, reconfigured building management systems; installed new remote energy meters, kitchen ventilation and lighting controls, energy efficient lighting and movement sensors; developed design standards for energy consuming services and conducted building energy surveys.

A feasibility study of energy supply options is under way as part of the mechanical and electrical services upgrade project and insulation will be targeted during the imminent roof overhaul project. In addition, a new post of head of fire safety and environment has been created and filled.

Electricity Expenditure

6. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the House of Commons Commission will make an estimate of the potential effect on House of Commons expenditure on electricity of the installation and use of light-emitting diode (LED) lighting. [260755]

Nick Harvey: The House authorities are not yet in a position to be able to estimate the potential effect on House of Commons expenditure on electricity of the installation and use of light emitting diode (LED) lighting.

Several trials of LED technology are under way including the lower waiting hall, nurses' offices and maintenance offices. The trials will inform Parliament's lighting programme for the future.

Members' Expenses

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission when the most recent analysis of hon. Members' expenses will be published. [260756]

Nick Harvey: Annual totals for 2007-08, using the 10 main headings of previous annual publications, will shortly be sent to Members for checking, and will be published before the Easter recess.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Parliamentary Scrutiny

8. **Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Leader of the House what plans she has to improve the House's ability to scrutinise those Government Bills where many different groups of new clauses and amendments are selected for consideration at Report stage. [260757]

Chris Bryant: The number of groups of amendments and new clauses selected for debate is not usually known until the day of the debate itself.

The Government will always try to ensure that adequate time is available for debate at Report stage, especially where new matters of substance are to be introduced into the Bill.

Procedure Committee

9. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Leader of the House if she will bring forward proposals to merge the Procedure Committee and the Modernisation of the House of Commons Committee. [260758]

Chris Bryant: I have always been committed to a strong Select Committee system. Important work is done every week by all of the committees of the House and the Modernisation Committee has made a number of recommendations in the past on which the House has acted.

The Modernisation Committee has yet to complete its inquiry into recall and dissolution. Once that work is complete, my right hon. Friend and I will give further consideration to the best way to take forward the Modernisation agenda.

Debates

John Robertson: To ask the Leader of the House what plans she has to make debates on the floor of the House more understandable to the general public. [260750]

Chris Bryant: If the House is to retain its place at the heart of our national political life, it is vital that we continue our work to engage more effectively with the public. Promoting public knowledge and understanding of Parliament through the provision of information and access is a high priority for my right hon. Friend and one of the House of Commons Commission's three primary objectives.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which works of art from the Government Art Collection each Minister in his Department has selected for display in a private office. [259436]

Barbara Follett: The following works are displayed in DCMS Ministers' private offices.

	Works of art
Andy Burnham	
296	Lancashire Fair: Good Friday, Daisy Nook painting by Laurence Stephen Lowry
8371	The South West Prospect of Liverpoole, in the County Palatine of Lancaster print by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck
16361/C	A Storm print by Howard Hodgkin
16421/C	Little Gilded Equinox sculpture by William Pye
17018	Lorry with Cabledrum painting by Prunella Clough
17998	Devotional print by Sonia Boyce
18079	Print for a Politician print by Grayson Perry
Andy Burnham, outer office	
4749	Trafalgar Square print by Ceri Richards
12414	Picture of a Still Life that has an Elaborate Silver Frame reproduction by David Hockney
13214	Legs over High Tor photograph by Paul Hill
16385/C	Branded from 35 Artists Printmaking, Folio 2 print by Susie Allen
17519	Come on England print by Adam Dant
17867	Untitled print by Antony Gormley
Barbara Follett	
1700	Tresco, Isles of Scilly painting by Julian Trevelyan
2654	Sir David Eccles and Mr. Eric Bedford on the Coronation Stands outside Buckingham Palace painting by John Ward
7276	Study for Standard sculpture by Elisabeth Frink
13862	Hedgerow Flowers in a Jug painting by Winifred Nicholson
14776	Landscape with Trees painting by Jessica Dismorr
14777	Landscape with Cottages painting by Jessica Dismorr
16356/C	Gloucester Gate, Regent's Park, Night, Autumn painting by Adrian Berg
16591	The Model Makers painting by Norman Blarney
16832	Calf sculpture by Nicola Hicks
17329/1	Feather that went to the Top of Everest (In the jacket of Rebecca Stevens, the first British woman to climb Mt. Everest) photograph by Cornelia Parker
17329/2	Feather that went to the South Pole (In the sleeping bag of Sir Ranulph Fiennes on his trip across Antarctica) photograph by Cornelia Parker
17329/3	Feather from Benjamin Franklin's Attic (With thanks to the Benjamin Franklin Museum) photograph by Cornelia Parker
17329/4	Feather from Freud's Pillow (From his couch) (With thanks to the Freud Museum) photograph by Cornelia Parker
17329/5	Raven Feather from the Tower of London photograph by Cornelia Parker
17329/6	Feather from a Wandering Albatross (With thanks to the British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge) photograph by Cornelia Parker
Office previously occupied by the Minster for Sport (Gerry Sutcliffe)	
11665	Swimmer print by Barbara Newcomb
12616	Rowers print by Julian Trevelyan

	Works of art
13457	Manor Farm, Carleton Moor, North Yorkshire watercolour by Alan Everard Ingham
17368	Untitled (2) print by Mark Francis
17369	Untitled (4) print by Mark Francis
18029	London collage by Gilbert and George
L168	White Boat, Yugoslavia from The Sailing Boats Suite print by Michael Rothenstein
Tessa Jowell	
12217	Blue Still Life watercolour by William Scott
17257	Slate Throws 1 Blencathra Mountain, Cumbria 19 February 1988 photograph by Andy Goldsworthy
17258	Slate Throws 2 Blencathra Mountain, Cumbria 19 February 1988 photograph by Andy Goldsworthy
17259	Slate Throws 3 Blencathra Mountain, Cumbria 19 February 1988 photograph by Andy Goldsworthy
17260	Slate Throws 4 Blencathra Mountain, Cumbria 19 February 1988 photograph by Andy Goldsworthy
18171	The Rose Gardens (display: II) (I) photograph by Sarah Jones
18183	Margate I Sand print by Tracey Emin
18184	Still Love You Margate print by Tracey Emin

Departmental Consultants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on management consultants in 2007-08. [260884]

Mr. Sutcliffe: According to the Department's financial records the expenditure attributed to management consultants in 2007-08 was £31,339.

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department uses WPA2 encryption protocol on all its wireless networks. [259788]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has no wireless networks connected to the main corporate network. Those wireless networks used by visitors and for testing are set up to use WPA2.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what auditing his Department undertakes to ensure that IT security policies are being followed; and on how many occasions *(a)* IT security policies have been breached by employees and *(b)* a member of staff has been sanctioned for a breach of such policies in the last 12 months. [259789]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department undertakes both internal and independent external auditing of compliance. No members of staff have been sanctioned for breaches of our IT security policies in the last 12 months nor have any such breaches been reported.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's IT security hierarchy. [259790]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department does not provide this information on security grounds.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what scanning for vulnerabilities his Department conducts of each of its IT devices; what method is used for IT device scans; and how many vulnerabilities have been detected as a result of such scans in the last 12 months. [259791]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department carries out a range of vulnerability scans and uses independent outside auditors to carry out additional reviews. We do not provide information on scanning methods or vulnerabilities on security grounds.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what IT security policy his Department has; what procedures are in place to ensure the policy is being followed; what his Department's policy is on encryption of data when it leaves departmental premises; and what sanctions are in place for failure to comply with this policy. [259857]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has a range of security policies in place which support our compliance with SPF and IS27001. The policies are subject to regular and independent audit. All departmental laptops and memory sticks are encrypted and are the only approved means for taking sensitive data out of the office. Any failures to comply with the policy would be dealt with as per the standard rule on security breaches.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* food in each of the last five years. [261165]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All expenditure is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Treasury guidance on Managing Public Money and Regularity and Propriety.

Expenditure on food and alcohol is not recorded separately on the Department's management accounts. This information can be obtained only by manually analysing invoices and expense claims over the period which would incur disproportionate cost.

Digital Technology: Community Development

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the growth in digital media upon levels of *(a)* community stability and cohesion and *(b)* participation in democratic political activities. [259593]

Andy Burnham: My Department has not carried out any such assessment. However, the Digital Britain interim report recognised that the growth of digital media was

impacting on local radio and news provision. In light of this, we have invited the Office of Fair Trading, together with Ofcom and other interested parties, to undertake an exploratory review across the local and regional media sector and make appropriate recommendations.

Leisure: Industry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps the Government has taken to support *(a)* cultural, *(b)* media and *(c)* sporting industries. [260166]

Andy Burnham: My Department works closely with a range of partners including industry to support, and maximise the contribution to the UK economy of, the Culture, Media, Sport and Leisure Sectors. Examples of recent activity in these important sectors include the Creative Economy Programme, Digital Britain, a Decade of Sport, and the Free Swimming initiative.

In February 2008 the Government published Creative Britain: New Talents for the New Economy which set out 26 commitments to support the creative industries. Working with our partners in other Government Departments and public and private sector organisations, DCMS' Creative Economy Programme has made good progress on realising the ambitions of Creative Britain in the year since publication. Of the 26 commitments, 18 are now either well under way or completed.

In January 2009 the Government published the Digital Britain Interim Report, a plan to secure Britain's place at the forefront of the global digital economy. The report contains more than 20 recommendations on how to maximise the opportunities for communications sector, its crucial contribution to the economy and its role in building Britain's industrial future. These are being taken forward with a range of partners including industry.

In January 2009 Government also announced plans for a Decade of Sport, from this year's World Twenty20 Cricket, through London's Olympics, to the Ryder Cup and the cricket World Cup, and the opportunity to bid for or host an incredible range of world class sports events. We also announced unprecedented investment in elite and grassroots sport and the start in April of free swimming for under 16s and over 60s in England.

Public Houses

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many public houses were in operation in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [261071]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The DCMS Statistical Bulletin on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment does not identify the number of pubs in England and Wales; but rather the number of premises authorising the sale or supply of alcohol by means of a premises licence or a club premises certificate. These figures apply not only to public houses, but also to other licensed premises such as hotels, off licences and convenience stores.

However, industry estimates for the number of public houses in England and Wales are available from the market research company Market and Business Development using data from the British Beer and Pub Association:

http://www.cateresearch.com/Articles/2008/10/06/53051/number-of-pubs-in-the-uk-industry-data.html

We are unable to assess the quality of these statistics as these are not official Government statistics.

Swimming

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department has allocated to the Learn to Swim package as part of its free swimming schemes; which organisations will receive such funding; and if he will make a statement. [259634]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 3 March 2009]:* As part of the Government's £140 million Free Swimming Programme, we are working with the Amateur Swimming Association and Sport England on the detailed design and funding arrangements for an integrated suite of measures to get more new swimmers into the pool, including the Learn to Swim package to achieve 100,000 more swimmers.

Swimming lessons as part of the initiative will be organised by a national network of County Swimming Co-ordinators who will be working closely with local authorities participating in the Free Swimming Programme.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure levels of swimming are increased as part of the Olympic legacy; and if he will make a statement. [259635]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 3 March 2009]:* The Free Swimming Programme will contribute to the Government's ambition of getting 2 million more people more active by 2012. The programme has been designed to attract new participants as well as encouraging existing swimmers to swim more often, and to focus on sustaining increases in participation.

Swimming: Finance

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the source is for the funding for his Department's free swimming initiatives for those aged over 60 and under 16 years in Chorley. [259672]

Andy Burnham: Chorley is due to receive a total of £30,743 for the over 60s, and £60,603 for the under 16s, for each of the financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Free swimming is a cross-Government initiative with funding contributions from the Department of Health, the Department for Work and Pensions, Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Storms

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the Government is providing for post-Nargis recovery work in Burma in the next three years. [260297]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK Government are considering what contribution to make to the continuing international response to Cyclone Nargis, and will reach a decision shortly.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff surveys his Department has commissioned or carried out since 2007. [261208]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has carried out three staff surveys between January 2007 and March 2009.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of the Guidelines for incentives on aid effectiveness in donor agencies, produced for his Department by PricewaterhouseCoopers in February 2008, reference number 200808318. [259466]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The report "Good Practice for Donor Agencies on Incentives for Aid Effectiveness", and an accompanying self-assessment tool will be placed in the Library.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of the job description and terms of reference for the information officer employed by the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs for Gaza with support from his Department. [261199]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The terms of reference and job description for this post will be placed in the Library.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of humanitarian aid to Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [256090]

Mr. Michael Foster: The international community and international agencies responded generously and quickly to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and so far, donors have provided $336 million in humanitarian assistance. The UK Government swiftly allocated £26.8 million to address immediate humanitarian needs.

At the recent conference on reconstruction in Gaza, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, the Egyptians concluded that $4.5 billion had been pledged, but it remains unclear exactly how much of this is new money. The UK announced £30 million for early recovery in Gaza to help rebuild damaged hospitals, schools and homes. Our pledge includes a new £20 million provision, and £10 million from the support announced in January.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza will remain dire for some time to come. Limited access for humanitarian supplies and staff remains a key challenge, and access will also be critical for the longer-term recovery effort. The UK Government take the issue of humanitarian access extremely seriously and we have been working closely with all our international partners to get progress on this issue.

Repatriation

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* name, *(b)* relevant country, *(c)* aim, *(d)* amount of expenditure, *(e)* activities undertaken, *(f)* duration and *(g)* number of individuals assisted is of each project under the Returns and Reintegration Fund that is (i) ongoing, (ii) completed and (iii) planned; and what the procedure is for identifying and selecting projects to receive such funding. [261112]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

The Returns and Reintegration Fund aims to increase the numbers of failed asylum seekers and foreign national prisoners who are returned to their country of origin and helps to tackle illegal immigration to the UK. It delivers projects in overseas countries which face challenges in accepting back and reintegrating their nationals; provides rehabilitation and reintegration assistance to individuals who return voluntarily; and helps improve the process of removal from the UK.

The Fund began on 1 April 2008 and is a pooled fund comprising the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Department for International Development, Ministry of Justice and UK Border Agency financial resources and expertise, managed by the FCO. Projects are identified with overseas governments and/or by the UK Government Departments which are party to the Fund. To date we are financing or have in development 83 projects, some of which are still subject to approval. As this amounts to a large volume of material, I have placed a list of the projects in the Libraries of the House. We do not keep records of the numbers of individuals who are assisted through each project.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Binyam Mohamed

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to paragraph 9 (ix) of the High Court judgment in the case of R (Binyam Mohamed) v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of 21 August 2008, whether the legal adviser to his Department was requested to give an opinion on UK responsibilities in Afghanistan consequent upon the observations made about the treatment of persons detained by or on behalf of the United States in Afghanistan by an officer of the Secret Intelligence Service. [259898]

Bill Rammell: It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to disclose whether legal advisers have given advice, nor whether their advice has been or is going to be sought on any particular issue.

China: Family Planning

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the government of China on the Population and Birth-planning Law 2002 since 2008; and if he will make a statement. [259020]

Bill Rammell: Foreign and Commonwealth officials last discussed the One Child Policy during the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in Beijing in January 2008. We do not dispute China's right or need to implement family planning policies but we do believe they should be based on the principles of consent and not coercion.

Democratic Republic of Congo: War Crimes

Mr. Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Congolese government on the requirement to arrest Bosco Ntaganda in line with the International Criminal Court indictment against him. [260300]

Gillian Merron: The United Kingdom is strongly supportive of the International Criminal Court. We have reminded the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo of their obligations in respect of the warrant for the arrest of Bosco Ntaganda.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the average time was for his Department to reply to hon. Member's correspondence in the last 12 months. [255496]

Caroline Flint: Only correspondence received by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) ministerial support unit (MSU) is logged centrally. To ask every department or overseas post, within the FCO, how long on average it takes to issue a response to correspondence from hon. Members would incur a disproportionate cost.

MSU records do not allow us to identify the average length of time taken to respond to correspondence from hon. Members. However, I can confirm that, in line with Cabinet Office guidance, of the 10,334 letters received from hon. Members in 2008, 87 per cent. were answered within 20 working days.

Departmental Policy Advisers

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 598-600W, how many policy positions in his Department were *(a)* created and *(b)* deleted in each financial year since 1997. [253963]

David Miliband: The answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 598-600W, referred to a centrally co-ordinated exercise to re-deploy staff resource in order to deliver the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) new strategic framework. In addition, all FCO directors routinely keep staffing levels and deployments in their areas under review on an ongoing basis, in the light of changing circumstances and priorities.

Records of the details of these changes since 1997 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many new employees his Department recruited in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09; how many he estimates will be recruited in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11; and how many such recruits are (A) permanent, (B) temporary and (C) agency staff in each such year. [254395]

Gillian Merron: The following tables show the number of permanent and temporary employees the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCO Services, a trading fund of the FCO, have recruited in the UK in financial years from 2005-06 to 2008-09. They do not include *(a)* staff recruited locally to work at Posts overseas and *(b)* agency staff. We could not obtain figures for these without incurring disproportionate cost.

FCO

	Permanent employees recruited into FCO	*Temporary employees recruited into FCO*
2005-06	137	44
2006-07	266	55
2007-08	94	51
2008-09	[1]180	51

[1] Of these 90 have come through FCO recruitment processes but have not yet started work at the FCO.

FCO Services

	Permanent employees recruited into FCO Services	*Temporary employees recruited into FCO Services*
2005-06	45	16
2006-07	73	11
2007-08	43	19
2008-09	68	10

In 2009-10 the FCO plans to recruit approximately 175 permanent staff in the UK and FCO Services plans to recruit approximately 160.

In 2010-11 the FCO plans to recruit approximately 175 permanent staff in the UK and FCO Services plans to recruit approximately 100.

Guantanamo Bay: Detainees

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2002W, on detainees: Guantánamo Bay, what the names of the two detainees are; and in which country each was held *(a)* before and *(b)* after rendition through Diego Garcia. [260123]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 2 March 2009]*: We are unable to provide further information on this matter other than that given by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary in his oral statement of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 547. We re-iterate, as said in that statement, that the US government has informed us that neither of these individuals was a British national or a British resident.

India: British Council

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's announcement on English—the World's language on 17 January 2008, how many new master trainers have been recruited by the British Council in India to date; how many will be recruited over the next two years; how much will be spent by the British Council on new master trainers in India in 2008-09; what the budget for the programme is for the next two years; and if he will make a statement. [259140]

Caroline Flint: One of the strategic aims of the British Council's regional English Language project is to train master teacher-trainers of English in all 28 Indian States. To date professional training has taken place in: West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi State Capital, Punjab, Kerala and Tamil Nadu where master-trainers will cascade their learning to teachers across these states. As of March 2009 the programme has trained 1,300 master trainers and learning has been cascaded to 402,000 state school language teachers. Over the next two years a further 1,700 master trainers will be recruited.

Total direct investment by the British Council in 2008-09 will amount to £75,000 and anticipates making a similar contribution in 2009-10 and 2010-11. To date total contributions from the Indian states involved, both cash and in-kind, have amounted to almost £3 for every £1 the British Council has contributed. The British Council anticipates a similar level of support from them in 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the merits of imposing further *(a)* UN and *(b)* EU sanctions on Iran in light of Iran's failure to respond to UN Security Council resolutions demanding the suspension of its enrichment-related activities; and if he will make a statement. [260257]

David Miliband: We have supported five UN Security Council resolutions that require Iran to halt its uranium enrichment programme and co-operate fully with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The IAEA's most recent report makes clear that Iran has done neither.

I strongly urge Iran to comply with these obligations by halting enrichment and engaging with the E3+3. It can then enjoy all the benefits set out in the E3+3's generous offer of June 2008. However, if it continues to refuse to co-operate with the international community we shall do all we can to pursue further sanctions in the UN and the EU.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks of 15 December 2008, on Somalia. [256384]

David Miliband: My noble Friend, Lord Malloch-Brown, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, replied to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks on 11 February 2009.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with (i) Arab states and (ii) the government of Israel on (A) the compliance of Hamas with international law in Gaza, (B) allegation of the use by Hamas of human shields in Gaza and (C) allegations of the storage of weapons by Hamas among women and children in Gaza; what response was received from each; and if he will make a statement. [247985]

Bill Rammell: The UK is clear in its calls for Hamas to adhere to the Quartet principles, including a renunciation of violence, and to adhere to the international law. My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Prime Minister have spoken frequently to their counterparts in Israel and around the Arab world since the beginning of this crisis. They have made clear our opposition to the methods employed by Hamas and the need for an immediate and permanent ceasefire.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to refer to Jewish refugees from Arab states and Palestinian refugees in any relevant official document or resolution at the United Nations; and if he will make a statement. [247991]

Bill Rammell: We are focused on realising a comprehensive approach to resolving the conflicts in the Middle East, bringing peace between Israel and the whole Arab world. Doing this will mean addressing grievances on all sides, but it is not clear how the policy the hon. Member proposes would advance our goal.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what facilities in Gaza have been funded by the European Union; at what cost; and which of them have been damaged or destroyed by Israeli military action since the current offensive against Gaza began. [248495]

Bill Rammell: We do not readily have access to data on EU funded facilities in Gaza. The humanitarian consequences and the damage caused by the military operation are still to be fully assessed.

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of *(a)* mortar shells, *(b)* white phosphorus shells and *(c)* missiles, flechette

bombs and dime bombs fired from (i) drones and (ii) aircraft by the Israeli armed forces in each year since 2001. [257729]

Bill Rammell: The Department does not hold such figures.

Nuclear Weapons: Arms Control

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking towards multilateral nuclear disarmament. [259925]

Bill Rammell: On 4 February 2009, my right hon. Friend, the Foreign Secretary launched a policy information paper entitled "Lifting the Nuclear Shadow" which laid out six concrete steps towards further multilateral nuclear disarmament. We are committed to driving forward progress on these key steps.

I also refer the right hon. and Learned Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary to PQ 228112 on 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 476-77W.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports that the Sri Lankan Government are using cluster bombs in the conflict with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in the northern region of the country. [253350]

David Miliband: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell) on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1176W. The most recent reports from organisations based in the conflict areas suggest that cluster munitions have not been used, however we will continue to follow up with the Government of Sri Lanka.

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received on the alleged use of multi-barrel rocket launchers by the Government of Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [260157]

Bill Rammell: We are aware of reports alleging the use of heavy artillery such as multi-barrel rocket launchers in the conflict in Sri Lanka. The on-going military hostilities and the lack of independent information coming from northern Sri Lanka make it difficult to verify these claims. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made clear, we condemn the killing of civilians in the strongest possible terms and have urged all parties to the conflict in Sri Lanka to adhere to international humanitarian law and to take action to avoid civilian casualties.

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with representatives of the Government of Sri Lanka on the political situation in Sri Lanka. [260159]

Bill Rammell: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary explained to the House on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 140, the UK has made it clear to the Government of Sri Lanka that a political solution that addresses the legitimate concerns of all communities in Sri Lanka is the only way to bring a sustainable end to the conflict. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister wrote to President Rajapakse in January. On 30 January 2009, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary telephoned the President. Our high commission in Colombo is in regular contact with the Sri Lankan Government.

Thailand: Demonstrations

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of British citizens who were unable to leave in Thailand during the closure of Bangkok Airport in December 2008. [259038]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 2 March 2009]*: We do not have exact numbers of British nationals who were in Thailand and seeking to leave at the time of the airport closures but in normal circumstances around 1,000 British nationals would leave each day through Bangkok during late November and early December. Bangkok's commercial airports were closed from 26 November 2008 to 3 December 2008, so we estimate that up to 6,000 British nationals had their travel plans disrupted. About 1,300 British Nationals registered with the embassy using the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's on-line registration service, LOCATE, during the airport closures.

United Nations

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what objectives his Department has set for outcomes from *(a)* the 53rd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and *(b)* the 42nd Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development. [260459]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 4 March 2009]*: The Government's overall objective for the 53rd Session on the UN Commission on the Status of Women is to evaluate progress on gender equality internationally, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and the advancement of women worldwide. This is particularly important in the current economic climate.

Throughout the 53rd Commission on the Status of Women, the Government will also be working to promote discussion of this year's priority theme on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, particularly in relation to the interrelated issues of care-giving and the gender pay gap.

For the 42nd Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development the Government aims to ensure that the UN is effective in promoting the International Commission on Population and Development (ICPD) Platform of Action in order to improve the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women, girls, men and boys worldwide. In particular, during this Commission on Population and Development, the UK aims to:

highlight the importance of focusing, during Millennium Development Goal (MDG) processes in 2010, on the key contribution that MDG target 5b (on universal access to

reproductive health) makes to the achievement of not only MDG 5 but also goals pertaining to women's empowerment, poverty, child health and the environment;

emphasise the need to re-invigorate the family planning agenda and to address unmet needs for family planning; and

call attention to the value of and need for the full participation of all sectors-public, private and civil society-in processes and actions to achieve the ICPD goal of universal access to reproductive health by 2015.

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who the Government representatives at *(a)* the 53rd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and *(b)* the 42nd Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development will be. [260460]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 4 March 2009]:* The Government will be represented at the 53rd Session on the UN Commission on the Status of Women by officials from the Government Equalities Office, as the lead Department. They will be supported by an official from the Department for International Development (DFID) and a Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) official from the Our Mission to the UN in New York.

As in previous years the Government will be represented at the 42nd Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development by FCO officials from the Our Mission to the UN in New York. They will be supported from London by DFID officials. The Government will be represented at the 53rd Session on the UN Commission on the Status of Women by officials from the Government Equalities Office, as the lead Department. They will be supported by an official from DFID and an FCO official from Our Mission to the UN in New York.

As in previous years the Government will be represented at the 42nd Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development by FCO officials from Our Mission to the UN in New York. They will be supported from London by DFID officials.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to answer Question 246259, tabled on 17 December, on the survey of the UK's reputation in the US, China and India. [258118]

David Miliband: The right hon. Member's question 246259 was answered on 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2198W.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Scientists

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's budget for scientific advice and research is in 2008-09; for what purposes the equivalent budget for 2007-08 was used; and how many people employed in her Department have a science or engineering degree. [260772]

Mr. Khan: The Department's budget for scientific advice and research (we have taken this question to include economic and social research), in 2008-09 is £27.2 million. In 2007-08, the equivalent spend was £24.9 million. The purposes for which this spend was used cover hundreds of individual projects. We do however maintain details of research projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government (and its predecessors), which is available from our research database (RD) at:

http://www.rmd.communities.gov.uk/

This database provides information on projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and predecessor Departments going back to 30 November 2001. This includes the subject and cost of each research contract.

The Department does not maintain records of those staff who hold a science or engineering degree. To gather this information would involve a Department-wide survey and would incur disproportionate costs in terms of staff time.

Empty Property: Bedfordshire

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty homes there were in South Bedfordshire at the most recent date of counting; and what number of these homes were empty on a long-term basis. [260912]

Mr. Iain Wright: In October 2008, South Bedfordshire council reported there were 1,396 empty dwellings in their area, of which 518 were regarded as long-term empty dwellings.

Fire Prevention

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the change in the number of dedicated fire safety officers has been since the coming into effect of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. [260839]

Mr. Khan: It is for individual fire and rescue authorities to plan and resource the delivery of their audit and enforcement responsibilities under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. We do not collect this information centrally.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has provided to local fire authorities on standards for implementing the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. [260840]

Mr. Khan: To help responsible persons comply with the provisions of the order, my Department has made available a suite of fire safety risk assessment documents to explain the risk assessment process and offer detailed advice on what technical fire precautions are likely to deliver an acceptable level of fire safety. While the order is non-prescriptive the guidance refers, where appropriate, to British Standards and standards provided by other bodies.

This guidance is not aimed at FRAs directly. However, we expect them to have regard to its availability as a tool to assist responsible persons in discharging their duties under the order. The extent to which individual premises comply with the provisions of the order by delivering an adequate level of fire safety to minimise the risk to life in the event of a fire is a matter of professional judgment based on an appropriate level of technical fire safety expertise.

Housing: Construction

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes have been started in each London local authority area since 2005. [259935]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows affordable homes started in each London borough since 2005-06.

The figures for affordable housing starts are from P2 house building returns to CLG from local authorities, and the National House Building Council building control figures. The tenure of the dwelling may not be known when starts are recorded, as some RSL starts may be recorded as "private enterprise" on the P2 returns.

PSA20 indicator 3 measures gross affordable housing supply, using housing completions and acquisitions figures. Figures showing the number of affordable homes provided (completions and acquisitions) each year are shown in live tables 1000 to 1009 on the CLG website.

Affordable homes started in each London borough since 2005

	Starts 2005-06			*Starts 2006-07*			*Starts 2007-08*		
London boroughs	*Registered social landlords*	*Local authorities*	*Total affordable homes*	*Registered social landlords*	*Local authorities*	*Total affordable homes*	*Registered social landlords*	*Local authorities*	*Total affordable homes*
Barking and Dagenham	375	0	375	18	0	18	[1]—	0	0
Barnet	175	0	175	330	0	330	285	0	285
Bexley	100	0	100	184	0	184	47	0	47
Brent	[1]—	0	0	[1]—	0	0	[1]—	0	0
Bromley	[1]—	0	0	67	0	67	29	0	29
Camden	309	0	309	[1]—	0	0	[1]—	0	0
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Croydon	206	0	206	237	0	237	193	0	193
Ealing	616	0	616	506	0	506	297	0	297
Enfield	333	0	333	213	0	213	160	0	160
Greenwich	233	0	233	61	0	61	[1]—	0	0
Hackney	133	0	133	144	0	144	11	0	11
Hammersmith and Fulham	20	0	20	204	0	204	24	0	24
Haringey	[1]—	0	0	[1]—	0	0	89	0	89
Harrow	0	0	0	44	0	44	61	0	61
Havering	115	0	115	129	0	129	121	0	121
Hillingdon	0	35	35	257	0	257	72	21	93
Hounslow	515	0	515	1,161	0	1,161	504	0	504
Islington	59	0	59	216	0	216	170	0	170
Kensington and Chelsea	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kingston upon Thames	0	0	0	56	0	56	0	0	0
Lambeth	239	0	239	270	0	270	156	0	156
Lewisham	340	0	340	288	0	288	113	0	113
Merton	190	0	190	478	0	478	125	0	125
Newham	[1]—	0	0	[1]—	0	0	[1]—	0	0
Redbridge	70	0	70	0	0	0	38	0	38
Richmond upon Thames	[1]—	0	0	[1]—	0	0	16	0	16
Southwark	189	0	189	331	0	331	33	0	33
Sutton	0	0	0	26	0	26	250	0	250
Tower Hamlets	282	0	282	101	0	101	133	0	133
Waltham Forest	28	0	28	74	0	74	0	0	0

Affordable homes started in each London borough since 2005

	Starts 2005-06			Starts 2006-07			Starts 2007-08		
London boroughs	*Registered social landlords*	*Local authorities*	*Total affordable homes*	*Registered social landlords*	*Local authorities*	*Total affordable homes*	*Registered social landlords*	*Local authorities*	*Total affordable homes*
Wandsworth	72	0	72	10	0	10	32	0	32
Westminster	107	0	107	[1]	0	0	17	0	17

[1] Incomplete data.

Note:
Figures for starts are as reported by local authorities and the National House-Building Council; no figure is given where a borough has one or more missing quarterly returns as the full level of house building activity in the local area is not known.
Source: Local authority P2 monthly and quarterly house building and National House-Building Council returns submitted to CLG

Housing: Sustainable Development

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* six, *(b)* five, *(c)* four, *(d)* three, *(e)* two and *(f)* one star homes have been built since the introduction of the Code for Sustainable Homes. [249775]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* Due to the time lag from when homes are registered, designed, built and assessed against the Code for Sustainable Homes there are relatively few completed code homes at present. As of 31 January 2009 there were 34 homes that had received code post construction certificates, of these, two were code level 5, four at code level 4, 27 at code level 3 and one at code level 2. There are 843 homes that have received design stage certificates—some of these homes may well have been built but have yet to obtain a post construction certificate.

Landlords: Mortgages

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the availability of mortgage finance to private landlords. [259518]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government Ministers meet colleagues across government regularly to discuss all aspects of housing policy.

Mortgage finance is a matter for HM Treasury. Ministers are in regular contact with mortgage lenders and landlord associations. We welcome access to mortgage finance for responsible private landlords.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to reply to the letter of 15 January 2009 from the hon. Member for Wycombe on details of the Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder fund. [260597]

Hazel Blears: I have now replied to the hon. Member's letter.

Migration Trust Fund

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been allocated from the Migration Trust Fund in 2008; and to which projects. [260814]

Mr. Khan: In February 2008, we announced a fund to manage the transitional impacts of migration which will be available to public services to promote innovative ways of working in this area. The fund will raise tens of millions of pounds and will start from April 2009.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 113-4W, on homelessness, how much has been allocated to each eligible local authority as part of the Mortgage Rescue Scheme; what her definition of vulnerable homeowners is; how many applications for funding have been *(a)* made to the rescue scheme and *(b)* granted support; when the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme will be operational; what role local authorities will play in its delivery; what the eligibility criteria of the rescue scheme are; and if she will make a statement. [260622]

Margaret Beckett: The £200 million Government Mortgage Rescue Scheme has been operational across the country since 1 January 2009. Under the scheme's financial structure, funding is not allocated directly to local authorities. Instead, it is drawn down by participating registered social landlord (RSL) providers after negotiations have take place with a household's lender and once a debt management plan has been agreed, the property has been visited and a decision has been taken on the most appropriate form of rescue. In addition, all English local authorities receive a homelessness grant, which forms part of their strategic responsibility to tackle and prevent homelessness effectively.

The scheme is targeted at vulnerable households who fall within one of three priority need categories and who would be owed a duty by a local authority to secure accommodation under the homelessness legislation (section 189(1)(a)-(c) of the Housing Act 1996) if they became homeless.

The three priority need categories are that the homeowner must be:

1. a person with whom dependent children reside or might reasonably be expected to reside;

2. a pregnant woman or a person with whom she resides or might reasonably be expected to reside; or

3. a person who is vulnerable as a result of old age, mental illness or handicap or physical disability or other special reason, or with whom such a person resides or might reasonably be expected to reside.

An informal telephone survey of 60 local authorities was conducted by officials at Communities and Local Government on 18 February 2009. This showed that

over 500 applications had been made, resulting in approximately 180 cases meeting the eligibility criteria. Formal monitoring arrangements for all local authorities will be in place this month.

We expect the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme to be open for business with the first lenders in April now that the Banking Act, which is the legislative vehicle we have used to enable us to do this, has gained Royal Assent and the scheme design has been confirmed. The draft Master Guarantee is currently being agreed with lenders. This is a lender-led scheme so we do not expect local authorities to play a direct role in its delivery. The full eligibility criteria are available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/buyingselling/mortgagesupportscheme/

Planning

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when she plans to respond to the 2006 consultation on the General Permitted Development Order 1995 (Demolition of Sports Buildings); [260466]

(2) if she will bring forward proposals to *(a)* replace the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 and *(b)* revise Planning Policy Guidance 17 to provide for the protection of sports buildings from demolition and redevelopment under the planning system. [260467]

Mr. Iain Wright: A summary of responses to the 2006 consultation on a proposal to make demolition of sports buildings subject to planning permission, has been published on the CLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/demolitionsportsbuildings

The responses were largely in favour of the proposal and we are aiming to introduce the necessary amendments to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, and the Town and Country Planning (Demolition—Description of Buildings) Direction 1995, later this year.

Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) Note 17 already states that sport and recreational buildings (and land) should not be built on unless an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the buildings to be surplus to requirements.

Planning Permission: Wanstead

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who *(a)* was consulted and *(b)* made representations to her Department before her decision to lift the Article 4 direction in relation to Chepstow, 49 Leicester Road, Wanstead in 2008. [260342]

Mr. Iain Wright: This Article 4 direction was submitted by the London borough of Redbridge under the provisions of Article 5(4) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995. The decision not to confirm the direction was made by the Government office for London, which is the normal practice in such cases and consultations are not undertaken before making such a decision. Two representations were received, on behalf of a developer and a local residents' association, and were taken into account before the decision was made.

Private Rented Housing

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of *(a)* the contribution of the private rented sector to meeting housing need and *(b)* the availability of mortgage finance for the provision of privately-rented accommodation. [259423]

Mr. Iain Wright: Last year the Government commissioned an independent review of the private rented sector from Julie Rugg and David Rhodes of the Centre for Housing Policy at the University of York. One of the key elements of the terms of reference for the review was the role of the sector in meeting housing need and its ability to do so in the future. The review findings were reported in October last year and we are considering our response.

Mortgage finance is a matter for HM Treasury. Ministers are in regular contact with mortgage lenders and landlord associations. We welcome access to mortgage finance for responsible private landlords.

Recreation Spaces: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the recommended amount of public open space is in each of the principal seaside towns in England by *(a)* ward and *(b)* lower layer super output area. [261185]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1267W.

Rents

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the number of persons entitled to claim housing benefit where rents are set in line with her Department's guideline rent changes; and if she will make a statement. [259605]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities set rent levels having regard to Housing Revenue Account determinations, existing rent levels, and local financial and affordability issues. The Department has not estimated the number of persons who might be entitled to housing benefit in 2009-10.

Rents: Arrears

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of *(a)* local authority and *(b)* registered social landlord tenants were estimated to be in rent arrears in (i) England, (ii) each English region and (iii) each London local authority area in the most recent quarter for which figures are available. [259933]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of registered social landlords of shared ownership purchasers were in arrears in respect of either rent or service charges in each English region in each quarter since December 2007. [259934]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally.

Repossession Orders

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency were repossessed in each year since 2004. [260961]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: The Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Financial Services Authority. However both are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders data are available on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2108

The Financial Services Authority data are available on their website at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/

Trading Funds

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultation her Department has conducted with external organisations as part of the review of Government Trading Funds. [260198]

Mr. Iain Wright: Shareholder Executive officials with responsibility for Ordnance Survey were represented on the Trading Funds Assessment Steering Group alongside officials from other Trading Fund owner Departments, Shareholder Executive, HM Treasury, OFT and OPSI.

As part of the Trading Funds Assessment, officials held regular discussions with interested public, private and third sector organisations.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the definition of Ordnance Survey's Public Tasks as part of the Government's Trading Fund Review; and if she will make a statement. [260200]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Trading Funds Assessment intended to clarify Government policy on re-use of information produced by a group of Trading Funds—including the Ordnance Survey—both within and outside their public task.

Specific changes to Trading Funds' public tasks were not considered as part of the Assessment. If any redefinition of Ordnance Survey's public task is undertaken as a result of the Trading Funds Assessment, it will be done so in close discussion with all interested parties, including the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions her Department has had with the Shareholder Executive as part of the Government's Trading Fund Review; and if she will make a statement. [260201]

Mr. Iain Wright: Officials from Communities and Local Government (CLG) worked very closely with the Shareholder Executive on the Trading Funds Assessment. In the case of Ordnance Survey, CLG delegated responsibility to Shareholder Executive for advising Ministers directly on shareholding and financial issues but this is done in close communication with CLG officials.

Shareholder Executive officials with responsibility for Ordnance Survey were represented on the Trading Funds Assessment Steering Group. There were regular discussions on the Assessment between CLG and Shareholder Executive officials and CLG Ministers

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 10 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1844W, on Travelling people: caravan sites, what targets for the number of pitches to be provided by each local authority have been included in the most recent draft regional spatial strategies. [259583]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information illustrating the number of pitches each local authority within a region has been allocated by their respective RSSs can be found by accessing the websites provided as follows.

North East

http://www.gos.gov.uk/gone/planning/regional_planning/

North West

http://www.gos.gov.uk/gonw/Planning/RegionalPlanning/

Yorkshire and Humber

http://www.yhassembly.gov.uk/News/2007/Assembly%20welcomes%20publication%20of%20RSS%20panel%20report

East Midlands

http://www.gos.gov.uk/goem/psc/suscom/rss/eastmidlandsplan/

West Midlands

http://www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=47

East of England

http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=120

South East

http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/plan/view_plan.html

South West

http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=836

London

http://www.london.gov.uk/thelondonplan/

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many 18 to 21 year-olds were admitted to each *(a)* hospital and *(b)* university hospital following alcohol-related incidents in each of the last 10 years. [260920]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on the number of alcohol-related finished hospital admissions in England for 18 to 21-year-olds has been placed in the Library.

Data is only available from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and that data for admitted patients for 2007-08 has not yet been released but should be available next month. The Department will arrange for the information to be placed in the Library.

Ambulance Services: East of England

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average time taken by an ambulance in the East Anglia Ambulance Service to travel from the scene of an incident to hospital in each of the last five years. [259871]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Data on performance against ambulance response time targets, which measure the amount of time before the ambulance reaches the scene of the incident, is published annually by the NHS Information Centre in the statistical bulletin Ambulance Services England. The latest bulletin, "Ambulance Services, England 2007-08", has already been placed in the Library and is available at the following link:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/ambulance/ambulance-services-england-2007-08

Arthritis: Health Services

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to encourage the adoption of individualised care plans to provide social, psychological and lifestyle advice and clinical support for patients diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. [260397]

Ann Keen: We have no plans to encourage the adoption of care plans which provide social, psychological and lifestyle advice, this is discretionary.

Successful care planning is person-centred and recognises that the patient's needs will change over time. It may be simple or complex depending on the medical condition and the range of services needed. The care plan is owned by the person, and the relevant multidisciplinary team members need to review it regularly with them.

The care planning process is likely to include an assessment of all immediate and potential future health and social care needs, including housing, transport, benefits, employment, and health promotion issues such as weight management and smoking cessation.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to improve *(a)* education for primary healthcare professionals, *(b)* diagnostic procedures and *(c)* referral times for the treatment and long-term care of patients diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis; and if he will make a statement. [260398]

Ann Keen: We have no plans to develop diagnostic procedures, or referral times for treatment, specifically for those with rheumatoid arthritis. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence produced guidance on the management of rheumatoid arthritis in adults in February 2009. This guidance includes detailed advice for health professionals on the most appropriate diagnostic tests and investigations, referral to specialist services, and treatment regimes, for patients with this condition.

The development of education for health care professionals is the responsibility of the Royal Colleges.

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 15-16WS, on the personal expenses allowance, what level of personal expenses allowance persons in adult social care are entitled to; what plans he has to increase the personal expenses allowance in April; if he will make a provision for a substantial increase; and if he will make a statement. [260902]

Phil Hope: The personal expenses allowance (PEA), which is the minimum amount of a care home resident's own money he or she must be left with after charges for residential care have been deducted, is currently £21.15 per week. It is raised annually in line with the increase in average earnings to ensure it retains its value. From 6 April, it will increase to £21.90.

As my statement of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 15-16WS, made clear, the estimated cost of raising the PEA to £40 a week, for example, is £250 million a year. None of this extra expenditure would increase the availability, choice or quality of care services, or support the transformation of adult social care provision. Focusing finite social care resources on these aims must remain our priority.

In the longer term, the Government are committed to reforming the care and support system. The forthcoming Green Paper on the future of care and support will consider how care should be funded in the future.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent from the public purse on free nursing care for care home residents in each year since 2003. [261491]

Phil Hope: Data on the spending on free nursing care for care home residents are not collected centrally.

Clinical Physiologists: Regulation

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to regulate the operation of clinical physiologists. [260984]

Mr. Bradshaw: Proposals for the statutory regulation of clinical physiologists will be resolved as part of a separate consultation, as outlined in "The Future of the Healthcare Science Workforce Modernising Scientific

Careers: The Next Steps: A Consultation" published in November 2008. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Plans for a separate consultation on proposals for regulation, will be announced in due course.

Dementia

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 640W, on dementia, where the pilot will take place; how much his Department will spend on the pilot; how many advisers will be employed to work on the pilot; by what process such advisers will be recruited; what qualifications he expects such advisers to hold; and how the outcomes of the pilot will be evaluated. [260834]

Phil Hope: The Department has allocated £4.5 million to fund demonstration and evaluation of dementia advisers. An announcement about the nature and number of the demonstrator sites will be made in the near future. The Department will commission an evaluation of the demonstrator sites to determine lessons learnt for implementation of the National Dementia Strategy.

Dental Services: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the provision of NHS dentistry in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* Dacorum. [261211]

Ann Keen: The numbers of courses of treatments (CoTs) and units of dental activity (UDAs) performed by national health service dentists, in England, are available in Table C6 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics, Quarter 2: 30 September 2008 report. Information is available for 2006-07 and quarterly since 2007-08. Information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA).

This report, published on 26 February 2009, has been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q2

Information for the first two quarters of 2008-09 remain provisional as they are revised in each subsequent report to account for treatments reported too late for inclusion in the previous quarterly report. In the end of year report, published in the August following the end of the financial year, all quarterly activity data are revised for a final time.

Further information about CoTs and UDAs is contained in the above report.

The numbers of dentists with NHS activity during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 are available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08 report. Information is provided by PCT and SHA. This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

Workforce figures relate to headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Information in both reports is based on the PCT boundaries which came into effect on 1 October 2006.

Departmental Scientists

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's budget for scientific advice and research is in 2008-09; for what purposes the equivalent budget for 2007-08 was used; and how many people employed in his Department have a science or engineering degree. [260766]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's research and development budget for the national health service for 2008-09 is £792 million and for its policy research programme is £33 million. The Department has no separately identifiable budget attributable to scientific advice.

The NHS research and development budget provides the means of delivery of the Government's health research strategy and in 2007-08 was in part used to support the work of the National Institute for Health Research and in part allocated to NHS trusts. The policy research programme provides the evidence base for policy development and for the evaluation of policy implementation in health and social care.

The Department does not collate data on the type of academic qualifications held by its staff.

Disabled: Expenditure

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent from the public purse on *(a)* the Supporting People Fund, *(b)* continuing health care, *(c)* independent living funds, *(d)* the disabilities facilities grant, *(e)* funding under section 256 of the National Health Service Act 2006, *(f)* funding under section 28A of the National Health Service Act 1997, *(g)* disability support transport and *(h)* other disability support services in each year since 1997. [260535]

Phil Hope: 'Continuing health and social care' is a package of care that involves services from both the national health service and social care and based on an individual's assessed healthcare (mental or physical) needs. The amount that has been spent in this area alone is not collected centrally.

To calculate the amount of public funding that has gone to fund projects and initiatives under section 256 of the National Health Service Act 2006, section 28A of the National Health Service Act 1997, disability support (for) transport and other disability support services in each year since 1997 would incur disproportionate costs as the information is not collected centrally.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what treatment centres for alcohol and drug misuse there are in England. [260416]

Dawn Primarolo: A centrally-held record exists only for those agencies which report to the national drug treatment monitoring system which includes the national Alcohol Treatment Monitoring System. There is known to be an element of under-reporting. The agencies are listed by locality at:

www.ndtms.net

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average waiting time for a methadone prescription was in each primary care trust in England in the last 12 months; [260856]

(2) what the average waiting time was for referral of a drug user for residential treatment in each primary care trust in England in the last 12 months. [260857]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse collects data on waiting times via the national drug treatment monitoring system. These data are collected in the form of the percentage of people who waited under and over three weeks to access a particular drug treatment intervention.

A table giving average waiting times figures for specialist and general practitioner prescribing, in-patient treatment and residential rehabilitation, as a first and subsequent intervention for each local drug partnership in England has been placed in the Library.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* summits, *(b)* conferences and *(c)* seminars his Department has hosted since January 2008 at which a primary subject for discussion was the impact of the economic situation on matters within his Department's responsibility. [260150]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department routinely considers the impact of the economic situation on health and social care and engages on this with a range of organisations including the national health service and other Government departments as appropriate.

Responding to the economic situation is a priority for the Government. Summits, conferences and seminars are some of the methods used to engage stakeholders in this work and ensure action is coordinated and effective.

Food: Jersey

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions officials from the Food Standards Agency have had with officials in Jersey on the implications of the review of the Jersey food hygiene law for foodstuffs exported from Jersey to the UK; and when they expect the review to be completed. [261013]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency has not had any discussions with officials in Jersey regarding their review of their food hygiene legislation.

General Practitioners

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data his Department collects on the number of *(a)* requests for house calls by GPs and *(b)* house calls made by GPs. [258673]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not routinely collect the information requested. Copies of studies commissioned by the Department on changing workload patterns for general practice have been placed in the Library.

Health Services: Republic of Ireland

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 216-17W, on health services: Republic of Ireland, which aspects of the claims process prevent determining whether previous payments the Government has made to the Republic of Ireland were overpayments. [260830]

Dawn Primarolo: Under the terms of the bilateral agreement, the United Kingdom makes payments to the Republic of Ireland based on average costs. This is in line with European Union regulations. As calculating average costs and having them agreed in Brussels is a lengthy process, the UK makes payments based on estimates until the process is complete. Until average costs for previous years are formally agreed and current bilateral discussions are completed, it is not possible to establish whether any previous payments the UK has made, represent overpayments.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 216-17W, on health services: Republic of Ireland, when bilateral discussions started; and when they will be completed. [260831]

Dawn Primarolo: Bilateral discussions between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland have been ongoing over the last two years. It is hoped that agreement on the substantive points of discussion will be reached before the end of this year.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 216-17W, on health services: Republic of Ireland, what the new evidence which has come to light on payments to be made under the agreement is. [260833]

Dawn Primarolo: Under the terms of the bilateral agreement, the United Kingdom makes payments for a number of pensioners in the Republic of Ireland. Part of the bilateral discussions have been about effectively managing demographic changes. For example, due to changes in working history, far more people have an entitlement to an Irish pension. This results in a shift in the liability for healthcare costs.

Learning Disability: Social Services

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that his Department's funding allocation for social care in the next comprehensive spending review period is adequate to meet the needs of adults with a learning disability. [260516]

Phil Hope: Her Majesty's Treasury have yet to announce the timing of the next spending review and make available the associated guidance. Within the remit given to us by the guidance, my Department plans to make the best possible case for adequate funding for all adults with social care needs—including those with a learning disability—based on available data and evidence.

Decisions on the outcome of spending reviews reflect priorities across the whole of Government, including the overall fiscal position.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding he plans to transfer from the NHS to local government in the transfer to local authority social services departments of commissioning responsibilities for social care for people with learning disabilities. [260534]

Phil Hope: The transfer of specialist social care funding for people with learning disabilities will be made locally from primary care trusts (PCTs) to local authorities for the final two years of this spending review period, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

The figure will be based on returns made to the Department by 1 December 2008 with final agreement between PCTs and local authorities submitted to the Department from all areas by 31 March 2009.

Medicine: Channel Islands

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what analysis the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has made of the compatibility of the Medicines (Human and Veterinary) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2008 with the requirements of the European Medicines Directive; and if he will make a statement; [261011]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1360W, on dietary supplements: EU law, what the outcome of the meeting between officials from Jersey and officials from the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency on 11 February 2009 to discuss implementation of the Medicines Directive in Jersey was; and if he will make a statement. [261012]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has reviewed the Medicines (Human and Veterinary) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law 2008 in respect of human medicinal products and believes that it is not consistent with the Medicines Directive 2001/83/EC. The meeting held on 11 February 2009 between officials from Jersey and officials from the MHRA opened discussions on the implementation of the Medicines Directive in Jersey, these discussions are ongoing.

Mental Health Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the drop out rate for those who started a course of cognitive behavioural therapy was in each of the last three years; [260481]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of the administration of cognitive behavioural therapy treatments by clinical psychologists; [260482]

(3) how many cognitive behavioural therapy sessions the NHS provided on average to persons with *(a)* a mild disorder and *(b)* a serious disorder in the last 12 months. [260490]

Phil Hope: Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services consist of both qualified staff and trainees, the latter are required to attend state of the art training in the delivery of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) and are supervised by experienced psychological therapists with expertise in this therapy.

Current clinical psychology training courses are required to provide training in two evidence-based psychological therapies, one of which must be CBT. However, clinical psychologists trained in the past may not be sufficiently competent to deliver CBT to the standards required of IAPT. Therefore, before staff are employed in Improving Access to Psychological Therapy services and regardless of their professional background their previous training and experience is assessed to ensure that they are competent to provide cognitive behavioural therapy and supervise trainees; these assessments are reviewed by regional clinical leads.

Many different professions are trained to deliver cognitive behaviour therapy including counsellors, nurses, occupational therapists, psychiatrists, social workers, as well as counselling and clinical psychologists. In 2008, 21 per cent. of qualified staff employed in IAPT service were clinical psychologists.

The IAPT programme has been proactive in recruiting newly qualified clinical psychologists as trainees therapists within IAPT services and 10 per cent. of high intensity trainees were clinical psychology graduates in 2008.

Advertisements will shortly be issued to appeal to those graduating this summer. Furthermore, clinical psychology courses are reviewing with the Deaneries how they might fulfil the requirements of IAPT in the future.

Information on average numbers of cognitive behaviour therapy sessions and drop out rates has not been collated nationally. New IAPT services collect the IAPT minimum data set which includes clinical outcomes measures and enables services manage patient care and monitor the flow of patients through services. The programme is currently developing a national data standard to enable the national collation of this data by 2011.

Mental Health Services: Elderly

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* NHS organisations and *(b)* older people's charities on (i) the commissioning of specialist in-reach services from older people's mental health teams and (ii) the provision of mental health services for older people; and if he will make a statement. [260624]

Phil Hope: The Department has not held any recent discussions with national health service organisations and older people's charities on the commissioning of specialist in-reach services from older people's mental health teams and the provision of mental health services for older people.

Mesothelioma: Research

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department is spending on research on mesothelioma in 2008-09. [260591]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave the right hon. Member for Leeds, West (John Battle) on 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2082W.

NHS Treatment Centres: Southampton

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on legal services in relation to the contract for the new independent sector treatment centre in Southampton. [259939]

Mr. Bradshaw: Through the financial years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, the Department has spent approximately £1 million on legal services for the Phase 2 independent sector treatment centre Hampshire and Isle of Wight scheme. This includes the contract for Southampton NHS Treatment Centre at the Royal Southampton Hospital and the Lymington part of the scheme which was withdrawn as a result of the revalidation process.

It is not possible to separate the costs for the Southampton contract itself, but legal costs for the entire scheme included advice on the procurement process, contract drafting and extensive negotiation with bidders. The proportion of legal costs to the contract value is in line with other public sector contracts with the private sector.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations took place at the independent sector treatment centre in Southampton in each month since its establishment. [259947]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of operations by month carried out at Southampton Independent Sector Treatment Centre since its opening is shown in the following table.

Number of operations carried out at Southampton ISTC

	Month	*Number of operations*
2008	[1]November	581
2008	December	442
2009	January	553

[1] Includes activity undertaken in October 2008

NHS: Meals

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of meals were recorded as untouched in Estates Return Information Collection data for each NHS organisation in England in each year since 2002-03. [260848]

Ann Keen: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Food is left untouched or unserved for a variety of reasons, but generally this through the need to provide sufficient food to ensure a choice is available or through changing requirements of patients after the food orders have been made, for example changed clinical status, being discharged, moved or absent for treatment.

Since 2004-05, the data provided have not been collected on a mandatory basis and therefore will not be complete.

The data have been provided by national health service organisations to the Department and have not been amended centrally. The completeness and accuracy of these data are the responsibility of the provider organisation. Where no data or zero data was provided, the NHS trust has been omitted for brevity.

NHS: Research

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* medical research and *(b)* research on the development of medical treatment is being funded by the Department of Health. [261087]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department funds research and development through the National Institute for Health Research, a virtual institute set up to deliver the Government's health research strategy. The Institute provides the national health service infrastructure needed to promote patient involvement in health research and to translate scientific discoveries into new treatments; and supports programmes under which research focussed on improving health and care is commissioned. Details can be found at:

www.nihr.ac.uk

NHS: Working Hours

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date his Department commissioned Sheffield University to conduct research on the effects of the EU working time directive on the NHS; on what date the completed report was submitted to his Department; and if he will place in the Library a copy of that report. [259383]

Ann Keen: In November 2008, Sheffield university was commissioned by the Department to undertake a study on the effects of the European working time directive on the national health service.

The report was delivered 4 March 2009 to the Department. The Department will now consider this information together with the partner organisations who jointly commissioned the work and publish as soon as all comments are on board.

Surgery: Young People

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether a doctor is required to inform the parents of a child aged between 13 and 16 years in cases where the child requires an operation, other than termination of pregnancy; what guidance has been issued by his Department on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [259849]

Ann Keen: Doctors are not required to inform the parents of a child aged between 13 and 16 years where it is believed that the child requires an operation, and should not do so where this would breach the confidentiality of a child judged to be competent who has requested that parents should not be informed. It is best practice, however, for a doctor to encourage a child to involve parents in decisions about care and treatment, and where a child lacks competence the doctor must act in the best interests of the child, which would normally mean that parents should be told.

Guidance on confidentiality has been provided by the Department in its publication "Confidentiality: NHS Code of Practice" which is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Informationpolicy/Patientconfidentialityandcaldicottguardians/DH_4100550

A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Teenage Pregnancy

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of programmes intended to reduce the number of teenage pregnancies. [260790]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1457W, to the hon. Member for Guildford (Anne Milton).

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government is taking to tackle anti-social behaviour. [258856]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 2 March 2009]*: Tackling antisocial behaviour has been a top priority for this Government since 1997. Under leadership of the Home Office Departments across Government (including the Ministry of Justice, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, and the Department for Communities and Local Government) are working together to combat it. Over the past 10 years we have introduced a wide range of tools and powers to tackle antisocial behaviour which are being used by practitioners to bring relief to communities across the country.

Last year we announced new initiatives for tackling ASB focusing on early intervention. These included the publication of a definitive guide for ASB practitioners and the establishment of a new action squad to help police and local agencies make full use of all the tools and powers available to tackle antisocial behaviour. We also introduced premises closure orders to allow police forces and local authorities to take action on premises which cause significant and persistent disorder or serious nuisance to the community. Strengthening the supportive and preventative tools is very important and from February this year we have introduced mandatory one-year review of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) and extended the use of individual support orders (ISOs) for young people. The NAO report on Tackling Antisocial Behaviour in 2006 confirmed that our approach works. It found that 65 per cent. of people desisted from ASB after one intervention and nine out of 10 had desisted after three interventions.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in the last five years in Greater London; and how many persons to whom such orders have been issued have demonstrated antisocial behaviour in that period. [258711]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The latest available data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued is up to the end of 2006. Between 2002 and 2006 there were 1,498 ASBOs issued at all courts in Greater London. Details of the behaviour that led to the ASBO being made is not recorded centrally.

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of the introduction of penalty notices for disorder on the efficiency of police forces in England and Wales. [260065]

Mr. Coaker: We have made no overall assessment. It is a matter for the individual judgment of police officers and police community support officers whether they issue such notices under the guidance and instructions issued by their chief officers taking account of the Police Operational Guidance for Penalty Notices for Disorder issued by the Home Office in March 2005.

The "Diary of a Police Officer" was a study undertaken by PA Consulting in 2001 and published as Police Research Paper 149 in November 2001. Calculations based on the "Diary of a Police Officer" indicate that the time saved in issuing a PND compared to arrest and case preparation is about 7.6 hours for each PND issued in custody. A PND issued on the street would save 9.9 hours for each PND.

Antisocial Behaviour: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department holds statistics on the number of occasions Merseyside police officers have returned children aged 16 years or under to their homes after nine o'clock at night from a designated area since the introduction of this power. [259477]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information received from Merseyside police for the period from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2008 show that 73 children aged under 16 were returned to their homes after 9 pm from a designated area in that police force area.

Asylum: Employment

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have applied for permission to work in the UK under European Directive 2003/9/EC since it was introduced; and how many of these applications have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused. [254613]

Mr. Woolas: Under the provisions of the European directive for reception of asylum seekers, since 5 February 2005 asylum seekers in the United Kingdom have been able to apply for permission to work when a decision on their asylum application has been delayed for at least one year and where that delay was not caused by the applicant. When such permission to work is given, it continues only until such time as the asylum claim is finally determined.

The requested information on the number of applications for permission to work under this arrangement and those granted and refused, is not collated and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost through examination of individual case records.

Closed Circuit Television

Mr. Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of closed circuit television cameras in each local authority area in England *(a)* in total, *(b)* operated by or on behalf of local authorities and *(c)* operated by or on behalf of police forces. [259526]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This information is not available centrally, although this is one of the areas that we will be considering through the National CCTV Strategy in the future.

The National CCTV Strategy was published by the Home Office in October 2007 and contains 44 recommendations designed to increase and measure the effectiveness of CCTV in the United Kingdom.

Crime Prevention: International Cooperation

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has received representations seeking a review of the United Nations conventions on drug control which have been ratified by the UK; and what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of those conventions in meeting her Department's objectives on drug control. [256805]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Representations to review the United Nations conventions on drug control were made to the Government during the debate on 22 January, in another place, on the ten-year review of the 1998 United Nations Political Declaration on countering the world drug problem. On 25 February I met Baroness Meacher, Lord Cobbold and Chris Mullin MP for further discussion of the Government's approach to the ten-year review. The Government stands by the existing international drug control system under the three Conventions. It considers that the international system is a viable basis for control, and that there is no international consensus for reviewing them. The Government believes that the way forward is to build on existing international co-operation to improve the operation of the system.

Crimes of Violence

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the national violent crime rate was in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* the last four months of 2008. [259514]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Victimisation surveys provide the best estimate of rates of violent crime because they include crimes not reported to or recorded by the police. There are separate surveys covering England and Wales (the British Crime Survey), Scotland (the Scottish Crime and Victimisation Survey) and Northern Ireland (the Northern Ireland Crime Survey). All of these surveys report findings on the basis of financial years rather than calendar years.

The violent crime rate per 10,000 adults for England and Wales in 2006-07 and 2007-08 can be found in Table 2.02 in the latest 'Crime in England and Wales 2007-08' publication, a copy of which is in the House of Commons Library.

The violent crime rate per 10,000 adults for Northern Ireland in 2006-07 and 2007-08 can be found in Table A6 in the 'Experience of Crime: Findings from the 2007-08 Northern Ireland Crime Survey' publication at the following link:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/nics_2007-08_experience_of_crime_bulletin.pdf

The violent crime rate per 10,000 adults for Scotland for 2005-06 can be found in Table A2.4 in the '2006 Scottish Crime and Victimisation Survey: Main Findings' publication at the following link:

http://openscotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/200037/0053443.pdf

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of maintaining the databases owned and managed by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies was in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [256151]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information is not held by the Department.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 238W, on departmental ICT, how many staff in her Department and its agencies have the status of embedded communicators and are not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book. [258589]

Mr. Woolas: The following table gives details of embedded communicators (members of the Government Communication Network) in these grades not listed in the Central Office of Information White Book. The Identity and Passport Service does not recognise communication grades.

	Embedded communicators
Home Office crime reduction and community safety group	4
Office for security and counter-terrorism	5
UK Border Agency	14

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish a copy of her Department's website accessibility plan. [257224]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office intends to comply with Level Double-A of the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (version 1.0 or the version 2.0 equivalent) by December 2009. A copy of the Home Office website accessibility policy is published at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/accessibility/

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department were on sick leave for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days in each of the last five years. [256327]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office management information database do not record sickness information in the categories requested and to obtain it would incur a disproportionate cost.

All Government Departments provide sickness absence data to the Cabinet Office which is subsequently published in annual sickness statistics. Sickness absence reports which contain information on the length of absences and date back to 2003 are available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

Domestic Violence

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Government's policy is on measures to reduce rates of domestic violence. [259552]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government's National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan provides the framework to tackle domestic violence. The plan ensures agencies work together to identify, track and risk assess domestic violence cases and better share information so that more offenders are brought to justice, victims are protected and better supported; and further violence is prevented.

One of the key outcomes in our National Domestic Violence Reduction Delivery Plan is to reduce the prevalence of domestic violence, particularly in high incidence areas and/or communities. We are revisiting our delivery plan to ensure a greater focus on prevention. An example would be exploring how to change attitudes and behaviours of key audiences.

One initiative which is currently being promoted through the school curriculum provides scope for education on addressing the underlying causes of violence and abuse relationships. One example is SEAL (social and emotional aspects of learning), which helps children develop their capacity to empathise, show respect and form positive relationships with other people. This can be expected to apply to any form of violent behaviour and thus prevent future incidences of domestic violence.

Domestic Violence: Females

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many female victims of *(a)* murder and *(b)* manslaughter as a result of domestic violence there have been in each year since 2002. [259547]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Available data relate to currently recorded offences of homicide where the victim's relationship to the principal suspect is 'partner or ex-partner' and were published in table 1.05 of "Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2007/08" (HOSB 02/09).

Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide where victim is female and relationship to principal suspect is 'partner or ex-partner', England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2007-08[2, 3]

	Number
2002-03	106
2003-04	96
2004-05	105
2005-06	89
2006-07	87
2007-08	72

[1] As at 4 November 2008, figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Offences are shown according to the year in which they were initially recorded as homicide, which is not necessarily the year in which the offence took place or the year in which any court decision was made.
[3] Data for 2008-09 are not yet published.

Domestic Violence: Offences Against Children

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children under the age of 16 years have been *(a)* murdered by their parents or carers and *(b)* subject to manslaughter as a result of domestic violence in each year since 2002. [259548]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Available data relate to currently recorded offences of homicide where the victim's relationship to the principal suspect is 'son or daughter', and were published in table 1.04 of 'Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2007-08' (HOSB 02/09).

Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide where victim is aged under 16 years and relationship to principal suspect is 'son or daughter', England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2007-08[2, 3]

Year[2]	Number
2002-03	51
2003-04	34
2004-05	30
2005-06	25
2006-07	35
2007-08	43

[1] As at 4 November 2008; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Offences are shown according to the year in which they were initially recorded as homicide, which is not necessarily the year in which the offence took place or the year in which any court decision was made.
[3] Data for 2008-09 are not yet published.

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice she has sought from addiction psychiatrists in formulating her policy on drug misuse. [257416]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government's drug strategy Drugs: protecting families and communities was published on 27 February 2008. The development of the strategy was informed by formal consultation of the public and experts in issues relating to drug misuse. The consultation document Drugs: Our Community, Your Say was launched on 25 July 2007, and the consultation period closed on 19 October 2007.

The Home Office received 1,001 formal written responses to the questions in the full consultation document and the shorter consultation leaflet. Responses were received from a wide range of bodies, including primary care trusts, mental health trusts, treatment services, and voluntary and community sector organisations, such as the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA). A full list of organisations providing formal responses to the consultation is included as an appendix in the consultation report, which is available to download at:

http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/publication-search/drug-strategy/ipsos-moh-report

While addiction psychiatrists were not explicitly targeted through the consultation process, we can be confident that opportunities were provided for their views to have been represented in the returns received from those organisations responding to the consultation. The Home Office continues to engage experts in a range of fields through regular policy seminars covering issues across the full breadth of the strategy.

Drugs: Misuse

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department allocated for programmes to counter the misuse of illegal drugs in each year since 1997; and whether she plans to increase the funding available for such programmes. [259558]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Home Office direct investment in programmes to counter the misuse of illegal drugs and to reduce the harm caused by their use is identified in the Home Office Departmental Report. Figures for each year since 2000-01 are set out in the table.

These figures do not take account of complementary mainstream funding made available by the Home Office which local partnerships draw upon to support delivery of the drug strategy. They form only one element of total Government labelled expenditure on the drug strategy, which in 2008-09 is almost £1 billion. Overall total Government labelled expenditure on the drug strategy has continued to rise since 2000-01.

Changes in the classification of funding in Spending Review 2000 mean that comparison with previous years is not possible.

Home Office departmental report 2008: total expenditure by the Home Office on drugs

£000

	Resource	Capital
Outturn		
2001-02	1,825	0
2002-03	80,169	0
2003-04	96,351	0
2004-05	206,904	2,174
2005-06	200,382	888
2006-07	211,472	20,262
Estimated outturn		
2007-08	206,836	4,500
Plan		
2008-09	188,571	1,500
2009-10	178,249	1,500
2010-11	177,827	1,500

Human Trafficking

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-British citizens have been convicted and subsequently imprisoned in relation to human trafficking offences in each of the last five years. [243319]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Figures from the UK Human Trafficking Centre show a total of 92 foreign nationals have been convicted and imprisoned for the offence of human trafficking.

Kent

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much (*a*) revenue payment, (*b*) capital grant and (*c*) supported borrowing funding has been made available by her Department to (i) Kent county council, (ii) Thanet district council and (iii) Dover district council in 2008-09; and how much such funding is planned for 2009-10 in each case. [255089]

Mr. Woolas: The following information conveys the structural funding provided to local councils; it does not include any ad hoc grants paid to specific local councils for individual projects. To provide information to this level would incur disproportionate cost.

Local authority	*Funding type*	*Fund*	*2008-09 (£)*	*Planned 2009-10 (£)*
Kent county council	Revenue payment	Basic command unit fund	840,965	840,965
Kent county council	Revenue payment	Area based grant	1,984,100	1,984,100
Kent county council	Revenue payment	Drug intervention programme	1,406,770	
Thanet district council	Revenue payment	Basic command unit fund	79,969	79,969

Local authority	Funding type	Fund	2008-09 (£)	Planned 2009-10 (£)
Kent county council	Capital grant	Safer stronger communities fund	514,269	514,269

* Not yet known.

A breakdown of other allocations to Thanet district council and allocations to Dover district council are not retained by the Home Office.

No supported borrowing funding has been provided to Kent county council or its constituent district councils by the Home Office.

Learning Disability: Females

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to amend legislation for which her Department is responsible to remove the term 'female defective' to define a woman with learning difficulties; and if she will make a statement. [259553]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The term 'female defective' was used in section 7 and section 9 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956.

This term was considered as part of a major review of sexual offences which informed the Sexual Offences Act 2003. The review noted that this was an "insulting and unhelpful' term which stemmed from a bygone, unscientific age ("Setting the Boundaries", volume 2, published July 2000).

Section 7 and section 9 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956 were subsequently repealed when the Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into effect on 1 May 2004.

Members: Correspondence

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a reply will be sent to the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood's email to the UK Border Agency of 30 January 2009 on behalf of Amina Mohammed Osman (Home Office Reference Number 01064728, acknowledgement reference B3194/9). [260079]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency wrote to the right hon. Member on 26 February 2009.

Ministers: Security

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of special protection for Government Ministers and officials was in 2007-08. [259954]

Mr. Coaker: It is long established policy not to comment upon matters of personal protective security and their associated costs. Disclosure of such information could compromise the integrity of those arrangements and affect the security of the individuals concerned.

Offenders: Drugs

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of those arrested subsequently tested positive for Class A drugs in 2008; and what the level of voluntary take-up for treatment was. [259557]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Drug testing of offenders for specified Class A drugs (heroin and cocaine/crack) in police custody takes place in 107 BCUs. Offenders arrested or charged with a "trigger offence"—largely acquisitive crime related offences—are required to provide a sample to be tested.

The average rate of positive tests for specified Class A drugs for offenders arrested or charged with a trigger offence in 2007-08 was 38.7 per cent.

The figure for number of offenders entering treatment through DIP includes individuals from both DIP intensive areas (i.e. the 107 BCUs operating drug testing and related interventions) and the non intensive areas of the programme. Offenders from the DIP non intensive BCUs are not drug tested.

The data on the proportion of those who test positive and voluntarily agree to treatment is not available in the format requested. The Drug Interventions Programme does not routinely hold data on those entering treatment only as a result of a positive drug test.

In 2007-08 the number of offenders entering treatment voluntarily through the Drug Interventions Programme was 43,903.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the knives used in knife crimes where convictions have been secured in the last 12 months were domestic or kitchen utensils. [249879]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information held centrally by the Ministry of Justice does not provide details of the weapon used. This information may be held on individual court records, but due to their size and complexity are not reported to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. The cost involved investigating these court records would be disproportionate.

Olympic Games: China

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of policing the Olympic torch relay in London in April 2008; and if she will make a statement. [261577]

Mr. Coaker: The Metropolitan Police reported to the Metropolitan Police Authority that the costs of policing the relay event was £746,000.

Police Community Support Officers: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers operating in Hemel Hemsptead are

(a) funded wholly by Hertfordshire Police, *(b)* funded in part by Dacorum borough council and *(c)* funded wholly by Dacorum borough council. [260087]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information on contributions from local authorities to fund or part-fund PCSO posts is not collected centrally.

Police: Accountability

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government is taking to ensure transparency in the administration and operation of police forces. [258858]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 2 March 2009]:* The Government are committed to ensuring that policing is transparent and responsive and are taking a number of steps to achieve this. Key to ensuring the operation of policing meets this ambition is the Policing Pledge, which has now been implemented in all 43 forces. The pledge sets out a national standard on what the public can expect from the police, underpinned in each area by a set of local priorities, agreed by people in each neighbourhood. The views of local people must also be considered in the drawing up of local policing priorities. These priorities must be contained in the three year policing plan that each police authority is required to produce annually, explaining how they intend the force to realise their objectives.

To bring more transparency to the administration of policing, this work will be supported by the new, more independent role or Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), which will mean that information on the way policing is administered will be available to the public in a readily accessible way for the first time.

The Policing and Crime Bill seeks to improve both transparency and responsiveness in the operation and administration of policing by placing a new duty on police authorities to consider the views of the public in the exercise of their functions. It will also ask HMIC to consider the extent to which this duty has been met when they inspect a police authority.

Police: Deployment

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers will be deployed to police the G20 meeting in London in April; and what the estimated cost of policing the meeting is. [260281]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for the Chief Officers of the forces concerned.

Police: Firearms

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been paid to how many people under the compensation schemes pursuant to section 18 of the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997. [258936]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Over £97 million has been paid out under the schemes in respect of 72,000 claims.

Risk Analysis UK

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 723W, on Risk Analysis UK, what use her Department made of *(a)* Kroll Associates, *(b)* Risk Analysis UK Ltd. and *(c)* other private investigators between June 2001 and May 2005; and for what purposes. [258588]

Mr. Woolas: From records the Home Department inclusive of its agencies has had no contracts with private investigators, Kroll Associates or Risk Analysis UK Ltd. between June 2001 and May 2005.

Security: Entertainers

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of policing the wedding of Jade Goody. [259203]

Mr. Coaker: This is an operational matter for the chief constable of Essex.

Theft: Metals

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* functions, *(b)* budget and *(c)* timetable for operations of the National Metal Theft Crime Unit are; and if she will make a statement. [260449]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 3 March 2009]:* The National Metal Theft Crime Unit (NMTCU) is currently being piloted regionally. The unit will enforce compliance of scrap metal dealers with relevant existing legislation, including the Scrap Metal Dealers Act and Environmental legislation. The operation brings together all the agencies with enforcement powers around the scrap and waste recycling industry including, police, local authority, Environment Agency, HMRC, Trading Standards, Health and Safety. It will ensure compliance with existing legislation and demonstrate the positive affect of working with the legitimate businesses to reduce opportunities for thieves to dispose of their stolen material and profit from crime.

The budget for the NMTCU pilot is £175,000.

The regional pilot is running from 19 January to 31 March 2009.

Victim Support Schemes

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people she plans to appoint to work with the Victims' Champion; what budget her Department will provide for the Victims' Champion for 2009-10; and what arrangements have been made to enable the public to contact the Victims' Champion. [259622]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Ms Payne is supported by a dedicated team at the Office for Criminal Justice Reform comprising one full-time and one part-time (three days per week) members of staff. The budget for the Victims' Champion for this calendar year is £60,000.

Members of the public can contact the Victims' Champion via e-mail at:

victimschampion@cjs.gsi.gov.uk

or in writing c/o Office for Criminal Justice Reform. These contact details are available to the public via the Home Office, Ministry of Justice or Attorney-General's Office. The Victims' Champion is keen to hear from members of the public but will not be taking on individual cases or complaints.

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times information concerning penalty notices for disorder has been disclosed in the context of seeking an anti-social behaviour order. [260069]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are being taken to improve the consistency of use of penalty notices for disorder across police constabularies. [260072]

Mr. Straw: The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 enables the Secretary of State to issue guidance about the exercise of the discretion given to police officers when issuing penalty notices for disorder. The current guidance is being revised with the aim of clarifying the circumstances in which a PND should, and should not, be issued.

Bail

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many convictions there were for breaching conditions imposed on bail in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; [260303]

(2) how many convictions there were for breach of bail in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [260491]

Maria Eagle: Information showing the number of defendants found guilty at all courts for failing to surrender to bail in England and Wales for 2006 and 2007 is in the following table. Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

No found guilty data can be supplied for breaching bail conditions, as they do not constitute a criminal offence.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts of "failing to surrender to bail" under section 6 of the Bail Act 1976, England and Wales, 2006 to 2007[1,2]

	Number
2006	27,564
2007	22,513

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Bail Accommodation and Support Service

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* defendants and *(b)* offenders have been placed in the ClearSprings bail hostels located in the postcode areas (i) PE4 and (ii) PE2 since 1 April 2008; and if he will make a statement; [260910]

(2) pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Beaconsfield of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1164W, on the Bail Accommodation and Support Service, what steps the Bail Accommodation and Support Service took to advise the hon. Member for Peterborough of the identity of the local authority ward in which the two hostels in the PE4 postcode area operated by ClearSprings were to be brought into use; and if he will make a statement. [260911]

Mr. Hanson: Since 1 April 2008 a total of 17 defendants and 10 offenders have been placed at the two private addresses (one of which is reserved for women) provided by ClearSprings in the post code area PE4. Since the same date a total of 18 defendants and 18 offenders have been placed at the two private addresses in post code area PE2.

I wrote to the hon. Member on 10 April 2008 to advise him that accommodation for those on bail and Home Detention Curfew was available in his constituency and to explain the service. At that time it was not my practice to advise the Ward in which the service was located, but that has been my practice since later that month when advising hon. Members of new addresses being used in their constituency. The two properties in the PE4 postcode area, which are not hostels but private rented houses, are in Paston Ward.

Convictions

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 835W, on convictions, how the Government determines what methodology is used to estimate the number of people with unspent convictions. [260604]

Maria Eagle: There are insufficient data to compile accurate statistics on the number of people with unspent convictions. Therefore no methodology has been established.

Were an attempt made to produce an accurate estimate this would require collating the sentences imposed for all convictions during the lifetimes of all those alive today (or a significant sample) and then assessing sentences against the periods specified in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act to establish whether or not the convictions have become spent.

However, as explained in my answer of 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 836W, centralised data do not go back far enough to provide a basis for accurate estimates (centralised data only go back to 2000 with incomplete data for 1997-99 and no centralised data available from before 1997). Furthermore the data which do exist are stored in an inappropriate format for the purpose of the necessary calculations. Any calculation would be further complicated by the fact that the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act also covers foreign convictions (where in many cases the necessary data are unobtainable). Therefore the Government have not attempted to produce statistics on this area and do not intend to do so.

Crimes of Violence

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of defendants charged with *(a)* attempted murder, *(b)* manslaughter and *(c)* attempted rape were granted bail in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [260301]

Maria Eagle: It is not possible to provide the requested information in respect of these individual offences. The annual publication "Criminal Statistics" contains estimates of the number of defendants in certain offence groups who were bailed by the courts. The listed offences are in the "Violence against the person" and "Sexual offences groups", for which the estimated number bailed in 2007 was 60,900 and 9,800 persons respectively ("Criminal Statistics, England and Wales", table 4.10). These figures include those also held in custody for some but not the whole period of the proceedings. Data for 2008 will be available later this year.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals were prosecuted for *(a)* attempted murder, *(b)* manslaughter and *(c)* attempted rape in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [260302]

Maria Eagle: Information showing the number of persons proceeded against for attempted murder, manslaughter and attempted rape in England and Wales for 2006 and 2007 is shown in the following table. Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for attempted murder, manslaughter and attempted rape, England and Wales, 2006 and 2007[1,2]

Offence	*2006*	*2007*
Attempted murder	357	333
Manslaughter	114	105
Attempted rape[3]	232	224

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes attempted rape of a male and female, aged under 13, under 16 and 16 or over.

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Criminal Proceedings: Costs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimates his Department has made of the average cost to the courts of dealing with an offence by *(a)* a caution, *(b)* a penalty notice for disorder and *(c)* a court case. [260008]

Maria Eagle: Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS) do not issue cautions or penalty notices. Therefore HMCS is not able to provide an average cost for these actions.

The average cost of a court case will depend on whether it is heard in a magistrates court or Crown court. It will also depend on the amount of time taken to conclude the case and therefore is not able to calculate a generic average cost.

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff of his Department were recorded absent for non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate he has made of the (i) cost to his Department and (ii) number of working hours lost due to such absence; and what guidance his Department issued to staff in respect of absence on these days. [260474]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice does not hold records centrally of non-medical absences. Gathering data on the numbers of staff who were absent for non medical reasons on 2 February 2009 and 3 February 2009 could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

General guidance was issued on the day to all managers and staff about the disruption caused by the extreme weather conditions where normal travel arrangements were affected by the weather. Each business area provided local advice to staff, and were then responsible for its implementation.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much he has budgeted to spend on external consultants in 2009. [258680]

Maria Eagle: As part of the Ministry of Justice's ongoing Performance and Efficiency Programme (PEP) we have reviewed our use of consultants, reducing them where possible and further reductions are anticipated for subsequent financial years. While general departmental budgets for 2009-10 have been agreed, specific local budgets are still being negotiated at present to incorporate PEP savings. Therefore it is not possible to provide a figure for planned consultancy spend in 2009-10.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many drivers were stopped and fined in each region for driving on an expired licence in each of the last five years. [260868]

Maria Eagle: From information held on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database it is not possible to separately identify driving with an expired licence from other driving licence offences.

Judicial Appointments Commission for England and Wales: Recorders

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applicants applying for the position of recorder with the Judicial Appointments Commission in 2008 were solicitors; and of these applicants how many *(a)* passed the test on 10 March 2008 and *(b)* were selected for appointment. [260426]

Mr. Straw: In 2008, the Judicial Appointments Commission ran a selection exercise for recorder appointments in the North, North East and Wales.

433 eligible applications were received; 89 from solicitors.

220 of the eligible applicants were shortlisted after passing the qualifying test; 42 of these were solicitors.

76 selections were made; seven of these were solicitors.

Of the 433 eligible applicants, 30 were salaried judicial officers holders who were formerly solicitors; 20 of these salaried judicial officers were shortlisted after passing the qualifying test and four of these salaried judicial officers were selected.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applicants applying for the position of recorder with the Judicial Appointments Commission in 2008 described themselves as of *(a)* white ethnicity, *(b)* mixed ethnicity, *(c)* Asian or Asian British ethnicity, *(d)* Black or Black British ethnicity, *(e)* Chinese or Chinese British ethnicity and *(f)* of any other background; and how many of these applicants from each category (i) passed the test on 10 March 2008 and (ii) were selected for appointment. [260427]

Mr. Straw: The Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) collects and publishes data on the ethnicity of eligible applicants for judicial office and publishes statistics on the progress of black and minority ethnic (BME) applicants. Statistics relating to the recorder selection exercise for the North, East and Wales were published on the JAC website on 20 February at:

http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/docs/Recorders_(Northern_North_Eastern_Wales)_2008.pdf

The JAC does not publish statistics relating to BME applicants which further breaks down ethnicity into individual categories, as this would risk the indirect identification of individuals, due to the small numbers contained in some data categories.

The conditions under which applicants provide diversity information include the assurance that their information will be held in confidence; that it will be used for statistical purposes only and; that it will not be used for making selection decisions. Applicants therefore have a reasonable expectation that their precise ethnic identification would remain confidential.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applicants applying for the position of recorder with the Judicial Appointments Commission in 2008 were female; and of these applicants how many *(a)* passed the test on 10 March 2008 and *(b)* were selected for appointment. [260428]

Mr. Straw: In 2008, the Judicial Appointments Commission ran a selection exercise for recorder appointments in North, North Eastern and Wales.

433 eligible applications were received; 115 were women.

220 of those eligible applicants were shortlisted after passing the qualifying test; 57 were women.

76 candidates were selected, of whom, 24 were women.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for the position of recorder the Judicial Appointments Commission received in 2008. [260429]

Mr. Straw: In 2008, the Judicial Appointments Commission ran a selection exercise for recorder appointments in the North, North East and Wales.

433 eligible applications were received.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letters of *(a)* 15 December 2008 and *(b)* 15 January 2009 from the hon. Member for Billericay regarding Mrs. P. Hammond. [260866]

Mr. Malik: My noble Friend Lord Bach will write to the hon. Member shortly. I am sorry for the delay in replying.

Prison Sentences

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders were given an indeterminate sentence for public protection in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [260334]

Mr. Hanson: In 2007, 1,750 indeterminate sentences for public protection were given. In 2008, 1,270 indeterminate sentences for public protection sentences were given, rounded to the nearest 10.

These figures are taken from the public protection unit database within the National Offender Management Service. As with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing.

Prisons: Standards

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the next prison performance ratings are due to be published; and for what reasons not all prisons in England and Wales had ratings published in the last quarter. [260431]

Mr. Hanson: The next prison performance ratings are due to be published for Quarter 3 for all prisons in England and Wales on the Ministry of Justice website in the week commencing 23 March. From time to time, some prisons will not be rated in a particular quarter and reasons for this can include the function of a prison having recently changed or, exceptionally, an absence of appropriate performance data to inform a rating.

Repossession Orders: Braintree

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court orders have been issued for the repossession of homes in Braintree constituency in each of the last five years. [260381]

Bridget Prentice: Figures for Braintree constituency are not available. However, statistics on mortgage and landlord possession orders for county courts in the south east of England (1987-2008) are available via the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/stats-landlord-mortgage-historic-20-02-09.xls

These include figures for Chelmsford and Colchester county courts, which are nearest to Braintree constituency.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, geographical boundaries of county courts may not necessarily be consistent with other administrative or constituency boundaries. Repossession orders made at Chelmsford and Colchester county courts may therefore relate to properties in other constituencies besides Braintree.

These figures do not indicate how many homes have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made while not all court orders result in repossession.

Sentencing

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to raise awareness amongst the judiciary of community service alternatives to prison sentences. [259546]

Maria Eagle: While sentencing in individual cases is entirely a matter for the judiciary, the Government believe that prison should be reserved for serious, dangerous and seriously persistent offenders. However, prison may not be the most effective option for other offenders, who may better be punished in the community. The Government have ensured that tough non-custodial sentences are available. The Government have put mechanisms in place, both locally and nationally, to ensure sentencers are aware of the community services sentences that are available.

Shoplifting: Sentencing

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of *(a)* males and *(b)* females who were convicted of shoplifting received a (i) community sentence, (ii) custodial sentence and (iii) court fine in the last 12 months. [260062]

Maria Eagle: The available information is provided in the table.

Sentencing statistics 2008 will be published towards the end of 2009.

Percentage of offenders given sentence types for shoplifting offences, by sex, 2007

	Male	*Female*
Number of community sentences	14,844	5,699
Percentage of community sentences	32	37
Number of immediate custodial sentences	9,245	2,021
Percentage of immediate custodial sentences	20	13
Number of suspended sentences	2,357	755
Percentage of suspended sentences	5	5
Number of fines	7,875	1,955
Percentage of fines	17	13
Total sentenced	47,031	15,295

Notes:
1. These data are on the principal offence basis.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
3. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
CMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Witnesses: Interviews

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research his Department has conducted into provision for interviews with *(a)* witnesses and *(b)* vulnerable witnesses since 2002. [259563]

Maria Eagle: Neither the Home Office nor the Ministry of Justice have published research on witnesses in general.

The Home Office has published the following research since 2002 about special measures for vulnerable and intimidated witnesses which included consideration of the interview stage in relation to the use of video recorded statements admitted as evidence-in-chief:

"Are special measures working? Evidence from surveys of vulnerable and intimidated witnesses" Hamlyn B, Phelps A, Turtle J and Sattar G (London: Home Office Research Study No.283; June 2004) Available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/hors283.pdf

"Are special measures for vulnerable and intimidated witnesses working? Evidence from the criminal justice agencies" Burton M, Evans R and Sanders A (Home Office Online Report 01/06) Available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/rdsolr0106.pdf

Additionally the Ministry of Justice has published the following research about the intermediary special measure which can be used at the interview stage:

"The 'Go-Between': evaluation of intermediary pathfinder projects" Plotnikoff J and Woolfson R (London: Ministry of Justice Research Summary No. 1; June 2007).

Summary available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/RS-int-pathfinders-projects.pdf

Full report at:

http://lexiconlimited.co.uk/PDF%20files/Intermediaries_study_report.pdf

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1383W, on departmental data protection, what types of sensitive personal data are exchanged between his Department and local authorities; and for what general purposes. [253494]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's formal registration with the Information Commissioner lists the types of personal data that are held by the Department and for what purposes, and the bodies with whom, that data may be shared. Local government is listed as a potential recipient for data held under three of the four broad purposes described in the registration. This does not mean that each of the listed types of data is always shared with local authorities: data are only shared where there is a legal power to do so, and a judgment that the sharing of data is both operationally necessary and proportionate. A fuller account of the Department's approach to the use of personal information is contained in "DWP and your personal information", which can be found on the Department's public website, and a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have *(a)* claimed and *(b)* received disability living allowance as a result of having a child with a behavioural problem in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [259482]

Jonathan Shaw: Entitlement to disability living allowance is not dependent on a diagnosis or condition but relies instead on the care and/or mobility needs arising. In the case of a child with a behavioural problem, needs may arise as a result of physical or mental complications.

Information about the number of claims for a child with a behavioural problem could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The available information is in the table.

Disability living allowance: number of cases in payment for under 16-year-olds where a behavioural disorder is recorded as the main disabling condition

As at August each year	*Number of cases*
2001	44,700
2002	52,200
2003	59,500
2004	65,700
2005	70,200
2006	73,000
2007	75,600
2008	75,600

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred and have been adjusted to be consistent with WPLS data.
2. Although the preferred data source for benefit statistics is 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, the 5 per cent. sample data have been used in this case because they provide some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of disability living allowance claimants.
3. Where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.
4. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes.
5. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of households in *(a)* Darlington constituency, *(b)* County Durham and *(c)* England in which more than one individual receives the winter fuel allowance. [258258]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the table that follows.

The following table shows the total number of individuals who received a winter fuel payment and those who received a shared payment. Figures are for winter 2006-07, the latest year for which figures are available.

	Total number of payments	*Shared payments*
Darlington constituency	17,760	7,780
County Durham	105,610	47,330
England	10,028,780	4,732,410

Notes:
1. A shared payment is made if there is more than one person entitled in a household. If however, an entitled person is receiving pension credit, income-based jobseeker's allowance or income support then their payment is not shared. In these cases that person receives a full payment.
2. Figures from are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Parliamentary constituencies and counties are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:
Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

We expect that similar numbers of individuals will receive shared winter fuel payments in 2008-09.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of both incapacity benefit and employment support allowance were aged *(a)* under 30 years and *(b)* under 40 years old in the most recent year for which figures are available; and how many of them in each case had been in receipt of the benefits for five years or more. [259084]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions will be publishing National Statistics on Employment and Support Allowance in summer 2009. The available information is in the table.

Number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants by age and duration

	November 2007	*February 2008*	*May 2008*	*August 2008*
Less than 30 years				
All	325,360	320,640	317,100	318,980
Up to five years	240,760	235,720	232,150	233,720
Five years and over	84,600	84,920	84,950	85,260
30 years to 40 years				
All	444,210	437,470	430,950	427,550
Up to five years	224,780	219,530	214,780	213,020
Five years and over	219,430	217,950	216,170	214,530

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Durations refer to incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance awards.
3. Data are for GB and abroad.

Source:
The Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Industrial Injuries: Compensation

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to establish a compensation scheme to make provision for the payment of employer liability claims for injury and illness which relate to employers whose insurers cannot be traced. [260503]

Mr. McNulty: The Government have no plans to introduce such a scheme but are fully committed to ensuring that people who become ill as a result of their work can receive the compensation to which they are entitled.

The Code of Practice for Tracing Employers' Liability Insurance Policies enables potential claimants to identify employer's liability policies which they need to claim against. The Department for Work and Pensions monitors the success rate of the Code of Practice, and works with insurers and claimant representatives to improve tracing success rates. For example, we have asked the Association of British Insurers to consider the feasibility of an electronic database for recording details of all future employers' liability insurance policies.

Jobcentre Plus: Labour Turnover

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus staff have been *(a)* recruited and *(b)* made redundant in each Jobcentre Plus region in each (i) year, (ii) month and (iii) quarter since 1 January 2006; and if he will make a statement. [249890]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking, how many Jobcentre Plus staff have been (a) recruited and (b) made redundant in each Jobcentre Plus region in each (i) year, (ii) month and (iii) quarter since 1 January 2006. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I enclose the information requested. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus: Sutton

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the address is of each Jobcentre which has closed in the London borough of Sutton since 2002; on what date each closed; and if he will make a statement. [258542]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the full address is of each jobcentre which has closed in the London borough of Sutton since 2002; on what date each closed; and if he will make a statement. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

On 5 January 2007 we closed Sutton Jobcentre at 240 High Street, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 1PA. This was replaced by the Sutton Jobcentre Plus office at Helena House, 348 High Street, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 1PX which we opened on 9 January 2007.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many calls were received by each Jobcentre Plus call centre in each of the last 24 months; and what the *(a)* average waiting time for calls to be dealt with and *(b)* number of dropped calls was in each call centre in each of those months. [251407]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 26 January 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked the acting chief executive to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many calls were received by each Jobcentre Plus call centre in each of the last 24 months; and what the (a) average waiting time was for such calls to be dealt with in each month;

and (b) how many dropped calls there were in each month. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Information about the average waiting time for calls to be dealt with is not available at individual Call Centre level. Information about how many calls were answered or abandoned is only available at site level until July 2008 when our network became virtual. This means the network of 33 sites operates as a single network so the number of calls answered is only available at national level. I have placed the available information in the Library.

Lehman Brothers: Pensions

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what requests have been made to the Pension Protection Fund in respect of employees of Lehman Brothers by the Lehman Pension Fund Trustees. [260370]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 2 March 2009]:* Following a qualifying insolvency event the Lehman Brothers pension scheme entered an assessment period on the 15 September 2008. The assessment period will last for a minimum of one year and could be longer. Disclosure of scheme-specific information is restricted under section 197 of the Pensions Act 2004.

During the assessment period, the Lehman Brothers pension fund trustees retain responsibility for the administration of the scheme and for communicating with and making pension payments to scheme members. The trustees must continue to act in the interests of all the scheme members. However, during an assessment period, various restrictions and controls will apply in relation to the scheme. In particular, pensions will be restricted to pension protection fund compensation levels.

During the assessment period the Pension Protection Fund will work with the trustees to establish whether the scheme has sufficient assets to pay benefits at least as good as PPF compensation. The PPF will in particular seek to pursue any debts owed to the scheme.

Roscommon Way Extension

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment has been made of the effect of the Roscommon Way Extension on Canvey Island on the *(a)* pipelines and *(b)* other major accident hazard sites in its vicinity; and if he will make a statement. [259636]

Jonathan Shaw: The Health and Safety Executive has made no assessments of the impact of the Roscommon Way Extension on Canvey Island on major accident hazard sites or pipelines in its vicinity.

Social Security Benefits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the processing time for each new benefit claim was, broken down by benefit type in each of the last 24 months; [249280]

(2) how many new benefit claims waiting to be processed there were in each of the last 24 months, broken down by benefit type. [249281]

Kitty Usher *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* The number of outstanding claims provides a snapshot of claims that are waiting to be processed at the end of the month. It is entirely possible that claims outstanding at the end of the month will be processed within the average actual clearance time target.

The available information is in the following tables.

New claims-average actual clearance times

Days

	Bereavement benefits	*Incapacity benefit*	*Incapacity benefit for young people*	*Income support*	*Jobseeker's allowance*	*Maternity allowance*
January 2007	14.27	16.97	26.23	9.7	13.1	13.68
February 2007	16.64	14.73	24.9	8.93	13.4	14.89
March 2007	17.75	13.77	24.16	8.79	12.85	13.2
April 2007	16.04	13.97	25.81	9.34	12.62	14.77
May 2007	17.22	13.98	24.55	9.84	12.49	17.7
June 2007	20.55	14.61	28.15	9.54	11.04	16.77
July 2007	18.99	13.62	25.25	9.37	11.25	16.95
August 2007	19.09	12.46	22.11	9.62	11.47	18.07
September 2007	18.64	12.19	23.53	9.64	10.61	21.36
October 2007	22.29	12.35	24.96	9.43	10.22	22.25
November 2007	17.76	11.93	26.4	9.19	9.42	19.79
December 2007	23.1	13.02	28.37	9.52	9.89	19.08
January 2008	19.13	13.6	27.81	8.93	9.79	19.54
February 2008	16.28	11.32	24.31	7.92	9.75	17.53
March 2008	18.2	11.41	22.14	8.09	9.43	17.19
April 2008	15.75	11.11	24.31	8.4	9.94	19.63
May 2008	16.74	11.33	20.98	8.15	9.65	20.45
June 2008	17.74	11.2	22.01	8.08	9.9	22.83
July 2008	14.06	11.29	21.33	8.14	10.19	26.14
August 2008	14.1	11.34	19.81	8.15	10.43	27.87
September 2008	14.94	12.04	22.19	8.46	10.02	27.55

New claims-average actual clearance times

Days

	Bereavement benefits	*Incapacity benefit*	*Incapacity benefit for young people*	*Income support*	*Jobseeker's allowance*	*Maternity allowance*
October 2008	14.87*	12.38	23.96	8.65	9.94	13.28
November 2008	13.18	15.57	27.84	9.41	9.99	10.68
December 2008	14.62	21.68	31.99	9.35	10.36	12.21

New claims-average actual clearance times

Days

	Pension credit	*Disability living allowance*	*Attendance allowance*	*Carer's allowance*
January 2007	15.2	36.9	17.1	10.5
February 2007	15.8	36.9	16.9	10.5
March 2007	16.4	36.8	16.6	10.6
April 2007	15.7	35.8	14.8	10.5
May 2007	15.0	36.9	15.4	10.3
June 2007	15.0	36.9	15.5	10.4
July 2007	16.8	37.2	15.7	10.8
August 2007	16.5	37.4	16.0	11.0
September 2007	16.7	37.7	16.1	11.2
October 2007	15.4	37.7	15.9	11.6
November 2007	15.8	37.5	15.8	11.7
December 2007	16.3	37.5	15.8	12.1
January 2008	16.3	37.3	15.8	12.1
February 2008	14.8	36.6	15.5	12.2
March 2008	13.2	36.0	15.2	12.4
April 2008	14.2	29.4	13.2	13.8
May 2008	14.1	29.5	12.8	13.9
June 2008	14.5	29.5	12.8	13.7
July 2008	15.6	29.4	12.8	13.3
August 2008	14.9	29.5	12.7	13.1
September 2008	14.1	29.8	12.8	13.0
October 2008	13.8	29.9	12.7	12.7
November 2008	14.8	29.9	12.6	12.6
December 2008	14.9	30.1	12.6	12.6

State pensions new claims-clearance target

	State pension (percentage within 60 days or less)
January 2007	95.7
February 2007	94.9
March 2007	94.8
April 2007	91.1
May 2007	88.3
June 2007	89.2
July 2007	89.6
August 2007	91.4
September 2007	93.1
October 2007	94.8
November 2007	96.4
December 2007	95.8
January 2008	96.4
February 2008	96.0
March 2008	96.7
April 2008	95.8
May 2008	94.4
June 2008	92.4
July 2008	91.6
August 2008	92.0
September 2008	92.2
October 2008	96.8
November 2008	97.7
December 2008	97.0

State pensions new claims-clearance target

Source:
Management Information.

Social Security Benefits: Interest Rates

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what factors are taken into account in determining the interest rate assumption for calculating entitlement to benefits. [253642]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The first £6,000 of capital (£10,000 for those in care homes) is fully disregarded in the income related benefits: income support, jobseekers allowance (income based), employment support allowance (income based) pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit.

The formula for calculating the amount of notional income assumed from capital in the income related benefits is not intended to represent any rate of return that could be obtained from investing capital. It provides a simple method of calculating the weekly contribution that people with capital in excess of the level of the disregard are expected to make from their resources to help meet their normal living costs. As there is no link with actual market rates, the tariff income rates within the income related benefits remained unaltered throughout the period of rising interest rates, just as they have done more recently, when interest rates have been lower.

On the introduction of income support in 1988, there was a capital disregard of £3,000 and an upper capital limit of £6,000. Notional income was assumed on capital between these amounts at a rate of £1 for each £250 or part of £250. The rate of tariff income applied to capital in pension credit, which was introduced in 2003, is half the rate of tariff income applied to capital in income support, at £1 for each £500 or part of £500.

Upon the introduction of pension credit the rate of tariff income applied to capital housing benefit and council tax benefit for those people who have attained the qualifying age for pension credit was also changed to come into line with that which is applied to pension credit.

Unemployed: New Businesses

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to assist unemployed people to start their own businesses. [260188]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 2 March 2009]:* The Department offers a self-employment programme to long-term jobseekers through the new deal. This programme offers business advice and, for those who need it, up to six months of 'test trading'. During test trading the jobseeker receives support from an expert provider and may remain on benefits.

From October, the flexible new deal will start to replace the current suite of new deal programmes, from which point flexible new deal providers will be responsible for deciding how best to help those jobseekers who wish to become self-employed.

The Government want to do as much as they can to help people through this economic downturn. From April, further help will be available to all those who have been out of work and claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months or more. Working with Business Link in England and through the devolved Administrations, the Government will provide access to short, focused courses on self employment for a wide range of customers. For those who are successful in moving into self-employment, financial support will be offered during the first few months of trading while customers get their businesses going.

Vocational Guidance: Autism

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the contribution of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 188, on the Welfare Reform Bill to the hon. Member for Erewash (Liz Blackman), if he will place in the Library a copy of the procedures to be followed by job advisers in helping people with autistic spectrum disorder into work. [258027]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question requesting that a copy of the procedures to be followed by job advisers in helping people with autistic spectrum disorder into work, be placed in the Library. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There is no single set of procedures to be followed by advisers which are solely focused on helping people with autistic spectrum disorder into work. Jobcentre Plus policy is to develop our people in the skills required to manage a range of behaviours demonstrated by customers, covering a variety of health conditions. This approach ensures that they are equipped to deal with a diverse set of circumstances whilst treating customers as individuals. Skilled employment advisers look at the interaction between the person, the job and an individual's ability. Advisers ensure that job goals relate to the person's abilities and that relevant solutions are identified in order to overcome any barriers a customer might face in a particular job.

The learning programme for Jobcentre Plus advisers focuses on raising awareness of the customer's personal circumstances and the impact on their ability to move into a sustainable job. Jobcentre Plus also recognises that disabilities and health conditions can affect individuals in different ways. Guidance for advisers includes background information on a number of conditions, including Autistic Spectrum Disorder, the implications for interviews and how to use questioning techniques in order to support customers. Disability Employment Advisers, who focus on customers needing more extensive support, receive further levels of skills training appropriate to their customers, including skills practice in interviewing an autistic person to ensure key learning points are communicated in an effective way.

I have placed in the Library copies of the autism guide notes for advisers and those for Disability Employment Advisers.

The Department for Work and Pensions is a Gold member of the Employers Forum on Disability and will be fully engaged with a forthcoming autism telephone tutorial being held by the Forum on 2 April 2009. Jobcentre Plus staff will be encouraged to access this event and it will be publicised on the Jobcentre Plus intranet site, so that full advantage of this learning opportunity is taken. This will help develop an even greater understanding of autism and the issues related to employment. I will also ensure that any developments which come from the question and answer sessions are made available to advisers.

Vocational Training: East Riding

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what Government-funded re-training courses are available for people in the East Riding of Yorkshire who are not eligible for the Rapid Response Service; what qualifications these courses can lead to; and if he will make a statement. [254042]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what Government-funded re-training courses are available for people in the East Riding of Yorkshire who are not eligible for the Rapid Response Service and what qualifications these courses can lead to. These are issues that fall within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus is able to access a combination of Government and European Social Funding to offer training for people who find themselves unemployed. I am pleased to tell you that our Regional Minister, Rosie Winterton, recently announced that across Yorkshire and the Humber, Rapid Response Service funding can now be offered to any individual losing their job due to redundancy.

In East Riding of Yorkshire, Jobcentre Plus Advisers are able to refer customers to a range of training provision delivered by our providers Working Links, In Training, A4E and East Riding College. They offer short duration training, mixing accredited and non-accredited provision that is relevant to the local labour market. Qualifications available include health and hygiene certificates, safety passports, fork lift driving licences, manual handling certificates, SIA licences to allow people to work in the security industry as well as help with literacy and numeracy.

The same provision helps individuals with the soft skills that employers look for such as self presentation and team work. Our

approach reflects what local employers tell us they look for in their recruitment, through Sector Skills Councils and other representative organisations.

In addition, the Learning Skills Council (LSC) fully funds any first level 2 qualification and many level 3 qualifications. These are delivered through a mixture of Further Education Colleges, private sector and community based providers and can be delivered full time or part time to best suit the individual.

People who become unemployed, or those under threat of redundancy, can get impartial information, advice and guidance about qualifications and training they need to move into their chosen career from the LSC funded Next Step service. This is actively promoted by Jobcentre Plus advisers.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer question 251164, tabled on 21 January 2009, on payment of jobseeker's allowance to prisoners on release. [256925]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member's question on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 354W.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database at *(a)* Anderson House, *(b)* Heron House, *(c)* St David's House, *(d)* Delta House, *(e)* Royal Exchange House, *(f)* Civic House, *(g)* Capital Tower, *(h)* St Mary's House and *(i)* Atholl House is in 2008-09. [258533]

Mr. McFadden: The estimated costs for business rates for vacant space in the buildings covered by the question, as at 24 February 2009, are as listed:

(a) £11,088
(b) Not vacant
(c) £3,539
(d) £3,270
(e) Not vacant
(f) £17,761
(g) Not vacant
(h) £32,940 (partially vacant)
(i) Not vacant

Import Duties: USA

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions his Department has had with the US administration on trade tariffs. [259880]

Mr. Thomas: The Government have regular contact with the US Administration on a range of issues, including trade policy and tariffs. We will continue to press strongly for no new protectionist measures, including tariff increases, and for effective advocacy of open markets and their importance.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to Question 256515, tabled on 9 February 2009, when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford of 24 November 2008 on his constituent Mr. Alan Briggs of Walford Place, Chelmsford. [261078]

Mr. McFadden: I responded to the hon. Member on 27 February.

Prince Andrew

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the review undertaken by PricewaterhouseCoopers into the activities of HRH the Duke of York in his capacity as UK Special Representative for International Trade and Investment. [259351]

Mr. Thomas: The PricewaterhouseCoopers report is a private report and a matter for HRH the Duke of York.

A copy of the report is not held by either BERR or UK Trade and Investment (UKTI).

Royal Mail: Finance

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much revenue he estimates would be received from the sale of 30 per cent. of Royal Mail. [261154]

Mr. McFadden: The consideration received as a result of any partnership arrangements will be subject to commercial negotiation with the chosen partner. It is not appropriate to provide an estimate at this stage.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Fuel Poverty

6. **Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of progress towards meeting the Government's 2010 and 2016 targets for reducing fuel poverty. [260727]

Joan Ruddock: While the Government believe they continue to do all that is reasonably practicable to reduce fuel poverty by the target dates, we recognise that the current mix of fuel poverty measures is unlikely to eradicate fuel poverty among the vulnerable by 2010. Driven by the effect of higher energy prices on fuel poverty numbers and by the Government's more ambitious aims for reducing carbon emissions, we are undertaking a review of fuel poverty policies and objectives. Initial findings of this review are expected in the summer.

Domestic Heating Oil

7. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on the price of heating oil for domestic use; and if he will make a statement. [260728]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Unsurprisingly, the Government have received frequent representations on the price of domestic heating oil when it increases, especially following the dramatic rise in crude oil prices during 2008.

The price trend of the last few months has been down. Changes in exchange rates have offset some of the falls that might otherwise have occurred, but prices are now around 50 per cent. below their peak in July 2008 and at their lowest level for more than 18 months.

Combined Heat and Power

8. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the contribution of combined heat and power to meeting the Government's targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions. [260729]

Joan Ruddock: Combined heat and power has an important role to play in moving the UK towards a thriving, competitive, low-carbon economy. An assessment of its potential in the UK was published by DEFRA in October 2007. We launched a consultation on 12 February on the draft Heat and Energy Efficiency strategy, which will examine the role of combined heat and power in meeting our forthcoming carbon budgets and other targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

Nuclear Generation

9. **Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the role of nuclear generation in the provision of a balanced energy supply in the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [260730]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In the Nuclear White Paper the Government made clear their view that new nuclear has a vital role to play in the UK's future energy mix. Nuclear is a low-carbon energy source and can help address the twin challenges of tackling climate change and ensuring the security of energy supply.

We are taking active steps to facilitate early deployment of new nuclear build in the UK, by increasing certainty for investors and removing unnecessary obstacles.

Gas Storage

10. **Miss Kirkbride:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the volume of gas stored in the UK. [260731]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: National Grid publishes levels of gas storage stocks on its website, and these figures are updated on a daily basis. Following increases in the amount of gas storage volume last week, as at 3 March 2009, the total volume of gas storage stocks in the UK was 1.26 billion cu m. The UK's total gas storage capacity is approximately 4.4 billion cu m. At this stage of the winter that is what we would expect. Gas storage is there to be used.

Home Energy Efficiency

11. **Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to increase his Department's support for home energy efficiency measures. [260732]

Joan Ruddock: On 12 February we published a Heat and Energy Saving Strategy consultation on the Government's long-term vision for dramatically increasing the energy efficiency of our homes and businesses and expanding the provision of low carbon heat. We are also consulting on a 20 per cent. increase to the existing household carbon saving obligation on energy suppliers and on introducing a new £350 million community programme to deliver carbon abatement measures to households in deprived communities.

Renewable Energy Generation

12. **Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made towards the Government's 2020 targets for renewable energy generation; and if he will make a statement. [260733]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East (James Duddridge) earlier today.

Domestic Energy Tariffs

13. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of likely changes to domestic energy tariffs in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [260735]

17. **Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of likely changes to domestic energy tariffs in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [260739]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: One of the six largest energy suppliers has already reduced its prices, and a further four have announced that they will do so from the end of March. Recent high prices have been driven mainly by unprecedentedly high wholesale costs for both gas and electricity, which make up around 60 per cent. of the cost of an average domestic bill. Ofgem's estimations of the suppliers' purchasing strategies show that the supply companies' costs peaked towards the end of 2008 and, on the basis of current forward wholesale prices, are expected to decline throughout 2009. Ofgem are now reporting on a quarterly basis on the link between wholesale and retail energy prices as it is vitally important that energy suppliers pass further savings on to their customers.

Pre-Payment Meters

14. **Mr. Devine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with energy suppliers on their use of pre-payment meters; and if he will make a statement. [260736]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have met all energy suppliers over the past months on a number of occasions. At these meetings, we have made clear that suppliers should not improperly discriminate against customers due to their method of payment. Ofgem has recently consulted on how best to do this, and we await with interest the outcome of this consultation.

Global Warming

15. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the scientific evidence for global warming. [260737]

Joan Ruddock: The most recent comprehensive report assessing the scientific evidence for global warming is the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fourth Assessment Report, published in 2007. In December 2008, at the Government's request, the Committee on Climate Change reported to Government on the nature of the climate change threat and recommended actions that the UK should undertake. We continue to commission research from the Met Office Hadley Centre and others on climate change.

Kingsnorth Power Station

16. **Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the proposed new generating units at Kingsnorth power station; and if he will make a statement. [260738]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The application by E.ON UK Plc for consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for a 1600MW coal fired generating station is currently with the Department. A decision on the application will follow the conclusion of both the consultation of carbon capture readiness and the planned new consultation on a new framework for coal fired power stations.

Carbon Emissions: Research

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the future skills needs of low-carbon, resource-efficient industrial sectors. [256464]

Joan Ruddock: In 2008, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs commissioned a review of the evidence of the skills that are, or will be, needed for a low carbon resource-efficient economy. The review was commissioned to identify gaps in the evidence base and help inform policy development in this area, and as such no evaluation of it has been commissioned. However, the review's conclusions are being discussed with stakeholders.

Fossil Fuels: North Sea

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to maximise the supply of oil and gas from the North Sea and the UK continental shelf. [260726]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: With around 20 billion barrels, or more, remaining, there is plenty of life left in the North sea. Our 25th licensing round produced the highest number of licenses ever offered—171 to 99 companies, industry continues to respond strongly to our initiatives to stimulate activity via licensing innovations, releasing fallow acreage and boosting production from older fields. With industry, we will continue to squeeze as much from the North sea as possible for years to come.

Green Neighbourhoods Initiative

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many communities have had environmentally-friendly improvements sponsored by the Green Neighbourhoods Initiative. [254124]

Joan Ruddock: The Government announced in April 2008 their intention to launch a new green neighbourhoods programme. We asked the Energy Saving Trust to develop a community-based approach which would help up to 100 selected neighbourhoods in England reduce their carbon footprints by 60 per cent. The scheme is currently still in development and we will be making decisions shortly on its future.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with energy suppliers on the availability of liquefied petroleum gas. [260734]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There are a large number of LPG suppliers and the Department hopes to meet their trade groups in due course.

Warm Front Scheme

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of public expenditure on grants to individual households for *(a)* renewable energy installations and *(b)* energy efficiency measures over the next six years. [257668]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) Phase 1 provides grants to householders to install renewable and low carbon technologies. It aims to run through to June 2010 for new applications and the current forecast for grant commitment is:

	£
2009-10	4,590,000
2010-11	3,165,000

The largest energy efficiency programme in the household sector is carbon emission reduction targets (CERT), which runs from 2008-11 and which is paid for by energy suppliers, not Government. We estimate that, over 2008-11, energy suppliers will pay around £3.2 billion for this programme although they may reach their carbon saving target at lower cost than expected. In addition, the decent homes programme supports social housing in England only and around £250 million was spent on energy efficiency in social housing during EC2 (2005-08) and the CERT calculations are based on the assumption that this level of commitment will continue until 2011.

In terms of the warm front scheme, the funding for the current period (2008-11) is set at £959 million. Current estimates suggest that the scheme will complete approximately 266,000 heating jobs and 210,000 insulation jobs in this period. It is not possible to provide projections relating to spend after this time.

The policy landscape for energy saving after 2011-12 is not yet fixed. The Government recently released the heat and energy saving strategy for consultation, which outlines the various options and some of these are based on continued commitments from energy suppliers.

Warm Front Scheme: Lighting

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assumptions his Department makes in calculating the carbon abatement accruing from the provision of energy efficient light bulbs under the Warm Front scheme. [255882]

Joan Ruddock: Warm Front is estimated to save an average of 1.3 tonnes of CO_2 per year for every household assisted. This figure is calculated using the industry standard software, and as such no assumptions are made by the Department about the impact of individual measures.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to abolish air passenger duty; and what scheme will replace it. [260904]

Angela Eagle: The Government have no plans to abolish air passenger duty.

Banks: Credit

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the vulnerability of UK financial institutions to credit default swaps. [260212]

Mr. Timms: As the memorandum of understanding between HM Treasury, the Bank of England and the Financial Services Authorities (FSA) sets out, it is the FSA that is responsible for prudential supervision of individual banks.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what credit default swaps *(a)* have been issued in the last five years and *(b)* are held by each bank regulated by the Financial Services Authority. [260263]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury does not hold this information.

Banks: Pay

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the rate of change in salaries of company directors and senior executives as a result of salary pay review boards; and if he will make a statement. [260424]

Mr. Timms: The salaries paid to company directors and senior executives in the private sector are a matter for the boards of those companies, their remuneration committees and their shareholders.

The Directors' Remuneration Report Regulations 2002 require quoted companies to publish a report on directors' remuneration as part of its annual reporting process and give shareholders a vote on that report. This enables shareholders to hold companies accountable for their remuneration policies.

Banks: Regulation

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of public opinion on the arrangements introduced by his Department for the management of its controlling interest in banks where UK Financial Investments is on the board. [260194]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor receives a wide range of representations on issues relating to banks in receipt of public funds.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward legislative proposals to empower the customers, employees and borrowers of banks to appoint directors of their banks. [260405]

Angela Eagle: The Companies Act 2006 lays down the procedures for the appointment of company directors to represent the interests of shareholders.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require bank directors to return the bonuses and share options that they received during 2006, 2007 and 2008. [260407]

Mr. Timms: The Government have ensured that none of the banks accessing the recapitalisation scheme awarded cash bonuses for 2008 to board members, and the Government approve the terms of remuneration for senior executives at banks in temporary public ownership.

Banks' future remuneration policies must be based on long-term sustainable performance in the interests of shareholders, taking proper account of risk.

Banks: Sponsorship

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to reduce expenditure by banks in receipt of public support on their existing and proposed sponsorship arrangements. [260909]

Mr. Timms: Decisions about sponsorship are commercial matters for the boards of each bank.

Beer: Sales

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the monetary value of beer sales in *(a)* the on-trade and *(b)* the off-trade was in each year since 1998; [260493]

(2) how much the Exchequer received in taxes and duties on beer *(a)* sold in the on-trade, *(b)* sold in the off-trade and *(c)* from other sources in each year since 1998. [260496]

Angela Eagle: Estimates of the monetary value of beer sales in the on-trade and off-trade are shown in the following table. Data for 2008 are not yet available.

Value of beer sales

		£ million
	On-trade	*Off-trade*
1998	13,789	3,671
1999	14,169	3,804
2000	14,087	3,821
2001	14,409	3,964
2002	14,836	4,064
2003	15,329	4,233
2004	16,280	4,245
2005	16,690	4,201
2006	17,097	4,319
2007	16,074	4,417

Source:
Euromonitor

Duty on beer is paid by breweries and not by retailers. As a result, HMRC statistics do not have a breakdown of taxes and duties collected on beer between the on-trade and off-trade. An estimate of this breakdown has not been produced, as excise duty revenues on beer depend on beer volumes and their strength, while VAT revenues on beer depend on the value of beer sales.

Total beer duty is published in the HMRC Beer and Cider Duties National Statistics bulletin, a copy of which can be found at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullbeer

Capital Gains Tax

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the additional revenue which would accrue to the Exchequer if capital gains were taxed at the basic rate of income tax in 2009-10. [259673]

Mr. Timms: A reform of this kind would result in a large behavioural response and such estimates are susceptible to a wide margin of error. A broad estimate of the eventual steady state impact, taking account of the likely taxpayer response to such a change and assuming that the annual exempt amount would continue to exist under this kind of reform, is additional receipts in the order of £200 million a year by comparison with the current capital gains tax (CGT) regime. This estimate should be viewed with caution, as the comparison point is the new 18 per cent. rate of CGT for which data are not yet available.

Child Support

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals for temporary increases in levels of child benefit, tax-free child allowances, and child tax credits to help workers with families currently on short-time working. [261639]

Mr. Timms: Tax credits are a flexible, responsive system of financial support that adjusts to people's circumstances. Shortened working hours that have the effect of reducing a household's income may lead to a higher tax credits award, provided that the household continues to meet the normal eligibility conditions for tax credits.

In December 2008, 412,000 households were benefiting from an increased tax credits award because of a fall in income compared to their previous year's income. To receive any additional support, households need only notify HMRC of their changed circumstances.

In addition to this responsive support, the Government have already brought forward extra help for families in the economic downturn. In January 2009, Child Benefit was increased to £20 per week for the first child, bringing forward the increase originally planned for April. The child element of child tax credit will increase by £75 above indexation from April 2009, bringing forward the £25 increase originally planned for April 2010 and building on the Government's original commitment to a £50 increase. The Government will announce any further changes to tax and benefits rates in the Budget.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has allocated for staff bonuses in 2008-09. [252249]

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Financial Services Authority and *(c)* the Bank of England will receive bonuses during 2008-09; how much will be paid in bonuses to staff of each; and if he will make a statement. [259011]

Angela Eagle: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) and the Bank of England are operationally independent of Government. The payment of non-consolidated performance awards to staff is a matter for these organisations.

Details of performance payments made by the Treasury Group in 2008-09, and on the performance pay awarded to individual members of the Treasury Board, will be included in the Treasury Group's Annual Report and Accounts later this year.

For 2008-09, up to 2 per cent. of HM Treasury's total pay bill is available for non-consolidated payments related to performance. Such payments are funded within existing pay bill controls and have to be re-earned each year.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of letters sent by his Department were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259975]

Angela Eagle: A total of 61,372 items were sent in the past 12 months. Of these 54,744 were transmitted by Royal Mail (89 per cent.) and 6,628 by other postal service providers (11 per cent.) including the Government Car and Dispatch Agency.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 586W, on departmental training, what the cost of the three courses was; and which Ministers attended each course. [260392]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2102W.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue has accrued to the Exchequer from the tax on the sale of *(a)* beer and *(b)* other alcoholic drinks sold in public houses in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [261069]

Angela Eagle: Duty on alcohol is paid by alcohol manufacturers and not by retailers. As a result, HMRC statistics do not have figures for taxes and duties collected on beer and other alcoholic drinks sold in public houses. An estimate of this breakdown has not been produced, as excise duty revenues depend on alcohol volumes and in some cases alcoholic strength, whilst VAT revenues depend on the value of alcohol sales.

Total alcohol duty revenues are published in HMRC National Statistics bulletins for all alcohol types, copies of which can be found at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=Bulletins

Income Tax

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people on half *(a)* mean and *(b)* median income have paid income tax in each of the last 12 years. [259410]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the number of taxpayers for the period 1996-97 to 2006-07 with total income at or below half of the mean and median are in the following table.

Individuals

	Half of mean income (£)	*Taxpayers with total income at or below half of the mean annual income (million)*	*Half of median income (£)*	*Taxpayers with total income at or below half of the median annual income (million)*
1996-97	5,810	3.3	4,210	0.8
1997-98	6,110	3.6	4,440	0.9
1998-99	6,580	3.3	4,720	0.6
1999-2000	6,780	3.1	4,970	0.7
2000-01	7,470	4.6	5,280	1.2
2001-02	7,790	4.2	5,570	1.1
2002-03	7,820	4.1	5,790	1.3
2003-04	8,110	4.4	5,980	1.6
2004-05	8,530	5.0	6,280	1.7
2005-06	8,780	4.9	6,480	1.7
2006-07	9,150	5.1	6,750	1.8

These estimates are based on the number of people facing tax liabilities. The estimates of taxpayers are based upon the Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI). Estimates of half of mean and median income are at individual level and have been derived from the Family Resource Survey (FRS).

Some families have their tax liabilities offset by tax credits. Estimates based on the 2006-07 FRS show that there were:

around 4.1 million taxpaying families with income at or below half the mean family income. Of these, around 0.2 million families were entitled to more tax credits than their income tax liabilities; and

around 1.3 million taxpaying families with income at or below half the median family income. Of these, around 30,000 families were entitled to more tax credits than their income tax liabilities.

Caution should be exercised in drawing trends from these figures because sample estimates can demonstrate a large variability from year to year and the definitions of income from the two surveys are not necessarily the same.

Similar information for other years is not available.

Income Tax: Charitable Donations

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has undertaken an assessment of the likely effect of the proposed new 45 per cent. income tax rate on the level of charitable donations. [258373]

Mr. Timms: Impact assessments for changes in rates of tax are not ordinarily produced unless there are also significant changes to administrative costs and benefits.

Lloyds TSB: Halifax Bank of Scotland

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what advice his Department received from the Financial Services Authority on the merger of Lloyds TSB and HBOS before the merger took place: [260592]

(2) what alternatives to the merger with Lloyds TSB his Department considered for HBOS. [260593]

Angela Eagle: The Financial Services Authority, the Bank of England and HM Treasury all undertook detailed assessments of the impact of the problems at

HBOS on the stability of the UK financial system. This included consideration of alternative options for responding to those problems.

Our positions were set out in detail in the representations we made to the OFT on the relevance of the proposed merger between HBOS and Lloyds TSB to the public interest of stability in the UK financial system. Those representations were attached to the OFT's subsequent report to the Secretary of State for BERR who was required to take a decision on whether to clear the merger or refer it to the Competition Commission.

A non-confidential version of the OFT's report and attached representations has been published and may be found on the BERR website.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 5 January 2009 on Mr. E. Warne. [260401]

Mr. Timms: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues, there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Treasury hopes to be in a position to reply to the right hon. Member shortly.

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter dated 1 December 2008 from the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead on tax codes. [260812]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs replied to the hon. Member on 27 February.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford of 15 December 2008, on his constituent, Ms Pippa Cuckson of Great Leighs, Chelmsford. [260981]

Angela Eagle: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Financial Services Secretary hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford of 4 December 2008, on his constituent, Mr. Peter Lee, of Great Waltham, Essex. [260982]

Ian Pearson: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 907-08W, on Members: correspondence, when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford of 20 October 2008 on his constituent, Mr. Peter Vickers of Chelmsford. [261079]

Angela Eagle: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Financial Services Secretary hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Minimum Wage

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps HM Revenue and Customs plans to take to increase levels of compliance by businesses with the national minimum wage. [259882]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to simple, effective enforcement of the national minimum wage (NMW) which removes the unfair competitive advantage that a small minority of businesses seek to gain by not paying the NMW. From 6 April this year, new measures brought under the Employment Act 2008, which aim to increase compliance, include:

new automatic penalties of up to £5,000 for employers found not to be complying with the NMW;

a new system for calculating repayment of arrears of NMW to a worker which takes account of the length of time the arrears have been outstanding; and

greater powers for officers enforcing the NMW in obtaining records.

Revenue and Customs: Absenteeism

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of working days was lost to absenteeism in HM Revenue and Customs call centres in each of the last five years. [260330]

Mr. Timms: HMRC contact centres are able to provide average working days lost to sickness, for the equivalent of each full-time member of staff, in the last four fiscal years.

Fiscal year	*Average working days lost*
2004-05	20.61
2005-06	20.90
2006-07	14.86
2007-08	18.18

Information for the year 2003-04 is not available.

Royal Bank of Scotland

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he was first informed of the financial difficulties at the Royal Bank of Scotland. [260264]

Mr. Timms: As the memorandum of understanding between HM Treasury, the Bank of England and the Financial Services Authorities (FSA) sets out, the tripartite authorities have regular meetings to discuss financial stability.

As the MOU sets out, it is the FSA that is responsible for prudential supervision of individual banks.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many residential properties were sold in *(a)* each of the six months before and *(b)* in each month since the introduction of the stamp duty land tax holiday; [260612]

(2) what assessment has been made of the effect of the stamp duty land tax holiday on residential property sales since its introduction; [260613]

(3) what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the Exchequer of the stamp duty land tax holiday. [260677]

Ian Pearson: The number of residential properties, priced at £40,000 or higher, sold in each month up to January 2009 is published at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/survey_of_prop/value-40000-or-above.pdf

These statistics will be updated to February 2009 on 24 March.

The most recent published estimate of the cost to the Exchequer of the stamp duty land tax holiday was published in table B5 of the PBR report, available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08_annexb_262.pdf

An updated estimate will be published in the Budget report.

It is too early to make an assessment of the effect of the stamp duty land tax holiday on residential property sales.

Vulture Funds

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to cap the amount of profit attainable by vulture funds registered in the UK. [260558]

Ian Pearson: The Government deplore the activities of so-called vulture funds. We have taken a leading role in efforts to stop these funds profiting from the debts owed by poor countries. We continue to keep all options for tackling this problem under consideration.

Our action has focused on measures we believe will have the most impact in tackling this issue: preventing debts falling into the hands of vulture funds and helping countries to defend themselves in cases already under way.

To prevent debts falling into the hands of vulture funds in the first place, we have supported the World Bank's debt reduction facility. This facility helps countries buy back their commercial debts at a vastly reduced price, cancelling debt outright and preventing it being enforced before a court. More than $9 billion of poor countries' debts have already been cancelled in this way. Following improvements to the facility, DFID has recently committed more funds—up to £10 million—to future commercial debt buy-back operations.

To help countries defend themselves in existing cases, we have supported the establishment of an African legal support facility to which DFID will contribute £5 million. We believe this will help ensure countries have access to high quality legal advice and expertise, which can be valuable in reducing the impact of litigation. For example, in the case of Zambia, where DFID helped to pay its legal fees when it was targeted by a vulture fund, the court reduced Zambia's liability by around $40 million.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* responsibility and *(b)* powers local authorities will have over academies as a result of the dissolution of the Learning and Skills Council and the devolution of powers over 16-19 education to local authorities. [259093]

Jim Knight: Subject to the passage of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill, local authorities will take on the responsibility for securing sufficient provision for all 16 to 19-year-olds in their area. In fulfilling the proposed duties in the Bill, they will commission places from all types of providers, including academies, to meet the needs of the young people in their areas. Local authorities will not gain any new powers or responsibilities over academies.

An Academy Trust, through their funding agreement is responsible for determining the number of places they will provide to their local communities in consultation with their local authority. Under current arrangements the Secretary of State already has the power to amend that number of places, for instance on the basis of local need. Under the proposals in the Bill, the only change is that the Secretary of State will have the power to ask the YPLA to exercise these and other academy-related functions, on his behalf, as set out in clause 74.

Academies: Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in each year group with *(a)* statemented and *(b)* non-statemented special educational needs attended academies in each year since 2003. [258347]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is provided in the tables:

Academies: number of pupils with special educational needs by national curriculum year group, 2003-08, England

	2003			2004			2005		
	Number of pupils	*Pupils with statements of SEN*	*Pupils with SEN without statements*	*Number of pupils*	*Pupils with statements of SEN*	*Pupils with SEN without statements*	*Number of pupils*	*Pupils with statements of SEN*	*Pupils with SEN without statements*
National Curriculum Year Group:									
Nursery Year 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	[1]—
Nursery Year 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	[1]—
Reception	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	[1]—	20
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	110	[1]—	40
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	[1]—	30

Academies: number of pupils with special educational needs by national curriculum year group, 2003-08, England

	2003			2004			2005		
	Number of pupils	*Pupils with statements of SEN*	*Pupils with SEN without statements*	*Number of pupils*	*Pupils with statements of SEN*	*Pupils with SEN without statements*	*Number of pupils*	*Pupils with statements of SEN*	*Pupils with SEN without statements*
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	10	30
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	[1]	30
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	110	10	40
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	110	10	40
7	560	10	110	2,300	80	650	3,380	120	960
8	460	10	170	1,800	60	560	2,820	100	800
9	540	20	210	1,710	70	500	2,260	70	710
10	540	10	150	1,760	60	540	2,210	80	670
11	540	10	140	1,890	60	520	2,090	80	610
12	70	[1]	[1]	570	[1]	20	1,180	20	180
13	0	0	0	190	[1]	[1]	480	[1]	20
14	0	0	0	[1]	0	0	20	0	[1]
Not followed	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2,720	70	780	10,220	330	2,800	15,200	510	4,180

	2006			2007			2008		
	Number of pupils	*Pupils with statements of SEN*	*Pupils with SEN without statements*	*Number of pupils*	*Pupils with statements of SEN*	*Pupils with SEN without statements*	*Number of pupils*	*Pupils with statements of SEN*	*Pupils with SEN without statements*
National Curriculum Year Group:									
Nursery Year 1	20	0	[1]	20	0	[1]	30	[1]	0
Nursery Year 2	50	0	10	40	0	10	200	0	20
Reception	120	0	30	110	[1]	40	400	[1]	60
1	80	[1]	40	100	0	50	300	10	80
2	110	[1]	50	100	[1]	40	330	[1]	110
3	100	[1]	50	110	[1]	50	310	10	100
4	100	10	50	90	[1]	50	320	[1]	120
5	100	[1]	50	110	10	50	300	10	140
6	100	10	50	100	[1]	50	330	10	120
7	5,020	150	1,250	8,110	190	2,530	14,050	360	4,020
8	4,760	150	1,270	7,600	200	2,260	12,980	320	3,980
9	4,350	150	1,140	7,450	210	2,000	12,650	320	3,890
10	3,720	110	980	7,060	210	1,920	12,430	340	3,550
11	3,580	110	1,000	6,390	170	1,670	11,900	310	3,300
12	1,810	30	240	2,600	30	320	5,190	70	650
13	1,130	10	110	1,380	10	120	2,610	20	230
14	100	0	10	90	0	20	110	[1]	10
Not followed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	25,240	740	6,320	41,470	1,030	11,180	74,430	1,770	20,390

[1] Less than 5.

Notes:

1. Excludes dually registered pupils.
2. These figures do not include Academies that opened after January 2008.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Building Schools for the Future projects are (*a*) on time and (*b*) behind schedule; and if he will make a statement. [255261]

Jim Knight: The following table illustrates the delivery record for each school against the baseline targets for school openings that were agreed early in the programme. The baseline figures for school openings were agreed once the programme had started.

Baseline targets are different to the contractual dates that are agreed between local authorities and their

private sector partner at financial close. On this latter measure, all schools were delivered on time and on budget.

Local authority	*School*	*Opened*	*Completed on time*
Bradford	Titus Salt School	September 2008	No
Bradford	Tong High School	September 2008	No
Bradford	Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College	September 2008	No
Bristol	Bristol Metropolitan College	April 2008	Yes
Bristol	Brislington Enterprise College	September 2008	Yes
Bristol	The Bridge Learning Campus	January 2009	No
Bristol	Bristol Brunel Academy	September 2007	Yes
Haringey	Haringey Sixth Form Centre (early win)	September 2007	Yes
Kent	Ifield School (early win)	March 2008	Yes
Knowsley	Christ the King Catholic and Church of England Centre for Learning	January 2009	No
Lambeth	Elmgreen School (temporary accommodation)	September 2007	Yes
Lambeth	The Michael Tippett School	February 2008	Yes
Lambeth	Park Campus	November 2008	Yes
Lancashire	Burnley Campus (Thomas Whitham Sixth Form)	September 2008	Yes
Lancashire	Pendle Vale College (Pendle Vale Campus)	September 2008	Yes
Lancashire	Pendle Community High School (Pendle Vale Campus)	September 2008	Yes
Lancashire	Shuttleworth College	September 2008	Yes
Leeds	Cockburn College of Arts	September 2008	Yes
Leeds	Allerton High School	September 2008	Yes
Leeds	Pudsey Grangefield School	September 2008	Yes
Leeds	Rodillian School	September 2008	Yes
Leeds	Temple Moor High School	September 2008	Yes
Leicester	Fullhurst Community College	January 2009	No
Lewisham	Sedgehill	January 2009	No
Manchester	Newall Green High School	September 2008	No
Manchester	Gorton Education Village (Cedar Mount High School)	September 2008	No
Manchester	St. Paul's	September 2008	No
Manchester	St. Matthews RC High School	January 2009	No
Manchester	Gorton Education Village (Melland High School)	September 2008	No
Newcastle	Benfield School (phase 1 of refurb)	September 2008	Yes
Newcastle	Walbottle Campus Technology College	September 2008	Yes
Newcastle	Walkergate Primary School	September 2008	n/a[1]
Newcastle	Stocksfield Avenue Primary School	September 2008	n/a[1]
Newcastle	Kenton School	November 2008	Yes
Newcastle	All Saints College (early win)	September 2006	Yes
Sheffield	Chaucer Business and Enterprise College (early win)	October 2006	Yes
Sheffield	Yewlands Technology College	October 2008	Yes
Sheffield	Talbot Specialist School	January 2009	Yes
Sheffield	Newfield Secondary School	January 2009	Yes
Sheffield	Silverdale Secondary School	January 2009	Yes
Solihull	Lanchester School	September 2008	No
Solihull	Park Hall School	October 2008	No
Solihull	Archbishop Grimshaw Catholic School	October 2008	No
Solihull	Forest Oak and Merstone Schools (early win)	May 2006	Yes
STaG	Bamburgh School (Horsley Hill Community Campus) (early win)	October 2006	Yes
Stoke	Birches Head (early win)	November 2007	Yes
Stoke	Sandon High School (early win)	February 2008	Yes
Sunderland	Oxclose Community School (early win)	June 2007	Yes
Waltham	Frederick Bremer	September 2008	Yes
Waltham	Kelmscott School	September 2008	Yes

[1] These primary schools were delivered as part of Newcastle's BSF project through the Local Education Partnership, but were not originally included in the programme.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his estimate was on 1 April 2008 of capital expenditure on schools in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 for (i) Building Schools for the Future and (ii) all other schools capital spending; what his latest estimate is of the likely outturns for 2008-09 and 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [255269]

Jim Knight: The following table sets out the Department's forecast capital spend at the start of the current financial year, compared with the current forecast, for 2008-09 and 2009-10. The change in 2009-10 is mainly due to the Government's fiscal stimulus plans, where about £0.8 billion is being brought forward. As these are forecasts, they are subject to change.

£ billion

Description	*2008-09 forecast*		*2009-10 forecast*	
	April 2008	*December 2008*	*April 2008*	*December 2008*
Building Schools For the Future, including Academies (excluding PFI)	1.3	1.2	2.2	2.3
Other Capital Allocations	3.8	3.7	4.1	4.8
Total	5.1	4.9	6.3	7.1

Notes:
1. The table excludes PFI credits of around £1.3 billion available each year, as the funding to support these is provided to local authorities as revenue from the Department of Communities and Local Government.
2. The increase in the 2009-10 forecast spend from £6.3 billion to £7.1 billion includes £0.8 billion to be advanced from 2010-11 to 2009-10.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the *(a)* actual and *(b)* target period of time is from invitations to bid to the signing of a contract for each Building Schools for the Future contract for the period 2006 to January 2009; and if he will make a statement; [255283]

(2) what the average *(a)* length and *(b)* cost to the public purse of the bidding process at Building Schools for the Future projects has been; and if he will make a statement. [255006]

Jim Knight: At the outset of the programme the target was 78 weeks. To date, the average time taken by local authorities to procure their private sector partners to deliver their Building Schools for the Future projects is 102 weeks. This timing compares favourably to other PFI deals in the education and other sectors and is typical of procurement using European Union competitive dialogue or negotiated procedure processes for major procurements. Following a review of BSF procurement (completed in May 2008) we have introduced changes that aim to further significantly streamline the procurement process. As a result, the target procurement time will fall to 74 weeks for authorities just entering the programme.

During the procurement period, local authorities engage with the private sector bidders and work towards the selection of a partner through competitive bid evaluation. The bidding costs during this part of the process are borne by the private sector, with the public sector incurring costs associated with the project management of the procurement. These costs can vary significantly depending on a number of project-specific factors, including the size of the project.

Children in Care: Primary Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary school pupils at key stage 2 have been children in care in each year since 2000; and how many of those were among the 5 per cent. identified as most talented. [241557]

Beverley Hughes: Data published by the Department as SFR 23/2008: "Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008", show 47,600 children aged between five and 19 as being looked after by local authorities as at 31 March 2008. The source of this publication is the SSDA903, which does not collect information on whether a child is part of their school's gifted and talented cohort. Information on gifted and talented pupils is, however, collected in the School Census which also collects information on whether a child is in care whilst at their school.

The most recent census data relate to January 2008. The census shows 34,390 pupils aged five to 19 attending primary, secondary and special schools who are classed as being in care as at January 2008. The School Census does not cover all looked after children; information is not collected for pupils in alternative provision, including pupil referral units, FE colleges, voluntary provision and those not in education or training. These differences in coverage will explain the different counts to an extent, but it is possible that the School Census undercounts the number of looked after children in primary, secondary and special schools.

The information available is shown in the following table. Information on gifted and talented pupils was first collected for primary and secondary schools in 2007 therefore information for the last five years is not available.

Maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools[1,2]: Number and percentage of pupils who have and have not been in care in their current school and of those the number which are gifted and talented—Position in January each year 2007 and 2008, England

	Maintained primary schools[1]					
	Pupils who have not been in care in their current school			*Pupils who have been in care at their current school[2]*		
	Total pupils	*Gifted and talented*	*Percentage*	*Total pupils*	*Gifted and talented*	*Percentage*
2007	4,093,410	281,730	6.9	17,340	676	3.9
2008	4,072,790	330,910	8.1	17,610	764	4.3

State-funded secondary schools[1,2]

	Pupils who have not been in care in their current school			*Pupils who have been in care at their current school*[3]		
	Total Pupils	*Gifted and talented*	*Percentage*	*Total Pupils*	*Gifted and talented*	*Percentage*
2007	3,307,280	415,760	12.6	18,350	782	4.3
2008	3,276,010	447,790	13.7	18,570	791	4.3

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed. [2] Includes city technology colleges and academies. [3] There is a degree of under-reporting in the School Census return of pupils who are looked after compared to the two main statistical collections on looked after children. The figures here show those pupils who are or who have been in care whilst at their current school. *Notes:* 1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. 2. Information on gifted and talented status is not collected from Special Schools. *Source:* School Census

Children: Corporal Punishment

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if his Department will provide funding to support the Council of Europe's Raise your hand against smacking campaign in England. [259283]

Beverley Hughes: Our approach is to provide parents with positive support and guidance to help them manage their children's behaviour more effectively without smacking. As part of this, approximately £300 million is being invested between 2008 and 2011 to improve the quality and supply of parenting support and ensure that parents have access to the information, advice and guidance needed to support them in their parenting role.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who is responsible for the accuracy of data in the ContactPoint database. [259313]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 27 February 2009]*: The persons or bodies responsible for the accuracy of data in the ContactPoint database are those required or permitted to supply information to it, as set out in the Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations 2007. Data suppliers to ContactPoint already have obligations for data accuracy under the 4th Principle of the Data Protection Act 1998, and must take reasonable steps to ensure that the information they or their organisation hold and provide to ContactPoint is accurate and up to date.

Records from a range of national and local sources will be combined in ContactPoint, using data matching technology, to produce a set of basic information about each child. This makes it highly resilient to errors in any individual source. Where errors are identified, they will be notified back to the source, for correction.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what contracts his Department has had with Capgemini since 1997. [259397]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information for the full period from 1997 is not available as the maximum time for the retention of records relating to contracts for services of the type supplied by Capgemini is six years.

The Department and its predecessor, the Department for Education and Skills, have placed three major centrally negotiated contracts with Capgemini. The first of these, a Business Services Framework Agreement dating from November 2001, covered five service categories together with the transition of services from a previous supplier. These services were applications support and maintenance, applications development, information systems support, hosting and consultancy, and business transformation. Work orders were used to commission specific pieces of work in these categories from Capgemini.

Following expiry of this contract on 30 September 2008, a second contract was placed for the period to 31 March 2011. This contract, also requiring individual work orders, covers the same range of services but will be used primarily for applications support and maintenance.

The third contract is for the build and testing of ContactPoint and its continuing support and hosting. The support and hosting element expires no later than 2014. Details of expenditure on this contract have been given in response to PQ259398, 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1676W.

Additionally since March 2006 three consultancy contracts were awarded by the Department to Capgemini. Two of these were for advice for the Corporate Service Transformation Programme, and one was for expert advisers to work with low-performing schools. Information on other contracts is not held centrally and to gather the information retrospectively would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

Children: English Language

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what support his Department provides to children who do not speak English as a first language; and how much that support *(a)* cost in each of the last five years and *(b)* is expected to cost in the next three years, broken down by type of expenditure. [258984]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: All pupils of school age, including those for whom English is an additional language (EAL), are supported by the core school funding programmes notably Dedicated School Grant (DSG) which totals £29 billion this year. In addition the Department allocates to all local authorities on a needs-based formula Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG), which contributes towards costs of additional support to meet the specific needs of EAL learners. The total grant paid or allocated for each year from 2003-04 to the end of this spending period is as follows:

	EMAG (£ million)
2003-04	155.8
2004-05	162.1
2005-06	168.5
2006-07	173.6
2007-08	178.6
2008-09	187.6
2009-10	197.6
2010-11	206.6

In addition, an Exceptional Circumstances Grant (ECG) has been introduced to reflect in-year changes in local authorities' pupil numbers. It has three elements covering: an increase of 2.5 per cent. in overall pupil numbers; an increase of 2.5 per cent. in the proportion of pupils with English as an additional language; and a one-off payment to any authority whose proportion of such pupils was below 10 per cent. and rises by 2.5 per cent. In the current year a total of £264,000 has been paid to four local authorities (City of London, Barking and Dagenham, Peterborough and Blackburn with Darwen) in response to qualifying increases in their proportions of EAL children.

It is not possible to disaggregate DSG, EMAG or ECG expenditure by type.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the percentage of children in England at *(a)* primary school and *(b)* secondary school who did not speak English as a first language in each of the last five years. [258985]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The percentage of children in primary and secondary schools who did not speak English as a first language in each of the last five years can be found in the following table.

The latest figures are in the Statistical First Release 'Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England: January 2008 (Provisional)' and can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/index.shtml

The percentage of children in primary and secondary schools who did not speak English as a first language in England

	Pupils of compulsory school age and above[1,2,3]	
	Primary schools[2]	Secondary schools[1,2]
2004	11.0	8.8
2005	11.6	9.0
2006	12.5	9.5
2007	13.5	10.5
2008[4]	14.3	10.6

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[3] The number of pupils by their first language expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils of compulsory school age and above.
[4] Includes CTCs and Academies.

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.

Source:
School Census

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what date Lord Laming's progress report on safeguarding will be published. [260985]

Beverley Hughes: We expect Lord Laming's progress report on safeguarding to be published on 12 March.

Children's Workforce Development Council: Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the budget of the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) was in each year since it was established; and how much has been allocated for CWDC's budget in each of the next three years. [260238]

Beverley Hughes: Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) was established in 2005. The resources received by CWDC in each financial year since establishment to date are (the vast majority being grants made by DCSF or DFES was):

	Resources received[1] (£)
2005-06	1,603,014
2006-07	22,514,444
2007-08	54,436,949

[1] Information taken from CWDC audited and published accounts.

CWDC became a non-departmental public body in April 2008. For the current financial year the total budget available is £82,454,000. The actual expenditure will be published in the annual accounts. A copy of these accounts will be placed in the House Library and will be available via CWDC's website at:

www.cwdcouncil.org.uk

The budget and remit for 2009-10 is currently being agreed with CWDC as part of the business planning cycle. Once agreed, a copy of the remit letter (including budget) will be available on their website at:

www.cwdcouncil.org.uk

A core grant allocation of £31,003,000 has been agreed as part of the comprehensive spending review agreements for 2010-11. The additional contributions for specific programme delivery have not yet been agreed.

The Department operates on three year, Comprehensive Spending Review cycles which currently extend to March 2011 only. Figures from April 2011 onwards are not available at the present time.

Departmental Consultants

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its associated public bodies paid to consultants in the last year for which data are available; to which organisations such payments were made; for what purposes; and how much the payment was in each case. [249229]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children Schools and Families spent £61.4 million on external consultancy in 2007-08. The Department does not hold

the requested information for its associated bodies, as they are independent and are responsible for their own data.

Like most Government Departments, the Department uses consultants to work on specific projects outside our business as usual, such as where the Department does not have the skills internally or where a different, external or specialist perspective on complex issues is needed. It would only be possible to list the amount and purpose of each payment at disproportionate cost.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the total cost was of providing the *(a)* £10, *(b)* £20, *(c)* £30 and *(d)* bonus payment of the education maintenance allowance for the last three years for which figures are available. [260396]

Jim Knight: The following table shows EMA expenditure on the weekly payments split by income band and bonus payments for each academic year 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08:

£ million

Expenditure on EMA by band (£)	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
30	282.2	345.2	363.0
20	24.3	27.7	27.7
10	11.3	12.2	12.2
Expenditure on bonus payments	80.7	97	100.5

For the benefit of clarity the table excludes administration or marketing costs in relation to each of these elements.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people have yet to receive an education maintenance allowance payment to which they are entitled in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [260802]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Every Child Matters

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions his Department had with representatives of EU institutions on its Every Child Matters programme in the two years before October 2004; and if he will make a statement. [260462]

Jim Knight: I am not aware of any discussions between the Department and representatives of EU institutions on the Every Child Matters Agenda prior to its launch in 2004.

There is no EU competence in children's services and very limited competence in youth policy. Activity at European level is largely restricted to encouraging exchanges of young people and youth workers between member states. We do however work with member states and the EU institutions to exchange good practice and information on national policy development. Through these mechanisms we have promoted the Every Child Matters approach.

Free School Meals

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children receive free school meals in *(a)* Vale of York constituency, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England. [260064]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information about children eligible for free school meals is shown in the following table.

Maintained nursery and primary schools, state-funded secondary schools: School meal arrangements: Position in January 2008—Vale of York parliamentary constituency, North Yorkshire local authority, England

	Nursery and primary schools[1,2]		*State-funded secondary schools*[1,2,3]	
	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free schools meals	*Percentage known to be eligible for free schools meals*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free schools meals*	*Percentage known to be eligible for free schools meals*
England	641,490	15.5	433,140	13.1
Vale of York	310	4.2	360	6.0
North Yorkshire	3,390	7.8	2,440	6.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes dually registered pupils.
[3] Includes City Technology colleges and Academies.
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in *(a)* independent and *(b)* maintained schools received five or more GCSE grades A* to C including English, mathematics, science and a foreign language in each of the last five years. [249110]

Jim Knight: The requested information can be provided only for pupils at the end of their Key Stage 4 studies going back to 2005, data earlier than 2005 are on a different basis and therefore not comparable.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils at pupil referral units did not achieve an A*-G grade at GCSE in either English or mathematics in the most recent year for which records are available. [247858]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Of the 6,943 pupils reported to be at the end of key stage 4 who were registered solely in pupil referral units in 2008, 1,696 did not achieve a grade A*-G in GCSE mathematics, 1,903 did not achievea grade A*-G in English.

The percentage of pupils who achieved five or more grades A* -C including English, mathematics, science and a foreign language is as follows:

	Percentage	
	Maintained schools	*Independent schools*
2008	22.7	36.4
2007	22.1	47.4
2006	23.2	60.4
2005	25.3	66.8

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils eligible for free school meals did not get any GCSEs at grade *(a)* C, *(b)* D, *(c)* E, *(d)* F and *(e)* G or above in 2008. [244315]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is given in the following table:

Pupils[1] eligible for FSM who did not get any GCSEs at the indicated grades in 2008

	Number
C or above	31,647
D or above	19,632
E or above	11,771
F or above	7,639
G or above	5,747

[1] Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in maintained schools. *Source:* National Pupil Database.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils eligible for free school meals took fewer than five GCSEs in 2008. [251115]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: 9,173 pupils eligible for free school meals were entered in fewer than five GCSEs[1] in 2008[2].

[1] Pupils at the end of key stage 4, includes GCSEs and equivalent.

[2] Figures are based on amended data.

Source:

National Pupil Database

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of free school meals pupils achieved A* to C grades at GCSE in 2008. [251194]

Jim Knight: The number of pupils at the end of key stage 4 eligible for free school meals achieving at least one A* to C grade at GCSE or equivalent in 2008 was 53,300. This was 71.4 per cent. of all pupils eligible for free school meals.

GCSE: Mathematics

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils gained a C grade or above in GCSE mathematics in each year since 2003. [260536]

Jim Knight: The number of pupils achieving an A*-C grade in GCSE mathematics in each year since 2003 can be found through the following links. Prior to 2005, figures are available only for 15 year-old pupils. In 2005, figures are available for both 15 year-old pupils and pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. From 2006, figures are available only for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. Care should be taken when constructing a time series, as figures for 15 year-old pupils are not directly comparable to figures with pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

2003:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000442/index.shtml

(Table 6: Figures based on 15 year old pupils).

2004:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000549/index.shtml

(Table 9: Figures based on 15 year old pupils).

2005:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000631/index.shtml

(Table 10: Figures based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4, Table 10a-Figures based on 15 year old pupils).

2006:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000702/index.shtml

(Table 10: Figures based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4).

2007:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml

(Table 10: Figures based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4).

2008:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000826/index.shtml

(Table 10: Figures based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4).

Number of pupils achieving an A-C grade in GCSE mathematics in England*

	Number of 15 year old pupils achieving an A-C grade in GCSE mathematics*	*Number of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving an A*-C grade in GCSE mathematics*
2003	298,600	n/a
2004	318,800	n/a
2005	328,800	331,800
2006	n/a	344,700

Number of pupils achieving an A-C grade in GCSE mathematics in England*

	Number of 15 year old pupils achieving an A-C grade in GCSE mathematics*	*Number of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving an A*-C grade in GCSE mathematics*
2007	n/a	354,700
2008	n/a	361,100

Health Education: Sex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the evidential basis was for the statement made in the leaflet "Talking to Your Teenager About Sex and Relationships" that trying to convince teenagers of what's right and wrong may discourage them from being open; who his Department consulted before making this statement; and if he will make a statement; [259147]

(2) on what date the leaflet "Talking to Your Teenager About Sex and Relationships" produced by his Department was published; if he will place a copy of the leaflet in the Library; who wrote the leaflet; who was consulted prior to it being *(a)* written and *(b)* published; and if he will make a statement; [259150]

(3) how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* researching and *(b)* producing the leaflet "Talking to Your Teenager About Sex and Relationships"; and if he will make a statement. [259151]

Beverley Hughes: The leaflet for parents on talking to their teenage children about sex and relationships strongly encourages them to share their values with their children and that clearly includes their views about what's right and wrong. However, the leaflet also draws on research summarised in "The Nature of Adolescence" (John Coleman and Leo Hendry, 1999) which shows that the most effective way of communicating with teenagers is to encourage discussion rather than simply telling them what to think. Teenagers whose parents have an authoritative rather than authoritarian style are less likely to be involved in risky behaviour.

The leaflet highlights the important role that parents—fathers and mothers—have in: helping their daughters and sons resist pressure to have early sex; to understand their feelings and the feelings of others; and to take responsibility for preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) if and when they do choose to become sexually active.

The leaflet was drafted by DCSF officials in conjunction with colleagues at Parentline Plus. The content was informed by research into parents' views and experiences of talking to their teenage children. There was no formal public consultation on the leaflet before it was published. The leaflet will be available in pharmacies from early March 2009. The total cost of design, print and production of the leaflet was £14,427. A copy of the leaflet will be placed in the House Libraries.

History: Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 181-3W, on history: education, in which local authority area each of the schools listed is located; and how many and what percentage of pupils in each school are eligible to receive free school meals. [244904]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information has been placed in the Libraries.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has issued on the publication of minutes and decisions taken by local safeguarding children boards that do not relate to a particular case or individual; and if he will make a statement. [258349]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not prescribe how minutes and decisions taken by Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) which do not relate to particular cases or individuals should be published. The Government's statutory guidance, "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (2006) states that,

"The LSCB should have a clear work programme, including measurable objectives, and a budget."

It goes on to state,

"This will enable the LSCB's work to be scrutinised by the Local Authority, by other local partners and by other key stakeholders. The guidance recommends that such work plans or annual reports are endorsed by all the Board members and made publicly available."

Ofsted: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by safeguarding children boards Ofsted is in 2008-09. [258529]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 26 February 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted had three vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database in 2008-09, all of which are leasehold. Table A shows the non-domestic rates payments for these properties.

Table A: Non-domestic rates payments on Ofsted properties recorded on the e-PIMs database in 2008-09

Property	*Rates (£)*
Dukes Court, Woking	84,546.00
Louisa House, Birmingham	80,700.00
Apex Court, Bristol	30,954.00

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Pupils: Diabetes

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues in the

Department of Health on the provision of support in schools for students diagnosed with *(a)* diabetes, *(b)* asthma and *(c)* other long-term conditions. [250579]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families and Department of Health have been jointly developing the Government's long-term strategy to support children's health. The Child Health Strategy will build on work already being delivered through the Every Child Matters and National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services.

Schools: Admissions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities are reducing the number of surplus places as part of *(a)* the Primary Capital Programme and *(b)* Building Schools for the Future programme. [259099]

Jim Knight: We do not collect programme specific data about the reduction of surplus places linked directly to capital investment through either Building Schools for the Future or the Primary Capital Programme. We have nevertheless made clear in relation to both programmes that all local authorities should look for opportunities to remove excessive numbers of surplus places; particularly where these are linked to poor standards. Maintaining surplus places can represent a poor use of resources—resources that can be used more effectively to support schools in raising standards and delivering better outcomes for children. That said, it is accepted that in order to preserve access for young children, there may be more empty places in schools in rural areas than in urban areas.

Schools: Collective Worship

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of levels of compliance by schools with guidance on provisions for assemblies and daily acts of collective worship under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. [260032]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: All community, foundation or voluntary schools must offer a daily act of collective worship which is broadly of a Christian nature. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship and pupils in the sixth form have the right to withdraw themselves from collective worship without parental consent.

Ofsted has a duty to inspect schools on their compliance with the legal requirement to provide a daily act of worship. Schools and governing bodies can be deemed unsatisfactory for failing to comply with the statutory requirements. The findings of inspection, set alongside the school's self-evaluation, provide a basis for planning for improvement.

The Department does not itself make an assessment of the level of compliance with the provisions of the Standards and Framework Act 1998 for a daily act of collective worship.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects his Department to meet its target of raising the level of funding per state school pupil to the level of funding per pupil in the private sector; and if he will make a statement. [255286]

Jim Knight: The Government announced in the Budget in 2006 that they would aim, over time and adjusting for inflation, to increase funding per pupil towards private sector day school levels at that time. Average private sector per pupil funding was estimated at £8,000 compared to the total revenue and capital funding per pupil in the maintained sector of £4,750 in that year.

We are investing record amounts of funding for schools. From 1997 total per pupil funding has more than doubled from under £2,500 in 1997-98 to £5,550 in 2007-08. By 2010-11, the total per pupil funding for the state sector will rise to £6,550. This means that between 2005-06 and 2010-11, we will have raised maintained sector funding by £1,000 per pupil in real terms and will have closed the gap with the private sector 2005-06 figure by 30 per cent.

Progress over future spending reviews will depend upon the Government's fiscal position, demographic change and progress by schools in continuing to deliver improvements in results and wider support for parents and pupils.

Note:

All figures rounded to nearest £50.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether his Department's plans to require companies working on school capital programmes to submit a formal training programme will apply to *(a)* Building Schools for the Future projects which have already been approved and *(b)* the Primary Capital Programme; [259087]

(2) who will determine whether companies working on school capital programmes have submitted a suitable formal training programme; [259088]

(3) whether his Department's plans to require a formal training programme from companies working on school capital projects apply to companies outside the construction sector. [259089]

Jim Knight: Many Building Schools for the Future (BSF) bidders already submit proposals for provision of apprenticeships and other training programmes in such areas as construction, technical building services, facilities management and ICT etc., but to date there has been no formal requirement for local authorities to include such proposals in their service specifications. From June 2009 these requirements will become formalised for new projects only and be assessed by Partnerships for Schools and the local authority through the procurement process.

The pre-Budget report in November announced that Government Departments and their agencies committed that whenever they let a new construction contract they will consider making it a requirement that successful contractors have apprentices as a proportion of the project work force. This commitment will apply to the strategic, centrally-managed BSF programme. In relation

to devolved capital programmes and Primary Capital Programme projects not delivered through BSF, we want to see local authorities taking forward the skills procurement agenda using their contract management and planning powers in construction and other service areas including facilities management and ICT. In addition to the letting of new contracts, local authorities can also work with existing contractors and encourage them to provide training and apprenticeships training opportunities for their work force. To support the implementation of the skills procurement agenda, DIUS officials are working with OGC to develop and disseminate guidance on how skills requirements can be included in the procurement processes.

Schools: Restraint Techniques

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of each piece of guidance issued by his Department made available to all schools on the use of physical restraint in the last 12 months. [259105]

Jim Knight: The Department issued revised guidance for schools, entitled "The Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils", in November 2007. This guidance advises school staff that force should only be used when there is no viable alternative and when the risks associated with using force are outweighed by the risks associated with not using force.

The guidance is supplemented by two specialist guidance documents which provide additional information for staff working with pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities, namely: (i) Guidance on the Use of Restrictive Physical Interventions for Staff Working with Children and Adults who display Extreme Behaviour in Association with Learning Disability and/or Autistic Spectrum Disorders (Circ LEA/0242/2002); and (ii) Guidance on the Use of Restrictive Physical Interventions for Pupils with Severe Behavioural Difficulties (Circ LEA/0264/2003).

A copy of each document has been placed in the Library of the House.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which maintained secondary schools have been included in *(a)* education action zones, *(b)* Excellence in Cities, *(c)* Fresh Start, *(d)* the London Challenge and *(e)* the National Challenge since 1997. [258314]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not have a readily available list of maintained secondary schools that were included in Education Action Zones and the various Excellence in Cities programmes between 1999 and 2006. There would be a disproportionate cost involved in creating lists of these schools.

A large proportion of the maintained secondary schools in London have benefited from the range of support provided by London Challenge since the programme began in 2003. Schools that have received the most focused support are, or have been, part of the 'Keys to Success' programme, which offers bespoke support tailored to the needs of individual schools. A list providing details of all schools that have been supported by the Keys to Success programme since it began will be placed in the Library of both Houses. It includes those schools that have since closed or become academies.

In addition, we have placed in the Libraries lists of the maintained secondary schools that have closed and reopened under the DCSF Fresh Start programme and of those in the National Challenge, where fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieved 5 A*-C grades at GCSE (or equivalent) in 2007 and 2008.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 23 February 2009 to Question 256442, which school had more than 400 pupils. [259307]

Jim Knight: The school which had more than 400 pupils was Sally Oak Special School (URN 103613) in Birmingham.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils with statemented special educational needs of behavioural, emotional or social difficulties attended mainstream schools in each local authority in the last 12 months for which records are available. [260290]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on the number and percentage of statemented pupils by type of special educational need, for both primary and state funded secondary schools for January 2008, has been placed in the Library.

Special Educational Needs: Private Sector

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 470-74W, on special educational needs: private sector, in which local authority area each of the schools listed is located. [260824]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The 228 independent schools catering wholly or mainly for pupils with special educational needs which opened between 1 September 2005 and 31 August 2008 are listed alphabetically below in local authority order.

The Education Act 2002 amended the definition of an independent school to include institutions providing full time education for one or more pupils with a statement of special educational needs or a looked after child. This resulted in a number of children's homes which provide education on the premises registering as independent schools.

	Name
Barking and Dagenham	Hopewell School
Barnet	Southover Partnership School
Barnsley	Dove Adolescent Services
Bedfordshire	Trent Lodge[1]
Birmingham	Birmingham Rathbone Society
Birmingham	Merecroft School
Birmingham	Swan Lodge

	Name
Birmingham	Trade Based Training
Blackburn with Darwen	Darwen School
Blackpool	Pennsylvania House
Bolton	Booth Greencorns Independent School
Bolton	Newfields School
Bradford	Meadowcroft School
Bradford	The Elms
Bradford	The Old Gables[1]
Brighton and Hove	Springboard Education Junior
Bristol City of	Encompass Education
Bristol City of	Greenfields
Bromley	The Tutorial Foundation
Buckinghamshire	Education and Youth Services Ltd. (4)
Bury	Pathfinders School
Bury	Primrose Cottage
Calderdale	Elland House School
Cambridgeshire	Castle Lodge School
Cambridgeshire	March House
Cambridgeshire	On Track Training Centre
Cambridgeshire	Shelldene House School
Cambridgeshire	Waypoint House[1]
Camden	Gloucester House the Tavistock Childrens Day Unit
Cheshire	Brook House Farm
Cheshire	Dane House
Cheshire	Oracle
Cornwall	T Plus Centre (Taliesin Education)
Coventry	Rowan House
Croydon	Arvon House[1]
Croydon	Hillcrest London School
Croydon	Hillcrest Norwood[1]
Croydon	St. Annes Independent PRU
Croydon	Thornton Heath College
Cumbria	Education and Youth Services Ltd., Carlisle
Cumbria	Kirby Moor School
Darlington	Pear Tree School
Derbyshire	Arnfield Independent School
Derbyshire	Boyd House[1]
Derbyshire	Glendale House
Derbyshire	The Linnet Independent Learning Centre
Derbyshire	The Meadows
Devon	Moorlands School
Devon	On Track Training Centre
Doncaster	York House
Durham	The Daltons[1]
Ealing	Insights Education Centre
East Riding of Yorkshire	Sycamore House
East Sussex	Jemini Response
East Sussex	The Firs[1]
Essex	Essex Fresh Start
Essex	Oasis School
Gloucestershire	Althea Park Education Unit
Gloucestershire	The Cornerstone
Gloucestershire	Three Castles College
Halton	110 Peel House Lane Green Corns
Halton	47 Lowerhouse Lane—Green Corns
Halton	62 Peelhouse—Green Corns
Halton	Fair Holme

	Name
Halton	Greenway Green Corns
Halton	Halton House School
Halton	Halton View Green Corns
Halton	Liverpool Green Corns
Halton	Lunts Heath—Greencorns
Halton	Middleton Lodge
Halton	Saxon Road Green Corns[1]
Halton	South Parade Green Corns[1]
Hampshire	Hillcrest—Hayling Island
Hampshire	Tadley Horizon
Hartlepool	Hartlepool School Education and Vocational Training Centre
Hertfordshire	Education and Youth Services (Herts)
Hertfordshire	Worldshapers Academy
Kensington and Chelsea	Snowflake School
Kent	Alexandra House[1]
Kent	Arundel House
Kent	Farm Cottage
Kent	Ferndearle
Kent	Haven House At Meadowcroft
Kent	Hobbit House
Kent	Hope View School
Kent	Pumping Station School
Kent	Seameadows
Kent	Shalom Place
Kent	St. Nicholas Lodge (Broadstairs)
Kent	The Annex School House
Kent	The Ashbrook Centre
Kent	The Boulters Learning and Skills Centre
Kent	The Symbol Academy
Kent	The Willows
Kent	Toadstool Cottage[1]
Kent	Victoria House
Kent	Wilford Court
Kirklees	Rosedale Co Central Office
Lancashire	Broadclough Lodge
Lancashire	Cumberland School
Lancashire	Granville Greencorns[1]
Lancashire	Keyes Barn
Lancashire	Oliver House School
Lancashire	Park View School
Lancashire	Regent School—Green Corns
Lancashire	Roselyn House School
Lancashire	Seaview Learning Centre
Lancashire	Spring Vale School
Lancashire	The Birches
Lancashire	The Evaglades
Lancashire	Trax Academy
Lancashire	Waidshouse Greencorns Independent School[1]
Leicester	Gryphon School
Leicestershire	Claybrook Cottage School
Leicestershire	Hazel House
Leicestershire	Sketchley Horizon
Leicestershire	The Cedars
Leicestershire	Trinity College
Lincolnshire	Midsummer House School
Lincolnshire	Yail (Gainsborough)
Medway	Blue Skies School
Newham	Laurel Leaf School
Norfolk	Lovells Hall

	Name
Norfolk	Stubbs House Education Unit
Norfolk	The Close[1]
North Lincolnshire	Barton School
North Lincolnshire	Demeter House
North Yorkshire	Learning To Listen
Northumberland	Howard House
Nottinghamshire	Blue Mountain Education
Nottinghamshire	Hill Farm College
Nottinghamshire	Hope House School
Nottinghamshire	Middlehey
Nottinghamshire	Newbridge House[1]
Nottinghamshire	Nookin Cottage[1]
Nottinghamshire	The Old Farmhouse
Nottinghamshire	Villa Real Farmhouse
Oldham	The Croft
Oxfordshire	Chilworth House School
Peterborough	Windsor House
Rochdale	Alder Meadow Green Corns Independent School
Rochdale	Argyle—Green Corns[1]
Rochdale	Bankfield
Rochdale	Banks Croft School
Rochdale	Bernard—Green Corns[1]
Rochdale	Cronkeyshaw—Green Corns
Rochdale	Elmsfield
Rochdale	Fox—Green Corns[1]
Rochdale	Further Heights—Green Corns
Rochdale	Gloucester—Green Corns
Rochdale	Great Howarth College[1]
Rochdale	Moorgate
Rochdale	Norden Way
Rochdale	Park Hill—Green Corns
Rochdale	Pathfinders School
Rochdale	Peppercorn[1]
Rochdale	Pilsworth—Green Corns
Rochdale	Pleasant Street
Rochdale	Queens Park—Green Corns
Rochdale	Rooley Moor—Green Corns
Rochdale	Roughbank Farm
Rochdale	Shellfield Green Corns
Rochdale	Summit Greencoms
Rochdale	Thames—Green Corns
Rochdale	The Barn Greencoms
Rochdale	Weston—Green Corns
Rochdale	Whitebeam School—Green Corns[1]
Rutland	The Shires At Stretton
Rutland	Wilds Lodge School
Salford	Aim Habonim
Sandwell	Bloomfield College
Shropshire	Condover Horizon School[1]
Shropshire	David Banks School[1]
Shropshire	Farleigh College
Shropshire	Flying High
Shropshire	Hillgate Farm
Shropshire	Hollyoaks[1]
Shropshire	Hurst Farm
Shropshire	New Options (Higford) School
Shropshire	The Evolution Centre
Shropshire	The Stubbs
Shropshire	Ty Newydd
Shropshire	Whitty Tree House
Solihull	The Island Project School
Somerset	Aethelstan College
Somerset	Continuum School Somerset
Somerset	Lillesdon School
Somerset	Staddons School
Somerset	Willows
Southampton	Cornerstone School
Southampton	The Serendipity Centre
Southend-on-Sea	Trinity Lodge
Staffordshire	Corporation Farmhouse[1]
Staffordshire	Highfields
Staffordshire	Hillcrest Kings Bromley
Staffordshire	Horizon School
Stockport	Ivy Cottage Residential School[1]
Suffolk	Acorn Cottage
Suffolk	Broadlands Hall
Suffolk	Gable End
Surrey	Kisimul School
Surrey	Papillon House
Surrey	Unsted Park School
Tameside	Lime Meadows
Telford and Wrekin	Eastgate House
Telford and Wrekin	Jigsaw School
Wakefield	Dove Adolescent Services[1]
Wakefield	Stone House School
Warrington	Fitzwalter Greencorns
Warrington	Fletcher Street Greencorns
Warrington	High Trees
Warrington	Hunt Close Greencorns[1]
Warrington	Kingsway Greencorns
Warrington	Park View
Warrington	The Gables
Warrington	Warrington School
Warrington	Willoughby School
Warwickshire	Valley House
West Sussex	Ark House
West Sussex	My Choice School—Kestral House
West Sussex	My Choice School—Ocean Pearl
West Sussex	My Choice School—Shopham Bridge Farmhouse[1]
West Sussex	Provident House School
West Sussex	The Amicus School
West Sussex	The Education Centre[1]
Westminster	The Westside Independent School
Wiltshire	Sherant Education
Wiltshire	The Farringdon Centre

[1] These schools are no longer open.

Specialised Diplomas

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what maximum distance is stipulated between schools in each of the diploma consortia. [259107]

Jim Knight: The distance between schools within a consortium is not stipulated centrally; a range of factors need to be taken in to consideration including transport and access and arrangements are determined locally. Through the Diploma Gateway process consortia are required to explain how the young people in their area will access the different institutions within the consortium.

Standards Fund

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what initiatives have received funding through the Standards Fund; how much his Department has allocated to the fund in each year since the fund was established; how much has been allocated to the fund for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [260050]

Jim Knight: Tables showing the grants and the amounts allocated to local authorities under the Standards Fund programme since it began in 1998-99, and the grants allocated to date for 2009-10 and 2010-11, will be placed in the Library.

Sure Start Programme

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to make Sure Start centres accessible at evenings and weekends. [259598]

Beverley Hughes: Opening hours are a matter for local decision, taking account of the range of needs and resources to meet these. From April 2009 this Government are allocating over £1 billion a year to local authorities to support services in Sure Start Children's Centres. And Sure Start Children's Centres have changed the way many parents access essential services during their children's early years by delivering them closer to where families live and in ways that suit families needs. Centres offering integrated early learning and day care facilities as part of their services are required to be open 10 hours a day, five days a week and 48 weeks a year. They also have flexibility to open at other times. Other centres have more flexible opening hours but all centres will aim to provide services at times that suit the communities' needs — which can mean opening in the evenings and at weekends. Some centres have, for example, found that the best time to offer activities for fathers and their children is on Saturday morning. Guidance on opening times can be found in Chapter 3 of 'Sure Start Children's Centres Planning and Performance Management Guidance' (2006).

Teachers: Training

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what factors have been identified by his Department as contributing to the decline in the number of applications for post-graduate certificate of education courses in modern languages between 2000 and 2008; and what steps his Department is taking in response to this decline. [259585]

Jim Knight: The Department has not identified why there has been a decline in the number of applications for postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE) in modern languages between 2000 and 2008.

Modern languages remains a priority subject within initial teacher training and eligible trainees on PGCE courses leading to qualified teacher status can currently receive the maximum £9,000 training bursary and a £2,500 golden hello in the second year of teaching. The subject also has a proportionately higher profile in the Training and Development Agency for Schools advertising and marketing activities. This includes specialised direct marketing materials being sent to all those who register an interest in teaching the subject. The latest published figures show that applications for postgraduate modern language courses at 3 February 2009 are up 11.7 per cent. on the same time last year.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 6 March 2009

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

British Humanist Association

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much funding the Equality and Human Rights Commission has given to the British Humanist Association since the Commission's inception; and for what purposes. [259520]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission has provided the British Humanist Association a total of £35,000 to fund a programme of work with the stated outcome to deliver 'increased understanding of issues of religion or belief in the context of equality and human rights within the voluntary sector, media and general public; via research, conferences, guidance documents and media work'.

Charities

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1312W, on charities, how many *(a)* charities and *(b)* faith-based charities have applied for funding from the Government Equalities Office and been declined since 12 October 2007. [251981]

Maria Eagle: One of the 28 applications for support from the special fund for rape crisis centres was declined as the applicant did not meet all the eligibility criteria set out in my answer to PQ 251980, on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 738-9W.

No applications from faith-based charities have been received and declined.

Hospitality: Equality and Human Rights Commission

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Equality and Human Rights Commission spent on entertainment of each type in 2008-09. [258975]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission has spent £6,151 on hospitality in 2008-09.

Human Rights

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the *(a)* timetable and *(b)* remit of the Equality and Human Rights Commission's inquiry into human rights in Britain is. [259530]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission launched its Human Rights Inquiry in April 2008 and is due to report in spring 2009. The terms of reference are:

> To assess progress towards the effectiveness and enjoyment of a culture of respect for human rights in Great Britain
>
> To consider how the current human rights framework might best be developed and used to realise the vision of a society built on fairness and respect, confident in all aspects of its diversity.

The inquiry, which covers England and Wales, will investigate:

> Public attitudes to the Human Rights Act
>
> How the Human Rights Act is working
>
> How it is used by public authorities and other organisations where appropriate.

Further information about the inquiry including the terms of reference can be found on the Commission's website:

> http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/projects/humanrightsinquiry/Pages/HumanrightsInquiry.aspxx

Travelling People

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality in which planning cases relating to Travellers the Equality and Human Rights Commission has made an intervention since it was established. [259426]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has only intervened in the case of McCarthy and Others v Basildon district council.

The EHRC intervened in this particular appeal in order to advise on how the law in relation to race and disability discrimination should be applied in cases involving Gypsy and Travellers evictions. The EHRC offered guidance on how councils should come to these decisions to ensure they meet their legal obligations to go about such decisions in a fair and transparent way.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Small Businesses: Wiltshire

Mr. Gray: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small and medium-sized enterprises were registered in *(a)* North Wiltshire constituency, *(b)* Wiltshire and *(c)* Swindon in each year since 1997. [259504]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what estimate has been made of the number of small to medium-sized enterprises registered in (a) North Wiltshire constituency, (b) Wiltshire and (c) Swindon in each year since 1997. (259504)

Annual statistics on business size and location are available from the ONS release on UK Business: Activity, Size and Location. The table below contains enterprise counts from 2000 to 2008. These data are not available prior to 2000.

Count of small and medium enterprises in Swindon UA, Wiltshire county and North Wiltshire

Employee size	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
0 to 49 (small)									
Swindon UA	4,820	4,970	4,615	4,440	4,435	4,595	4,715	4,860	5,170
Wiltshire county	15,905	16,300	16,630	16,685	17,065	17,780	18,050	18,850	19,350
North Wiltshire	4,255	4,360	4,420	4,470	4,565	4,795	4,810	5,095	5,300
50 to 249 (medium)									
Swindon UA	105	115	110	105	95	100	105	115	115
Wiltshire county	195	185	205	200	215	205	220	220	225
North Wiltshire	35	40	40	40	50	45	60	65	65

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Jenny Watson

Mr. Heath: To ask the honourable Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what further information the Speaker's Committee has received about the outside interests of the chairman of the Electoral Commission. [261803]

Sir Peter Viggers: During the debate on 17 December 2008 on the Motion to appoint Jenny Watson as chairman of the Electoral Commission, I informed the House that Ms Watson had agreed to give up all her other paid appointments, with the exception of her role as a member of the board of the Audit Commission. Ms Watson has subsequently informed the Speaker's Committee that she wishes to retain another of her paid appointments, as a non-executive director of the Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP). WRAP is a publicly-funded company which works with businesses and consumers to encourage recycling.

The Speaker's Committee has considered Ms Watson's request and has concluded that there is no conflict of interest. Neither, in the Committee's judgment, does Ms Watson's retention of her two non-executive roles impinge on her ability to fulfil her commitment to work three days a week as chairman of the Electoral Commission. Ms Watson works three days a month for the Audit Commission and a further two days a month for WRAP.

TRANSPORT

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group were (i) slightly and (ii) seriously injured whilst (A) crossing the road in and (B) taking part in a public demonstration in Parliament square in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [261536]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In 2007, two pedestrians were slightly injured in reported personal injury road accidents while crossing the road in Parliament square—one male casualty in December and one female casualty in April. There was one seriously injured male casualty in January. All three casualties were adults aged 16 to 59 years old.

Information on the number of collisions involving persons taking part in public demonstrations is not collected.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accidents occurred in Parliament square in each of the last 12 months; how many *(a)* involved and *(b)* were found to have been caused by persons taking part in public demonstrations opposite Carriage Gates; and if he will make a statement. [261537]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury road accidents in 2007 that occurred in Parliament square are given in the following table:

	Injury accidents
January	2
February	0
March	0
April	3
May	1
June	3
July	1
August	0
September	1
October	0
November	0
December	1
Total	12

Information on the number of collisions involving or caused by persons taking part in public demonstrations opposite 'Carriage Gates' is not collected.

Roads: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 23W, on roads: Lancashire, how many meetings his officials have held with Lancashire county council officials about work supported by a road safety partnership grant not specific to the A59; where those meetings were held; and what decisions were made at those meetings. [260663]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport (DFT) awarded Lancashire county council a Road Safety Partnership Grant of £15,000 in May 2007 for the purpose of developing a web-based interactive road safety auditor's checklist, for use across the country.

Relating to this, a DFT officer has met with Lancashire county council officers six times to monitor progress and to advise about the project. These meetings were held in Lancashire county council's offices in Preston.

The award of a further partnership grant project involving Lancashire county council was announced on 4 March. There have been no meetings between officials and those of the county council about this work since it has been supported by partnership grant. However officials have met during the formulation of Lancashire's bid for funding support.

Roads: Safety

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of road safety partnership grants in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England. [260661]

Jim Fitzpatrick: An assessment of the effectiveness of road safety partnership grants in England is in progress. It will be completed when results from the first round of projects are available.

This first round of road safety partnership grant projects in England, which includes a project in Lancashire, is due for completion this spring.

Rolling Stock

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-3, on new trains (investment), where the assembly facility for the new rolling stock for the East Coast and Great Western main lines will be located; and whether it will be located in an area which attracts Government development grants. [260009]

Paul Clark: Agility Trains has indicated that the facility will be located in either Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Gateshead or Sheffield. Government grants are given out according to exacting criteria and Agility Trains will need to speak to the appropriate Regional Development Agency and to UK Trade and Investments in order to ascertain their ability to attract this type of support.

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-3, on new trains (investment), how the 2,500 new direct jobs relating to the contract to supply new rolling stock for the East Coast and Great Western main lines will be allocated in terms of *(a)* function and *(b)* location. [260010]

Paul Clark: The following information has been provided by Agility Trains.

300 staff will be employed in the UK developing the six new manufacturing/maintenance facilities. In addition, there will be 200 UK jobs created in the design, supplier management, testing and commissioning of the trains; 500 jobs with major UK suppliers; 1,000 jobs will be distributed around the new and existing train maintenance and servicing centres; and up to 500 new jobs created in the UK Hitachi manufacturing facility.

Agility anticipates that the total of 2,500 jobs will be spread throughout the UK, which will lead to a total of 12,500 jobs created or safeguarded

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-3, on new trains (investment), where the design and engineering work to be carried out by Agility Trains for the new rolling stock for the East Coast and Great Western main lines is to be carried out in the first three years of the contract. [260012]

Paul Clark: Agility Trains expects the design and engineering work in the first three years of the contract to be split between the UK and Japan, with 50 UK-based design positions created from the point of contract award.

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-3, on new trains (investment), what percentage of new trains for the East Coast and Great Western main lines will be built in Japan by *(a)* value and *(b)* component. [260013]

Paul Clark: Approximately the first 70 of the 1,400 vehicles will be built in Japan. This equates to 5 per cent. of the total. Agility is committed to spending nearly three quarters of the value of the order in the UK, and is currently in active discussions with 20 high-quality UK suppliers. As no contracts have yet been signed, the Department for Transport cannot provide a split by supplier value or component at this stage.

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-3, on new trains (investment), whether he has estimated the level of carbon dioxide emissions likely to result from shipping the first 70 cars of rolling stock from Japan to the UK for the East Coast and Great Western main lines. [260016]

Paul Clark: No assessment has been made of carbon emissions likely to result from shipping the first 70 cars from Japan. Shipping is acknowledged as the most economical and environmentally friendly way of relocating goods worldwide, and the Government are committed to making the shipping sector even more environmentally friendly.

Vehicle Number Plates

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to bring forward legislative proposals to legalise the display of national flags on number plates in Great Britain to take effect on 23 April 2009. [259641]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is not possible to commit to a specific date at this point as the informal consultation has not concluded and the response from the European Commission Technical Committee is not expected until early March. The outcome from these will need to be considered before I am able to determine the exact time scale in which the legislation may take effect.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Virgin Islands: Crimes of Violence

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many violent crimes took place in the British Virgin Islands in each of the last five years. [260683]

Gillian Merron: The Royal Virgin Islands Police Force (RVIPF) is responsible for the collation of crime statistics and have provided the following information on major crimes:

	Number
2008	724
2007	610
2006	649
2005	725

The RVIPF classifies crimes as major or minor, rather than violent or non-violent. Major crimes include murder, attempted murder, rape, burglary, robbery, theft, serious assaults and sexual offences. Statistics for 2004 are not available.

British Virgin Islands: Tourism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British tourists visited the British Virgin Islands in each of the last five years. [260681]

Gillian Merron: The Development Planning Unit of the Government of the British Virgin Islands collates arrivals figures by country of origin. Figures for arrivals from the UK were as follows:

	Number
2004	87,441
2005	89,880
2006	92,012

The Development Planning Unit has advised that figures for 2007 and 2008 are not currently available.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of the British Virgin Islands gross domestic product was generated by the tourist sector in each of the last five years. [260682]

Gillian Merron: The Development Planning Unit of the Government of the British Virgin Islands has provided the following statistics relating to the percentage of gross domestic product generated by the tourist sector:

	Percentage
2004	30.03
2005	30.40
2006	30.74
2007	30.97

The Development Planning Unit has advised that the figure for 2008 is not currently available.

Departmental Consultants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost of his Department's contracts with management consultants was in each of the last five years. [251370]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not break down expenditure on consultants into specific categories to this level.

Annual expenditure on consultants is published in the FCO's annual departmental reports, copies of which are available on the FCO website and can be directly accessed through the following link:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029395438.

Departmental Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost of his Department's contracts with public relations consultancies was in each of the last five years. [251261]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not break down expenditure on consultants into specific categories to this level.

Annual expenditure on consultants is published in the FCO's annual departmental reports, copies of which are available on the FCO website and can be directly accessed through the following link:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029395438.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost of his Department's contracts with public affairs companies was in each of the last five years. [251284]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold information of expenditure broken down into categories of companies at this level. Examining individual contracts to respond to this question would incur disproportionate costs.

Falkland Islands

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with his Argentinean counterpart on the Falkland Islands in the last 10 years. [259928]

Gillian Merron: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers have met their Argentinean counterparts on numerous occasions over the last 10 years to discuss a variety of different subjects. None of these meetings have been specifically about the Falkland Islands. We have made it clear to the Argentinians that there can be no negotiations on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands unless and until such time as the Falkland Islanders so wish. The UK has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.

Movement for Democratic Change: Harassment

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of harassment of Movement for Democratic Change officials in Zimbabwe. [260272]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 3 March 2009]:* There was a spate of abductions of Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) activists in late 2008. On 27 February 2009, many of them were granted bail but some have

yet to be released. A further seven are missing, with the state denying knowledge of their whereabouts. The designated MDC Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Roy Bennett, was arrested on 13 February 2009. He and 10 MDC supporters who were arrested after protesting Mr. Bennett's arrest also remain in police custody. A further 60 MDC supporters arrested in 2009 are also in police custody. We will continue to monitor closely reports of politically motivated harassment, and encourage the new Government to meet their international obligations.

Movement for Democratic Change: Roy Bennett

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Government of Zimbabwe on the arrest and detention of Roy Bennett. [260184]

Gillian Merron: On 11 February, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary called for the immediate and unconditional release of all political detainees. On 16 February, Foreign Office officials made clear to the Zimbabwean embassy in London our concern about the arrest of Mr. Bennett on 13 February. Improved respect for human rights and the rule of law is a condition of international development support. We will continue to monitor developments closely and encourage the new Government to meet its international obligations.

Somalia: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the security situation in Somalia following the recent attack on the Burundi contingent of the AU Mission in Somalia. [260268]

David Miliband: We condemn recent attacks on the Burundi and other contingents of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). These attacks appear to have been aimed at blocking progress towards a long-term political solution to Somalia's problems. We have been encouraged that, despite the attacks, both Burundi and Uganda intend to deploy further troops to AMISOM.

While the security situation in Somalia remains fragile, there are encouraging signs that the political process is developing momentum. The new Transitional Government convened for the first time in Mogadishu on 28 February 2009. With support from AMISOM, security personnel from the Transitional Government are in control of much of Mogadishu. We, and the rest of the international community, will continue to support President Sharif's efforts to create a stable environment that will allow the new government to begin rebuilding the country.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of allegations that Ethiopian troops have returned to Kalabeyrka in Somalia since the withdrawal of Ethiopian forces from the country in January 2009. [260779]

Gillian Merron: We are aware of media reporting of incursions by Ethiopian troops into Somalia since the withdrawal in January, including skirmishes with other forces. However, we have had no official confirmation.

It is important at this stage in the Djibouti process that President Sharif is offered the space by the international community to work towards reconciliation within Somalia. Outside actors should not take any action which has the potential to undermine this process.

Somalia: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 130W, on Somalia: armed conflict, what estimate he has made of the number of displaced people returning to Mogadishu following the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops in January 2009. [260241]

David Miliband: The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) estimates that between 25,000 and 40,000 internally displaced persons have returned to Mogadishu this year. The Ethiopian withdrawal in January is likely to have been a major spur for these returns, but we are unable to attribute precise figures to this.

The new Somali Prime Minister has said that assisting the return of displaced Mogadishu residents will be one of the first priorities for his administration.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the attacks in southern Sudan by the Lord's Resistance Army; and if he will make a statement. [260321]

Gillian Merron: British and US officials have discussed the current military action by the Governments of Uganda, DRC and Southern Sudan against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), including the need to limit retaliatory action by the LRA against civilian populations in southern Sudan and elsewhere in the region on a number of occasions. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not raised the issue of the LRA with his US counterpart.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken with *(a)* the United Nations and *(b)* the European Union to prevent further attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army in southern Sudan. [260324]

Gillian Merron: British officials have closely followed the military operation against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), along with their counterparts in the United Nations Security Council and the EU. The impact of LRA actions on civilian populations forms a regular part of our dialogue with the UN missions in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

A UN Security Council Presidential Statement was issued on 23 December 2008, condemning Joseph Kony's refusal to sign the Final Peace Agreement and welcoming the joint efforts by the Governments of Uganda, DRC, Southern Sudan and the Central African Republic to tackle the LRA. This was followed by further a press

statement in January condemning the retaliatory attacks by the LRA and calling on them to cease its attacks on civilians immediately.

The EU issued a statement on 19 February noting the regional military action against the LRA, condemning the atrocious attacks by the LRA and calling on all involved in the military operation to protect the civilian population from further attacks.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to prevent attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army on Sudan. [260325]

Gillian Merron: The Governments of Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Southern Sudan are currently engaged in joint military action against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). We have urged all parties involved to respect fully international law, do all they can to minimise any adverse humanitarian impact and fully coordinate with the UN missions in the region. We have also called for the protection of local populations from LRA retaliatory attacks. Recent reporting suggests that the numbers of LRA attacks on civilians, which have mainly taken place in the DRC rather than Sudan, is diminishing, although it is unclear whether this is due to better civilian protection efforts, erosion of LRA capability or a change of LRA tactics.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to ensure the comprehensive peace agreement in southern Sudan is upheld. [260323]

Gillian Merron: The Government continuously seek to promote a peaceful resolution for the whole of Sudan, including ensuring the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in southern Sudan is upheld. My noble Friend, the Minister for Africa congratulated the parties to the CPA on the fourth anniversary of the agreement saying:

"The UK is committed to work with both parties and all interested partners to support the CPA and to build stability and prosperity for the people of Sudan".

The UK plays a leading role in furthering implementation of the CPA. We witnessed the Agreement and are observers on the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC), the body that monitors implementation. We secured the appointment of Sir Derek Plumbly, a senior UK diplomat, as Chair of the AEC. The UK pledged £330 million for development assistance in Sudan for 2008-11 at the Sudan Consortium in May 2008.

We pursue our objectives for Sudan, including ensuring the CPA in southern Sudan is upheld, through close coordination with international partners such as the United Nations, the African Union and non-governmental organisations.

Uganda: Armed Conflict

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to assist the Ugandan authorities to arrest the leader of the Lord's Resistance Army, Joseph Kony. [260322]

Gillian Merron: The UK has not been approached for, nor provided, support to the joint military operation against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the northern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The Government of Uganda have entered into regional agreements with the Governments of DRC, southern Sudan and the Central African Republic to execute the three International Criminal Court arrest warrants against the LRA leaders. We welcome this increased regional cooperation between the Governments but urge all parties involved to fully respect international law and to do all they can to minimise the humanitarian impact and fully co-ordinate with the UN missions in the region.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Animals

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's animals have died in each of the last five years. [260703]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Casualties

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the number of service personnel who have survived their injuries following treatment in medical facilities in theatre in each of the last two years. [259666]

Mr. Hutton: Figures for the number of UK service personnel to have attended a UK field hospital in Iraq and Afghanistan for battle or non-battle injuries are shown in the following table. These injuries will have ranged in severity from personnel who were very seriously injured through to minor injuries.

	2007	*2008*
Number of attendances by UK service personnel	2,392	1,754
Number who subsequently died of their injuries	17	4

This equates to a survival rate of 99.49 per cent., which can be attributed to the highly skilled and professional staff of the Defence Medical Services and NHS.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much Modern Housing Solutions has paid in compensation to occupants of service family accommodation for *(a)* significant defects, *(b)* missed appointments and *(c)* damage to property or personal injury in the last 12 months. [260545]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Under the terms of the Housing Prime Contract (HPC), Modern Housing Solutions (MHS) is not required to compensate occupants but does so voluntarily. The actual amounts and type of compensation paid is a private matter between MHS and the individuals concerned.

However, the circumstances under which it is paid are set out on the compensation page of the company's website at:

http://www.modernhousingsolutions.com/customer/customer_compensation.asp

Compensation to occupants does not absolve MHS of its contractual obligations to complete work to the standards required under the HPC.

Armed Forces: Motor Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what costs are recorded of the track mile performance of the Army's wheeled vehicle fleet. [261031]

Mr. Quentin Davies: 'Track mile' is a term used in connection with tracked rather than wheeled vehicles. Information on operating costs for wheeled vehicles is not held in a format that would enable an estimate per mile to be made.

Clyde Submarine Base: Manpower

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* officers and *(b)* other ranks are employed at HM Naval Base Clyde as crews on Vanguard class submarines. [260952]

Mr. Hutton: As at 1 March 2009, 114 officers and 883 ratings were assigned to Vanguard class submarines. Data are not held in the format that allows identification of the numbers employed at HMNB Clyde. HMS Vigilant ships company will be based at HMNB Devonport for a three-year period while she is undergoing a major refit.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* summits, *(b)* conferences and *(c)* seminars his Department has hosted since January 2008 at which a primary subject of discussion was the effect of the economic situation on matters within his Department's responsibility. [259750]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

We routinely consider the implications of economic factors for defence interests and such issues are likely to have been discussed in a wide variety of meetings and seminars across the Department.

EU Rapid Reaction Force

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which units are assigned to *(a)* NATO and *(b)* the EU under the Headline Goal. [261287]

Mr. Hutton: The Headline Goal is a term used to describe the EU Force Planning process. The UK does not assign units to the EU Headline Goal; the UK offer to the Headline Goal does not commit the UK to any action. Requests for forces to support EU operations are considered on a voluntary case-by-case basis. The UK declaration to the Headline Goal is used for planning purposes only, to determine the shortfalls against the Level of Ambition (LOA) in order to focus capability development. The UK's full contribution to the Headline Goal 2010 is detailed in the UK's 2006 Headline Goal Questionnaire, which we placed in the Library of the House on 22 June 2007.

NATO has a different LOA to the EU and operates a separate Force Planning process. The UK declaration to the NATO LOA is similarly used for planning purposes only and does not commit the UK to any action in NATO operations.

European Defence Agency: Finance

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has paid to the European Defence Agency in each year since it was established; and what estimate he has made of the sum of such payments to the agency in each of the next three years. [261285]

Mr. Hutton: The amount paid to the European Defence Agency (EDA) in each of the financial years since it was established in 2004 is as set out following:

Financial year	*£ million*
2004-05	1.56
2005-06	2.36
2006-07	2.09
2007-08	1.95
2008-09	3.11
2009-10	[1]4.22

[1] Estimated.

I am unable to provide an estimate of the payments for further years as we have yet to enter into negotiations with other EDA partners over future budgets.

Ex-servicemen: Community Service Orders

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of former military personnel who were serving a community service order in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [261044]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Neither the Ministry of Justice nor the Ministry of Defence collects data on the number of former military personnel serving community service orders and has made no estimate. I set out our plans, in concert with the Ministry of Justice, to conduct research on the proportion of veterans in the prison population, and on offending among those who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, in my answer on 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1061-62W.

Galileo: Secondment

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's *(a)* civilian and *(b)* uniformed personnel are seconded to the Galileo project. [261286]

Mr. Hutton: There are two MOD civilians seconded to work in the EU Galileo programme, both funded by the Department for Transport who are the lead Department for Galileo: one seconded national expert on export controls, working in the European Global Navigation

Satellite System Supervisory Authority (GSA); and one seconded national expert on project management, working for the European Commission's DG Transport and Environment (DG TREN). There are no UK military staff officers seconded to the Galileo programme.

Middle East: Navy

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the role of the Royal Navy is in monitoring *(a)* Israeli activists at sea and *(b)* Palestinian seafarers. [261094]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Navy has no role in monitoring Israeli activities at sea or Palestinian sea-farers.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces helicopters of each type have been desertised in each of the last 10 years; and what the average cost of desertising a helicopter of each type is. [260565]

Mr. Quentin Davies: All military helicopters that operate in desert conditions have been procured fully equipped to operate in sandy environments. However, maintenance regimes are tailored to address the specific challenges of the operating conditions.

Project Bellringer

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on Project Bellringer; and if he will make a statement. [243558]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding this information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

RAF Brize Norton

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the average age is of the aircraft chartered for the purpose of transporting service personnel to and from RAF Brize Norton; [260690]

(2) which commercial air operators operate flights from RAF Brize Norton. [260692]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Information on the average age of aircraft is not held.

The following is a list of commercial air operators who operated flights from RAF Brize Norton for the UK MOD in the period from 1 January 2008 to 28 February 2009:

Air Alitalia
Air Berlin Gmbh
Air Charter Express
Air Charter Transport
Air Finland
Air Slovakia
Antonov Design Bureau
ArkeFly
Atlas Air
Avico
Corsair
XL
FlyGlobespan
Icelandair
Jet2.com
Kalitta Air
Kuzu Airlines
Maximus Air
MK Airlines
Monarch Airlines
My Travel
Omni Air International
Polet
Ruslan
Thomas Cook
Thomson Fly
Titan Airways
Volgr Dneiper Airlines
World Airways

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people resident in Suffolk were on *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships in each of the last five years. [256958]

Mr. Simon: The following table shows the number of apprenticeship starts, by level, in Suffolk local authority from 2003-04 to 2007-08.

Apprenticeship starts in Suffolk by level

	Apprenticeship	*Advanced apprenticeship*	*Total*
2003/04	2,300	900	3,200
2004/05	1,900	700	2,300
2005/06	1,700	800	2,500
2006/07	1,800	700	2,500
2007/08	2,600	1000	3,700

Notes:
1. Local authority is based on learner's home postcode.
2. Numbers have been rounded and may not sum to total.

Source:
WBL ILR

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05. A remarkable achievement.

Students: Radicalism

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps are being taken to reduce levels of political and religious extremism in universities. [260794]

Mr. Lammy: We are working with universities and student bodies to support universities in addressing the issues that can drive students into the hands of violent

extremist groups. We have provided guidance to the higher education sector focussed on promoting shared values; fostering a healthy spirit of debate to engage and challenge those that hold extremist views; breaking down segregation among different communities; supporting students who may be at risk and ensuring staff and students are aware of their roles in preventing violent extremism.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1068-9W, on children: databases, what assessment he has made of the merits of enabling ContactPoint to match variant spellings of surnames. [261667]

Beverley Hughes: ContactPoint uses phonetic matching and alternatives for surnames in the same way as it does for forenames. It will also consider matches of surname against forenames. This enables ContactPoint to cater for situations where surname and forenames are interchangeable and could be incorrectly ordered, e.g. James Thomas, Thomas James.

Children: Day Care

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families by what date he expects free full-time childcare for children aged *(a)* three and *(b)* four years to be available. [261675]

Beverley Hughes: Each local authority has a duty to secure sufficient childcare to meet the needs of working parents and those looking to work or enter education or training, including both full and part time provision.

In addition, all three and four year olds are entitled now to 12.5 hours of free early education for 38 weeks of the year. That offer is being extended progressively so that by 2010 all 3 and 4-year-olds will be entitled to 15 hours a week—available more flexibly to meet families needs.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 443W, on departmental disciplinary proceedings, how many cases of bullying and harassment in his Department have been *(a)* formally investigated and *(b)* referred for mediation in the last three years. [261674]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since the answer given on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 443W, there have been no cases of bullying and harassment in the Department that have been formally investigated or referred for mediation in the last three years.

School Leaving

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils dropped out of school before the age of 16 in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England in the last 12 months. [261672]

Jim Knight: Information on pupils dropping out of schools is not collected, nor can it be accurately derived from the data currently collected on pupils.

Schools: Admissions

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on shared catchment areas for schools. [261670]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The School Admissions Code sets out the mandatory requirements for schools and local authorities when setting and administering catchment areas. The Code provides guidelines for doing this in a fair and practical way, as part of agreed local admissions policies.

It is for schools and local authorities to ensure that catchment areas do not exclude disadvantaged groups, and provide access to local state schools on a fair and transparent basis.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carer's Allowance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cardiff Central, *Official Report*, column 849W, on carer's allowance, if he will allocate resources to producing the estimates requested in the question. [255376]

Jonathan Shaw: We have no current plans to make such estimates.

Children: Maintenance

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many child maintenance cases were closed where the parent with care was *(a)* claiming and *(b)* not claiming income support and (i) the non-resident parent was still liable to pay maintenance and (ii) the maintenance liability had ended in each of the last 24 months. [260114]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about child maintenance, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the child maintenance system is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many child maintenance cases were closed where the parent with care was (a) claiming and (b) not claiming income support and (i) the non-resident parent was still liable to pay maintenance and (ii) the maintenance liability had ended in each of the last 24 months. [260114]

The information that you have requested is not available as the Child Support Agency does not record information on the maintenance liability status of a case at the point it is closed, or on the benefit status of closed cases.

Information on the number of current scheme applications which are closed each month is routinely published in Table 2.4 of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS). The latest copy of which is in the House of Commons library or online at the following link:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/publications/statistics.html.

The information set out in this table is concerned with the status of cases at the application stage rather than at case closure. It includes information on applications for child maintenance made as a result of a claim for either Income Support or Jobseekers Allowance.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of maintaining the databases owned and managed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies was in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [256144]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department realigned its contracts with its major suppliers, EDS and BT, in 2005, which means the Department only pays for the IT services it consumes.

As the contract pricing mechanisms are based on the volumes of services consumed, it is not possible to separately identify the elements of the service costs that relate to the maintenance and management of databases.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* food in each of the last five years. [261155]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions does not separately account for its expenditure on either alcohol or food for hospitality purposes. Expenditure on alcohol and entertaining falls within the classification "Hospitality" within Managing Public Money, the use of which is strictly prescribed, and in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, which is based on the principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. Accordingly, alcohol is provided only as an exception and only with the specific written authority of a small number of designated senior civil servants.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 855-6W, on public expenditure, how much his Department's year-end stock of money, net of stock drawn down to fund in-year spend, was in each year since 2002; and what his estimate is for this figure at the end of 2008-09. [260098]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions' year-end stock of money not spent in earlier years since 2002 is shown in the following table:

	Year-end stock of money not spent (£000)
2002-03	1,394,874
2003-04	917,664
2004-05	692,893
2005-06	594,027
2006-07	795,943
2007-08	800,883

The year-end stock of money not spent in earlier years is calculated net of stock drawn down to fund in year spend and includes additional stock generated in year.

The stock of money not spent (commonly referred to as end of year flexibility) is determined at the end of each financial year in conjunction with HM Treasury and is published in the Public Expenditure Outturn White Paper (PEOWP).

As part of the pre-Budget report 2008 the Department was provided with funding to support the impact of the economic downturn in 2009-10 and 2010-11. The Department agreed to contribute its end of year flexibility stock towards this additional funding.

It is therefore expected that there will be no remaining stock of money at the end of 2008-09.

Employment

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 24 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 283-4W, how many of the 300,000 new jobs expected under company agreements had been created at the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [256824]

Mr. McNulty: Through Local Employment Partnerships, Jobcentre Plus and its partners work to enable employers to recruit disadvantaged jobless people in greater numbers. More than 100,000 people have already been helped into work through Local Employment Partnerships.

Employment Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what back to work support will be offered to lone parents or partners of benefit claimants with children aged *(a)* nought to two, *(b)* three to six and *(c)* over six years old who are not part of the progression to work pathfinders. [255130]

Kitty Ussher: One of the core recommendations from the Gregg Review of conditionality was the creation of a new 'Progression to Work' group. Gregg recommends that this new approach should be for those people who may not be ready to work immediately, but who with the right mix of support and encouragement could get back into employment. This model would apply to employment and support allowance (ESA) claimants (other than those in the ESA support group) and lone parents and partners of children aged one to six. The 'Progression to Work' pathfinders have been created as a result of this recommendation.

The claimants involved in the 'Progression to Work' group will be required to actively engage with their adviser on an ongoing basis to consider, discuss and

agree an action plan comprising activities they think will improve their prospects of moving back into work. They must then undertake these agreed activities as part of their own journey towards employment following directions from advisers where these are strictly necessary. This will be underpinned with recourse to sanctions for those failing to engage with support without good cause. However, although still in the 'Progression to Work' group, lone parents and partners with children aged one and two will be encouraged, rather than required, to undertake work-related activity and will not be sanctioned for refusing to undertake work-related activity.

This pathfinder will cover approximately 10 to 15 per cent. of the new ESA claimants and parents with a youngest child aged between one and less than seven nationally. This equates to roughly 65,000 ESA claimants, 60,000 lone parents and 10,000 partners of benefit recipients each year. These pathfinders are anticipated to begin in late 2010 and last for two years. They are likely to be across six districts and delivery will be a mixture of provider led and Jobcentre Plus led.

Lone parents with children aged less than seven who are not part of the 'Progression to Work' pathfinders are required to attend six-monthly work focused interviews where they can access information about voluntary participation in the new deal for lone parents as well as access a wide range of support to help them move into, and remain and progress in, work.

This package of support under new deal for lone parents is also available to lone parents affected by the new benefit requirements introduced in November 2008 for lone parents with older children. However, once a lone parent has been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for 12 months, they will switch to contracted flexible new deal provision. This will provide personalised help to all participants, including specialised help for lone parents.

Partners of benefit claimants can also, through mandatory work focused interviews, access information about voluntary participation in the new deal for partners, which provides a similar level of provision to new deal for lone parents such as specialised advice, support and training in helping partners to enter or return to work.

Employment: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what equality impact assessment has been undertaken on the commissioning of a specialist disability employment programme; what risks have been identified in the procurement process; and if he will make a statement. [259122]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 26 February 2009]:* An equality impact assessment on the new specialist disability employment programme was undertaken as part of the White Paper "Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future" impact assessment. This was published online in December 2008 at

www.dwp.gov.uk/raisingexpectations.

The equality impact assessment will be regularly reviewed.

The new disability employment programme is being progressed through a formal project within DWP, and the project management process includes identifying and managing all potential risks. A number of these have commercial implications, so listing them would not be appropriate at this time.

Members: Correspondence

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 787W, if he will direct his Department to send copies of the responses to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's letters on behalf of his constituent Joe Shepherd to the hon. Member's constituency office. [261557]

Jonathan Shaw: Copies of both letters were e-mailed to the hon. Member's constituency office on 4 March 2009. Copies were also sent in the post on the same day.

Pensions: Inflation

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to reduce inflation inequality between people of pensionable age and people of other ages. [258813]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Work and Pensions is required to review all social security benefits each year to ensure they have retained their value in relation to prices (or, for the standard minimum guarantee in pension credit, earnings). Generally the contributory benefits are increased in line with the retail prices index and the income related benefits increased by the Rossi index which is the retail prices index with the housing elements removed.

The retail prices index takes account of changes in the cost of a wide range of goods and services and reflects the average increases in costs that people face year-on-year. Increasing benefits in line with this measure ensures that benefits keep their real value in broad terms.

The new rates that will come into force from April have been increased in line with inflation as measured last September, when the retail prices index was 5 per cent. and the Rossi index was 6 per cent. These increases are, against a backdrop of falling inflation, in line with the highest increase in inflation last year. The increase in the standard minimum guarantee in pension credit to £130 for single pensioners (£198.45 for pensioner couples) represents the highest up-lift since it came into force in 2003.

The Department recognises that different groups may currently be experiencing varying levels of inflationary pressure and is aware that the Office for National Statistics produces a quarterly 'Pensioner Prices Index' that relates to pensioners who derive more than 75 per cent. of their income from state benefits. This measure is not used to increase pensioner benefits because it is not representative of the whole pensioner population, therefore the Department does not consider that pensioner benefits should be up-rated in a different way to benefits for other age groups.

Pensioners have received additional winter fuel payments this year that have increased the payments to £250 for households with someone aged 60-79 and £400 for households with someone aged over 80.

Furthermore, the Department has also increased the Christmas bonus from £10 to £70 and increased the cold weather payment from £8.50 to £25 this year. This additional support goes to entitled recipients of both pension age and working age and provides direct financial support to help vulnerable groups through the economic downturn.

Remploy

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with representatives of Remploy on their future plans; and if he will make a statement. [261669]

Jonathan Shaw: Ministers have regular dialogue with Remploy about progress in delivering their modernisation plan and their future strategy. In particular, the Minister for Disabled People is working very closely with Remploy on the implementation of their modernisation plan. This includes chairing a cross-Government ministerial group on public procurement.

Social Fund

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of social fund loan applications were processed within the target actual average clearance time in the last 12 months. [260862]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 5 March 2009]:* The available information is given in the following table.

Percentage of social fund loan applications processed within the average actual clearance time standard in Great Britain

	Budgeting loans	*Crisis loans*
2008		
February	81	[1]
March	82	92
April	74	92
May	65	93
June	61	[1]
July	76	93
August	82	94
September	80	93
October	79	93
November	[1]	93
December	67	[1]
2009		
January	84	93

[1] Not available.

Notes:

1. The average actual clearance time standard for budgeting loans is six working days and for crisis loans is two working days.
2. The clearance time for an individual loan application is measured in whole working days from the date the application is received until the date the decision is taken on whether to make a loan offer, plus, if a loan offer is made, the number of whole working days between receiving the applicant's reply to the offer and the recording of that reply. The minimum clearance time recorded for an individual loan application is one working day, even if the application is cleared immediately.

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Social Security Benefits: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* benefit and *(b)* incapacity benefit was in (i) each principal seaside town, (ii) each lower layer super output area in each principal seaside town and (iii) the UK (A) in 2004 and (B) at the latest date for which figures are available. [244426]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Social Security Benefits: Databases

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* data matching and *(b)* data accuracy software his Department uses to ensure that databases used to support the benefit system are accurate. [251624]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* Information Directorate utilises data internally transferred from benefit paying systems and a number of other sources. Those data sets are matched to highlight inconsistencies and anomalies. The software used for data matching is currently Excel, Access and SAS. Information Directorate also utilises the skills of its IT contractors (EDS) to undertake certain matching exercises on its behalf. The results of such matching exercises form the information basis for further investigation into the accuracy of claims on the benefit systems.

The Department's benefit systems have a number of internal control mechanisms and processes, and are in some cases self-validating. This ensures that, where possible, data fields cannot be populated with incorrect or anomalistic data. The Department also utilises audit techniques to assure the accuracy of its benefit paying systems.

Winter Fuel Payments

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps he is taking to increase the take up of the winter fuel allowance, with particular reference to men aged between 60 and 65 years; [258685]

(2) how many people in Newport West constituency *(a)* were eligible to claim and *(b)* claimed the Winter Fuel Allowance in 2007-08. [258684]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The vast majority of winter fuel payments are made automatically based on information held in DWP records, without the need to claim. A small proportion of people whose circumstances we do not know, because they are not on state pension or other benefits administered by DWP, do need to make a claim so that their eligibility can be assessed.

For people newly eligible and not in receipt of a benefit administered by DWP, for example men aged 60 to 65 who are in work, we can only determine eligibility once they have submitted the relevant information on a claim form. We send claim forms to customers approaching 60 who we have identified as becoming potentially newly eligible from DWP records, but are not at that time in receipt of state pension.

To raise awareness of eligibility of winter fuel payments and, where appropriate, the need to make a claim each year, we run an extensive advertising campaign and series of press releases in regional and national newspapers. We also make reference to winter fuel payments in government leaflets. The claim form is available on the Pension Service website, with full details available on the Direct Gov internet site.

It is therefore not possible to say how many people may be eligible for a winter fuel payment and are not receiving it. We can only assess eligibility for those people who are in contact with the Department and whose circumstances are known to us.

In winter 2006-07, the last year for which figures are available, 16,720 people in the Newport, West constituency received a winter fuel payment.

HEALTH

Blood: Contamination

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will hold a public inquiry into the infection of haemophiliacs with hepatitis C and HIV due to the use of contaminated blood by the NHS. [261080]

Dawn Primarolo: We have considered the call for a public inquiry very carefully. However the Government do not consider a further inquiry is justified as it would not add to current knowledge about how infections happened or the steps taken to deal with the problem.

Although the Government do not accept that any wrongful practices were employed, successive Governments have acknowledged the tragic circumstances surrounding infection in recipients of blood and blood products. That is why ex-gratia payment schemes were established.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to pay compensation to haemophiliacs infected with hepatitis C and HIV following the use of contaminated blood by the NHS. [261081]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has set up three ex gratia payment schemes for those infected with Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or hepatitis C through national health service treatment—the Macfarlane Trust, the Eileen Trust and the Skipton Fund Ltd.

The Macfarlane Trust was set up in 1988 to establish a hardship fund to assist haemophiliacs who contracted HIV following treatment with blood products on the NHS.

The Eileen Trust was set up in 1993 as a charitable trust to assist people other than those with bleeding disorders, who had contracted HIV through NHS treatment with contaminated blood products.

The Skipton Fund Ltd was set up in 2004 as an ex gratia payment scheme for patients infected with hepatitis C through NHS contaminated blood and blood products, provided the patient was alive on 29 August 2003.

The Department is giving Lord Archer's report the consideration it deserves and will respond as soon as it has done so.

Contaminated Blood and Blood Products Inquiry

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration his Department gave to providing witnesses to give evidence in public to the Archer Inquiry into contaminated blood and blood products. [261082]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has never received any formal request to give evidence to the inquiry. There are no serving officials who would have any first hand knowledge of the events being investigated. However, the Department has fully co-operated with the inquiry, meeting with Lord Archer's team several times and supplying copies of relevant official documents.

Maternity Services: Finance

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 235W, on maternity services: finance, what arrangements his Department has put in place to ensure that funds allocated to primary care trusts under payment by results for the delivery of maternity care are spent on the provision of maternity care. [260605]

Ann Keen: The payment by results system does not inform the allocation of funds to primary care trusts (PCTs). Payment by results is the mechanism through which providers are paid by PCTs for a range of services, including maternity that fall within the scope of the national mandatory tariff.

It is for the national health service trusts to deploy this funding in line with national and local priorities and local plans. Maternity services are identified as a priority in the 2009-10 NHS Operating Framework.

All strategic health authorities (SHAs) have already set out plans to improve maternity services as part of the NHS Next Stage Review. PCTs are working with trusts to deliver these plans and SHAs will be holding PCTs to account for delivering their plans.

Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1396W, on nutrition, what codes his Department used in collating the information provided in the answer. [261673]

Dawn Primarolo: In the previous answer, malnutrition is classified between the ICD-10 codes E40-E46 and 025. The codes are set out as follows.

E40 Kwashiorkor
E41 Nutritional marasmus
E42 Marasmic kwashiorkor
E43 Unspecified severe protein-energy malnutrition
E44 Protein-energy malnutrition of moderate and mild degree
E45 Retarded development following protein-energy malnutrition
E46 Unspecified protein-energy malnutrition
Also:
025 Malnutrition in pregnancy

Nutritional Anaemia:

D50 Iron Deficiency anaemias
D51 Vitamin B12 deficiency anaemias

D52 Folate deficiency anaemias
D53 Other nutritional anaemias
Other nutritional deficiencies:
E50 Vitamin A deficiency
E51 Thiamine deficiency
E52 Niacin deficiency
E53 Deficiency of other group B vitamins
E54 Ascorbic acid deficiency
E55 Vitamin D deficiency
E56 Other vitamin deficiencies
E58 Dietary calcium deficiency
E59 Dietary selenium deficiency
E60 Dietary zinc deficiency
E61 Deficiency of other nutritional elements
E63 Other nutritional deficiencies

Transplant Surgery: Republic of Ireland

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many transplant operations were performed on people from the Republic of Ireland in each of the last 10 years; how many organs for transplant were imported from the Republic of Ireland in each of the last 10 years; and how much the Irish Government paid the NHS for the procedures in each such year. [261366]

Ann Keen: Information on how much the Irish Government paid the national health service for the procedures in each year in the following table is not held centrally. The following table shows transplants performed on residents of the Republic of Ireland in United Kingdom NHS hospitals, April 1998 to March 2008, broken down by financial year and type of transplant.

Transplant Year	*Kidney*	*Heart*	*Lung(s)*	*Heart/ lung*	*Liver*	*Liver/ kidney*	*Liver/ pancreas*	*Total organ transplants*	*Cornea*	*Sclera*	*Total*
1998-99	—	1	2	2	3	—	—	8	6	—	14
1999-2000	—	2	7	4	10	—	—	23	7	3	33
2000-01	—	1	5	2	4	—	—	12	4	1	17
2001-02	—	—	8	1	5	1	—	15	—	—	15
2002-03	—	—	11	1	7	—	—	19	1	1	21
2003-04	—	—	14	—	2	—	—	16	2	—	18
2004-05	[1]1	1	6	—	2	—	—	10	8	—	18
2005-06	—	2	6	—	[2]4	—	—	12	3	—	15
2006-07	[1]1	1	10	—	[1]7	1	1	21	1	—	22
2007-08	—	2	4	—	3	1	—	10	—	—	10
Total	2	10	73	10	47	3	1	146	32	5	183

[1] One from a living donor. [2] Two from living donors.

The following table shows organs from deceased donors in hospitals in the Republic of Ireland received (although not necessarily transplanted) in UK NHS hospitals, April 1998 to March 2008, broken down by financial year and type of organ.

Year of transplant	*Kidneys*	*Hearts*	*Lungs*	*Livers*	*Pancreata*	*Total organs*
1998-99	12	12	10	40	—	74
1999-2000	7	18	17	36	—	78
2000-01	6	13	25	20	—	64
2001-02	10	8	23	28	—	69
2002-03	5	16	21	38	—	80
2003-04	6	5	23	42	1	77
2004-05	0	5	14	22	—	41
2005-06	0	4	13	11	—	28
2006-07	2	7	10	17	—	36
2007-08	1	8	7	14	—	30
Total	49	96	163	268	1	577

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many warning letters were sent to farmers by the Rural Payments Agency for cross-compliance breaches under the *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007 Single Payment Scheme. [260138]

Jane Kennedy: The number of warning letters sent to farmers by the Rural Payments Agency for breaches of cross compliance in the three years is as follows:

Single payment scheme year	*Number of letters issued*
2005	369
2006	434
2007	422

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been paid in agri-monetary compensation in the county of Hertfordshire since 9 January 2002. [261189]

Jane Kennedy: Unfortunately the data required to provide payment information for earlier years are not held in a form that is easily accessible, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Animal Welfare: Charities

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many animal welfare charities based in the UK have received funds from the public purse in each of the last five years; and how much was awarded to each. [258287]

Jane Kennedy: It is not general Government policy to provide funding to animal welfare charities. However, DEFRA had a signed agreement to provide funding of £75,000 to the Companion Animal Welfare Council via the Welfare Fund for Companion Animals. The agreement was for the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2008. The

money was allocated in three annual payments of £25,000 each in the three consecutive financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08. This covers England only, and not the devolved Administrations.

Animal Welfare: Trapping

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what changes have been made to *(a)* regulations and *(b)* guidelines on the operation of animal snares over the last five years. [260374]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 4 March 2009]:* The Animal Welfare Act 2006 came into force in England on 6 April 2007. This Act contains strong protection for animals under the control of man to help prevent unnecessary suffering, and covers any animal held in a snare.

Following an informal consultation on snares and traps and their use carried out in 2003, DEFRA convened an Independent Snares Working Group chaired by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare. In October 2005 we published the working group's report together with the DEFRA Snares Action Plan and the DEFRA Code of Good Practice on the use of Snares in Fox and Rabbit Control in England.

The DEFRA Code of Good Practice provides guidance on responsible use of snares.

Badgers: Wales

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he last discussed policy on badger culling with representatives of the Welsh Assembly Government. [259990]

Jane Kennedy: The Secretary of State last discussed bovine tuberculosis (TB) and badger culling with Elin Jones, the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Rural Affairs, in November 2008 when they met at the EU Agriculture Council.

Although responsibility for bovine TB is fully devolved the disease is a high priority for Governments in England and Wales. Officials in DEFRA are in regular contact with those in the Welsh Assembly Government on matters related to the disease and its control.

Beef: Exports

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to which countries beef reared in the UK may be exported; and how much was exported to each such country in each of the last 10 years. [259494]

Jane Kennedy: In theory the UK can export beef to any country in that the EU-imposed worldwide ban on UK beef exports was lifted in May 2006. In practice re-establishing markets for UK beef in third countries has been difficult due to continued fears over BSE and the need to negotiate market access on a country by country basis. We are working with industry to identify key third country markets so that negotiating resources can be targeted effectively. Other EU countries face similar barriers in trying to export their beef to many third countries.

According to HMRC statistics the UK has exported beef to 103 countries in the last ten calendar years (1999-2008). Countries with imports in excess of £1 million over this period are detailed in table 1 and table 2 as follows. During the period March 1996 to May 2006, UK exports were restricted to small quantities of UK beef exported under the strict criteria in the Data-Based Export Scheme (DBES) and to foreign origin beef re-exported under the Export Approved (XAP) Scheme. It is not possible to identify only beef reared in the UK from the HMRC statistics although non-UK reared beef will only form a small proportion of UK exports after May 2006.

Table 1: Value of UK exports of beef, 1999-2008[1]

£000

Country	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[2]
Irish Republic	6,510	9,019	5,969	10,575	13,380	16,179	23,193	32,098	56,184	75,930
Netherlands	9,899	9,330	9,328	8,551	7,291	3,950	2,189	24,979	33,448	57,630
France	2,098	2,100	1,150	1,168	615	1,490	1,822	14,877	20,256	27,972
Italy	1,326	1,289	660	518	1,393	892	629	9,155	7,883	22,023
Germany	2,615	2,052	4,257	2,433	2,148	2,470	1,250	6,326	5,359	7,657
Belgium	312	634	695	24	421	881	708	4,515	5,216	10,893
Spain	528	328	633	808	427	710	598	3,362	2,723	2,949
Denmark	741	379	843	95	50	183	64	992	2,268	6,653
Switzerland	9	15	8	—	—	—	—	193	587	3,495
Sweden	304	303	40	12	10	9	8	888	873	1,546
Greece	0.3	15	4	64	10	11	12	775	2,111	923
Kuwait	3	8	—	—	502	823	812	443	287	769
Portugal	211	417	36	33	120	280	47	706	269	605
Afghanistan	—	—	—	30	73	113	178	243	271	769
Poland	—	3	—	—	—	—	8	159	652	669
USA	7	3	34	—	—	—	—	73	842	314
Falkland Islands	35	35	34	93	120	198	129	95	66	382
Others (86 countries)	720	1,124	686	488	419	174	163	949	1,239	1,333
Grand total	25,318	27,053	24,378	24,891	26,981	28,363	31,808	100,828	140,533	222,513

[1] Includes bone in bovine, boneless bovine, edible offal and prepared/preserved bovine meat products.
[2] 2008 data are subject to amendments

Table 2: Volume of UK exports of beef, 1999-2008

Country	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Tonnes 2008*[2]
Irish Republic	2,767	3,318	2,971	4,028	6,196	5,948	8,030	10,807	21,169	31,852
Netherlands	2,486	2,119	1,978	1,645	1,423	830	789	13,831	20,652	27,463
France	1,484	1,885	792	1,033	603	1,039	770	5,983	9,783	7,989
Italy	413	443	287	199	458	415	256	3,509	2,682	4,101
Germany	1,160	428	1,293	890	993	963	1,419	4,043	3,082	3,228
Belgium	86	108	227	9	225	612	233	2,846	3,298	5,771
Spain	200	96	282	291	208	322	239	1,902	1,458	886
Denmark	223	123	188	69	67	114	30	352	1,098	2,216
Switzerland	16	5	3	—	—	—	—	29	42	804
Sweden	130	128	14	9	9	2	2	415	399	347
Greece	1	2	1	24	5	5	5	345	899	325
Kuwait	6	21	—	—	216	279	248	162	119	205
Portugal	68	143	17	12	51	73	19	145	67	217
Afghanistan	—	—	—	7	21	26	51	84	89	1,463
Poland	—	3	—	—	—	—	22	291	1,152	1,024
USA	1	1	8	—	—	—	—	1	388	68
Falkland Islands	13	11	10	33	46	60	46	31	23	98
Others (86 countries)	301	437	301	187	120	66	79	1,033	884	1,222
Grand total	9,355	9,271	8,373	8,436	10,643	10,754	12,238	45,811	67,284	88,880

[1] Includes bone in bovine, boneless bovine, edible offal and prepared/preserved bovine meat products.
[2] 2008 data are subject to amendments.

Bees: Research

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on research into *(a)* colony collapse disorder and *(b)* the varroa destructor mite in each of the last six years. [257425]

Jane Kennedy: The causes of the syndrome called colony collapse disorder in the USA are currently unclear and we have no current evidence to suggest that it is occurring in the UK. DEFRA provided an additional £27,000 to the National Bee Unit for work related to abnormal colony losses in 2007-08 and, with the Welsh Assembly Government, provided £120,000 in the current year to continue this work. DEFRA funded a project on the fungal control of Varroa jacobsoni (destructor) between 2002 and 2006 at a cost of £383,802.

Biofuels

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken in response to the decision of the Court of Appeal in the case of OSS Group v. Environment Agency in relation to the burning of used cooking oil to generate electricity; and if he will make a statement. [256970]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA will shortly publish a consultation paper on draft guidance on the definition of waste. The draft guidance will set out DEFRA's views on, among other things, the court's judgment in the OSS case.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to introduce a penalty for farmers who delay having a herd bovine tuberculosis test. [258819]

Jane Kennedy: Farmers are already subject to a penalty for overdue tests. Under the 'zero tolerance' policy farmers who do not ensure their herds are tested by specified deadlines have movement restrictions immediately applied on their herds. The Government can also prosecute cattle owners who fail to comply with the testing requirements laid down in the Tuberculosis (England) Order 2007.

At this time, we have no plans to introduce any additional penalties for farmers who delay having a herd bovine tuberculosis test.

Cattle: Transport

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle have been issued with cattle passports in each of the last three years. [259500]

Jane Kennedy: Over the last three years a total of 8,005,014 passports have been issued for newly registered cattle. The passports issued for each individual year, from 1 January to 31 December are as follows:

	Number
2006	2,733,661
2007	2,569,133
2008	2,702,220

These figures represent the number of first issue passports and not the overall number of passports issued including replacements.

Climate Change

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what policy objectives the provisions of section 76 of the Climate Change Act 2008 are intended to meet. [252392]

Jane Kennedy: In line with good practice, the Government expect that authorities will use all the powers available to them proportionately and sensibly, hand in hand with effective communications and support for residents.

All authorities will continue to have to meet existing requirements to collect household waste. In addition, local authorities have a duty, under section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA), to keep land under their control clear of litter and refuse.

Section 76 of the Climate Change Act 2008 provides clarification as to the legal status of the section 46 notice.

Dogs

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the efficacy of the operation of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991; and if he will make a statement. [259350]

Jane Kennedy: In 2007 we undertook a review of the dangerous dogs legislation. DEFRA consulted all chief officers of police in England and Wales to find out their views on how effective the dangerous dogs legislation is, what could be done to improve enforcement and whether any parts of the law need to be changed.

Responses indicated that police forces would benefit from further guidance on the existing legislation and DEFRA aims to publish this soon.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs against how many people orders have been made under section 2 of the Dogs Act 1871 in each year since 1997. [259534]

Jane Kennedy: Records of such orders are only held by the individual courts which issued them. No central record is kept and to collect the information would incur disproportionate cost.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in what circumstances waste collection authorities may refuse to collect domestic waste from households. [252732]

Jane Kennedy: Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) empowers waste collection authorities to specify the conditions of their waste collection service.

Section 46 of the EPA also requires the authority to inform the recipients of their service of those conditions by way of a Section 46 notice.

The precise circumstances would therefore depend upon the locally determined conditions as specified.

Farmers: Manpower

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers there were in each agricultural sector in England in each year since 1997. [260137]

Jane Kennedy: The figures on the following tables show the number of farmers, partners, directors and their spouses (if working on the holding) by farm type in England. The farm types for 1997 to 2000 are presented separately from the 2001 to 2008 types because of differing farm type definitions.

Total farmers, partners, directors and spouses by farm type (based on predominant activity) in England 1997 to 2000

	1997	1998	1999	2000
Cereals	29,179	29,870	28,232	31,406
General cropping	19,561	18,687	18,171	17,163
Horticulture	14,140	13,643	13,239	15,562
Pigs and poultry	7,433	7,235	6,777	8,483
Dairy	35,104	34,405	33,216	31,418
Cattle and sheep (LFA)	15,299	17,071	16,956	17,097
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	42,146	42,057	43,300	40,872
Mixed	19,415	19,918	18,567	19,400
Other types	24,144	25,270	24,904	31,620
All types	206,421	208,156	203,362	220,931

Farmers, partners, directors and spouses by farm type (based on pre dominant activity) in England:2001to 2008

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Cereals	35,100	34,208	33,835	34,527	33,672	33,929	34,818	35,402
General cropping	18,766	17,346	16,578	16,286	14,812	14,658	13,619	12,843
Horticulture	17,247	16,762	15,932	15,978	14,826	14,734	13,404	13,263
Specialist pigs	2,949	2,999	2,743	3,030	3,349	3,111	3,418	3,625
Specialist poultry	7,335	7,356	7,177	7,792	9,514	8,911	9,002	9,877
Dairy	30,178	30,425	28,918	28,057	26,160	25,706	21,082	20,122
LFA—grazing livestock	17,752	19,184	18,501	19,188	18,843	21,266	20,657	20,194
Lowland—grazing livestock	45,766	48,090	47,815	53,380	53,219	50,306	46,779	45,827
Mixed	22,825	23,364	22,796	19,366	19,720	18,991	15,875	15,915
Other types	35,913	25,697	24,828	26,756	28,837	32,163	40,258	42,436
All types	233,828	225,520	219,123	224,362	222,961	223,770	219,004	219,505

Notes:
1. Includes full and part-time farmers, partners directors and spouses (if working on the holding).
2. Figures prior to 2000 are for main holdings only. From 2000 onwards main and minor holdings are included.
3. Farm type categories were altered in 2001.
4. A register improvement exercise was undertaken in 2001. Labour figures prior to this are not directly comparable with later results.

Source:
June Agricultural Survey

Food

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the percentage of *(a)* meat, *(b)* eggs, *(c)* bread, *(d)* wheat, *(e)* fruit, *(f)* vegetables and *(g)* milk consumed which was produced domestically in each year since 1997. [257436]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the percentage of meat, eggs, fruit, vegetables and milk consumed and which were produced domestically are provided in table 1. These figures are based on volumes of production and trade.

This information is not available for bread production. However data on the tonnage of wheat grain used for milling and the proportion of wheat grain that is home grown is collected and is shown in table 2. This is also based on volumes but is for the crop year rather than calendar year. The grain will be milled into flour for a range of purposes including bread, biscuits and cakes. It is not possible to provide information that distinguishes home grown wheat grain milled for bread flour.

Table 1: Estimate of the percentage consumed from domestic production for various commodities

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Meat	75	76	74	72	72	69	67	65	66	67	65
Liquid drinking milk	98	97	98	98	99	99	99	99	99	99	99
Eggs	92	94	93	89	88	85	82	83	85	81	77
Wheat	91	90	91	92	88	91	91	94	91	92	90
Fruit	8	7	9	8	8	7	6	6	7	6	7
Vegetables	63	69	69	69	65	61	60	59	57	57	55

Table 2: Estimate for the percentage of home grown wheat grain milled into flour for bread, cake, biscuit and other uses

	Percentage
1996-97	87
1997-98	81
1998-99	82
1999-2000	83
2000-01	84
2001-02	93
2002-03	84
2003-04	90
2004-05	83
2005-06	84
2006-07	85
2007-08	79

Food: Packaging

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department provided for research into food packaging methods in each of the last five years. [257531]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has provided no direct funding for such research but does provide funding to the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP).

WRAP has provided a total of £3,542,000 to fund research into food packaging methods in each of the last five years. This is broken down by year in the following table.

Funding amounts

	Amount (£)
2004-05	251,800
2005-06	1,886,000
2006-07	596,000
2007-08	650,000
2008-09	159,000

Horse Meat: Exports

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many horses were slaughtered for meat to be exported for human consumption in the last 12 months. [258831]

Jane Kennedy: This figure is not available. However, in 2008 3,084[1] horses were reported as having been slaughtered in the UK for human consumption.

[1] Data provided by the National Equine Database.

Horses

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1082W, on horses, in what percentage of the samples taken from horses entering the UK evidence of inappropriate usage of veterinary medicinal products has been found in the last 12 months. [259659]

Jane Kennedy: Samples are taken from a small number of horses entering the food chain. These are taken as part of the UK statutory surveillance programme checking the appropriate use of veterinary medicinal products in accordance with EU legislation. It is a requirement that the sampling officers target animals which they believe may have been recently treated, and which therefore may contain concentrations of authorised veterinary medicines above the maximum residue limit, or treated with an unauthorised substance.

Horses are not tested when they enter the UK. However, some horses selected for sampling under the Veterinary Medicines Directorate's (VMD) surveillance programme may have come from another country.

In 2008, 105 horses submitted for slaughter for human consumption were sampled. 13 of the samples tested were from horses that originated from outside the UK. Three of the 105 samples tested revealed non-compliant residues of a veterinary medicinal product which should

not have been present in horses presented for the food chain. All three were from horses submitted from within the UK.

As indicated in the earlier answer, the VMD requires investigations to be carried out into non-compliant samples.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1082W, on horses, what percentage of abattoirs in England slaughter horses for human consumption. [259660]

Jane Kennedy: There are 373 approved slaughterhouses in England, Scotland and Wales. Of these, two are licensed to process horses for human consumption, which is 0.54 per cent. of the total.

OSS Group

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Environment Agency has taken to implement the Court of Appeal's ruling in the case of R (OSS Group Ltd) v Environment Agency; and if he will make a statement. [258231]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency and the DEFRA-funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) consulted on the quality protocol for the production and use of processed fuel oil from waste lubricating oil (WLO) in 2008.

The quality protocol has been developed using the methodology of the waste protocols project. The Environment Agency has been considering responses to the consultation and hopes shortly to issue a final draft quality protocol. This will be submitted to the European Commission under the Technical Standards Directive where other member states will be consulted.

Packaging: EU Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the extent to which *(a)* retailers and *(b)* manufacturers have achieved compliance with EU regulations on (i) minimisation and (ii) recycling of packaging. [258832]

Jane Kennedy: In 2007, the latest year for which figures are available, overall targets for recovery and recycling of packaging waste were achieved. These targets apply to manufacturers, converters, pack-fillers and sellers of packaging.

Sheep: Electronic Tagging

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the European Commission on electronic tagging of sheep in the last two years. [259649]

Jane Kennedy: Officials have had extensive discussions with the Commission regarding the electronic identification (EID) of sheep. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs also met with Commissioner Vassilou in September 2008 to discuss our concerns.

At the end of 2007 we secured a two year extension to the implementation date of EID until 31 December 2009. In 2008 we secured important changes to the timetable for the introduction of individual recording on movement documents up until 31 December 2011 and lifetime changes for sheep born before the implementation of EID which are moving direct to slaughter. The phasing in of the individual recording requirements will reduce the recording burden on industry, particularly in relation to older animals.

We also facilitated a Commission Mission of EID technical experts to the UK between 2-6 February to demonstrate the practical problems and challenges our industry face with implementation. We will be working closely with the Commission to see whether there is scope for further flexibility for the way in which we implement the regulation.

Veterinary Surgeons: Regulation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what legislation regulates the activities of practising veterinary surgeons; and if he will make a statement. [256768]

Jane Kennedy: The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 (VSA) confirms the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) as the regulatory body for veterinary surgeons in the UK with responsibility for regulating the professional education and conduct of veterinary surgeons.

There are no immediate plans to legislate to update the VSA 1966. Following the recent report on the VSA by the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee (HC 348), the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons is reviewing its own proposals for the reform of the Act. We recognise the need for DEFRA to remain engaged on this issue and have offered the Presidents of the RCVS and British Veterinary Association an opportunity to discuss their ideas and concerns with the Chief Veterinary Officer.

Waste and Resources Action Programme

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 401W, on the Waste and Resources Action Programme, what assessment the Waste and Resources Action Programme has made of the effectiveness of using Chelgate to improve engagement outside its established stakeholder group; [259579]

(2) what *(a)* reports and *(b)* written briefing documents Chelgate produced for the Waste and Resources Action Programme as part of its engagement exercise. [259580]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 9 October 2008, to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst on 4 and 17 November 2008 and to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 19 November 2008.

The requested data concerns the detailed operational activities of the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), and is not therefore held by DEFRA. I understand that the chief executive of WRAP has offered to meet the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst to discuss any issues of concern to him, and I would encourage him to take up that offer.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 757-58W, on waste disposal: fees and charges, if he will place in the Library a copy of the dataset and background research obtained by his Department on the distributional impacts of waste charging in Flanders. [252439]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA purchased data on the distributional impacts of waste charging in Flanders. This was used to inform the Impact Assessment of powers to pilot local authority incentives for household waste minimisation and recycling. The Impact Assessment was published on 15 November 2008 and is available on DEFRA's website.

JUSTICE

Adoption: Appeals

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the judgment for refusal of permission to appeal on 22 October 2008 in the case of Rachel Pullen (case number NG07C02187) has not been provided to the appellant; and when he expects to receive a copy of the judgment for the purposes of the European Court of Human Rights. [260693]

Bridget Prentice: The provision of judgments in individual cases is a matter for the judiciary, who are independent of Government.

Courts: Domestic Violence

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many specialist domestic violence courts there are in each constituency; and how many are located in *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural areas. [260925]

Bridget Prentice: There are currently 104 specialist domestic violence courts. As court boundaries are not coterminous with constituency boundaries, it is not possible to specify the number in each constituency. Their existence in 39 out of 42 Local Criminal Justice Board areas locates them, however, in urban and rural areas across England and Wales.

Mentally Disturbed Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 474W, on the Bradley Review, what date he has set for the publication of Lord Bradley's review. [261385]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to him on 3 March 2009, Official Report, column 1507W.

The Government expect to be able to publish Lord Bradley's report, along with the response, before the end of April 2009.

Offenders: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prisoners on early release and *(b)* people currently on bail and not living at their previous home are (i) housed and (ii) planned to be housed in Castle Point. [260463]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested could not be provided except at disproportionate cost. Data on release addresses are not collected for defendants released on bail nor for all of those prisoners serving sentences of under 12 months. If the hon. Member is referring to the Bail and Accommodation Support Service for those released on bail or on Home Detention Curfew I can advise that there are still no properties in Castle Point and no plans to provide any there.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will refer to the Committee on Standards in Public Life the matter of tax exiles and non-domiciled people who donate to UK political parties; and if he will make a statement. [261358]

Mr. Wills: The Government believe that the issue of the relationship between taxation status and political donations would need to be considered in the wider context of the relationship between taxation status and democratic participation generally.

The Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) is independent of Government; it is for the Committee to decide which subjects it examines. We approached the Committee to ask whether they would be open to investigating this matter but have been advised that the work programme of the Committee does not allow them to pursue the matter at this time.

The Government will reflect on how this issue might be taken forward.

Prisoners: Religion

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convicted prisoners in custody in each prison in England and Wales professing each religion have been identified by his Department, the prison authorities or the police as religious extremists. [260547]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office will shortly be publishing a Statistical Bulletin covering those persons arrested following a terrorist investigation with the resulting charges and convictions. This bulletin will also include information on those remanded or convicted of terrorism act or terrorism related offences at 31 March 2008 broken down by nationality and religion.

Tribunals

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many appeal cases have been brought before *(a)* social security appeal tribunals and *(b)* disability appeal tribunals in each of the last eight years; [261073]

(2) how much *(a)* social security appeal tribunals and *(b)* disability appeal tribunals cost in each of the last eight years. [261074]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested in not readily available. The Tribunals Service will need to collate information from 40 different benefit types. The Tribunals Service is unable to break down the costs for each jurisdiction; however it can provide information on running costs for SSCSA for 2006-07 and 2007-08 and annual accounts for the Appeals Service prior to 2006-07.

I will write to the hon. Member very soon and place a copy in the Libraries of the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many refugees have been resettled in the UK under the Gateway programme in each year since it was introduced. [260092]

Meg Hillier: Figures for those resettled under the Gateway Protection Scheme since its inception are published annually in the Asylum Statistics bulletin. The bulletin can be found by following this link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1108.pdf

The required information can be found on page 87, paragraph 37. I will arrange for a copy of this report to be placed in the Library.

Criminal Records Bureau

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedure is followed to transfer Criminal Records Bureau clearance when an employee who has obtained a clearance moves to another post. [243609]

Meg Hillier: Disclosures are primarily designed to be used by an employer at the point of recruitment for a particular position. Ultimately it is for each employer, and not the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), to decide whether a new disclosure should be applied for, bearing in mind their legal and other responsibilities and subject to any statutory requirements.

There are a number of reasons why an employer may not wish to accept a disclosure that has been processed for a previous employment position, including:

The disclosure may not be at the right level (there are two different levels of CRB check; standard and enhanced);

Information revealed through a CRB check reflects the information that was available at the time of its issue—a person may have committed a crime in the intervening period;

The disclosure process may also include a search to establish whether an individual is subject to a direction under Section 142 of the Education Act 2002, or a check against the Protection of Children Act and Protection of Vulnerable Adults PoCA and PoVA) lists.

The CRB does not hold data to show the number of people who are required to apply for a further clearance after changing jobs.

Identity Cards: Interviews

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the duration of the leases on the interview centres leased by her Department for the purposes of the identity cards pilot is. [258110]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service has yet to decide the location of the initial enrolment facilities and is working closely with Manchester and London City airports to determine the best locations at or near the airports.

Passports: Interviews

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many interviews at passport centres had resulted in the refusal of a passport as at 31 January 2009. [255914]

Meg Hillier: The interview is one part of the process of confirming the identity of first time adult passport applicants and one of the main purposes of the process is to deter anyone from making a false application for a passport. At 31 January 2009, the Identity and Passport Service had closed 87 cases without issuing a passport after the applicant had failed an identity interview. At present 107 other cases are being investigated following failure to establish identity at interview.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations: Religion

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1041-42W, on community relations: religion, what guidance her Department issued in 2008 on the amount available in round one of the Faiths in Action programme administered by the Community Development Fund; what mechanisms her Department used to make funding allocations in accordance with guidance; how the funding originally announced has been allocated; and if she will make a statement. [260947]

Mr. Khan: The guidance issued by the Community Development Foundation and my Department in July 2008 confirmed the total amount available for the Faiths in Action programme (£4 million) and the maximum grant size for Round One—£12,000, to be spent over two years. This has not changed. A total of £2.4 million is available in Round One: £600,000 in 2009-10 and £1.8 million in 2010-11. We are currently considering Round One applications with the fund administrator and expect to announce the successful projects in the spring.

Departmental Training

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has provided voice coaching to any of its employees in the last 12 months. [260638]

Mr. Khan: Department for Communities and Local Government does not centrally hold information on voice coaching provided for employees. There would be a disproportionate cost in trying to obtain such information.

Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1227W, on Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund, what groups, causes or organisations the Community Development Foundation has funded using public funds other than those allocated to the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund programme rounds; and how much was given to each. [261563]

Mr. Khan: The information requested has been deposited in the Library.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1227W, on Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund, which other groups, causes or organisations were funded in each round of the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund programme; and how much was given to each. [261564]

Mr. Khan: The information requested has been deposited in the Library.

Fire Prevention

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate was made of the cost of implementation of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 before it was introduced; and what the cost of implementation has been. [260841]

Mr. Khan: The regulatory impact assessment for the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 estimated the overall cost to business of obtaining the guidance and becoming familiar with it to be within the range of £66 million to £88.8 million.

The cost of implementing the provisions of the order will vary according to the outcome of individual fire safety risk assessments carried out by responsible persons. This information is not collected centrally.

Geographical Information Systems

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she plans to take to develop her Department's policy on geospatial information following the publication of its Location Strategy. [260425]

Mr. Khan: Following publication of the Location Strategy, responsibility for its delivery passed to DEFRA, who have established the UK Location Council to oversee implementation of the strategy. The Department is a member of the Location Council and is working closely with DEFRA to agree how best to contribute to the implementation of the strategy.

Joint Economic Commissions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to Lord Greaves of 23 February 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 26WA, on the Joint Economic Commission, in which other Government Office regions in England joint economic commissions have been established. [261837]

Mr. Khan: Economic Commissions have been established in all 9 regions, East Midlands Regional Economic Cabinet, Yorkshire and the Humber Economic Delivery Group West Midlands Regional Task Force, East of England Regional Economic Forum, South East Economic Delivery Council, North East Public Sector Economy Forum, South West Regional Economic Task Group, London High Level Group on London Economy and the North West Joint Economic Commission.

Local Government Services: Religion

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to her speech to the Evangelical Alliance of 5 February 2009, what her policy is on permitting faith organisations delivering public services to *(a)* discriminate in employing service providers, *(b)* discriminate against service users and (c) proselytise. [261481]

Mr. Khan: Any bodies in receipt of public funding in order to provide a service should provide that service in accordance with all relevant equality legislation.

In order to help faith-based organisations demonstrate that they will fulfil this requirement, and will not use public funds for the purpose of worship or proselytisation, we have said that we intend to work with faith communities to create a Charter of Excellence which faith-based organisations will be able to sign in order to give assurance to funding providers. The current legislative position is covered by part 2 of the Equality Act 2006, and while we do not intend to bring forward any new legislative proposals, the main provisions of the 2006 Act are to be replicated in the forthcoming Equality Bill.

WALES

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff of his Department were recorded absent for non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate he has made of the (i) cost to his Department and (ii) number of working hours lost as a result of such absence; and what guidance his Department issued to staff in respect of absence on those days. [260570]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The following number of Wales Office staff were absent from work for non-medical reasons:

(a) 24

(b) 9

While there was clearly a cost to the Department, no estimate as to the exact cost has been made, however based on a standard working day, if reckoned in full, this would have amounted to 238 working hours. The Department was not closed and the majority of staff managed to attend. A number of others were able to work remotely.

Staff were advised to attempt to attend if at all possible, but not to take unnecessary risks or put themselves in danger.

Departmental Public Appointments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what information his Department holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which his Department has responsibility in the last five years who previously had careers in the banking industry. [261226]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office is not responsible for any non-departmental bodies or agencies.

Departmental Training

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether his Department has provided voice coaching to any of its employees in the last 12 months. [260646]

Mr. Paul Murphy: No voice coaching has been provided to any Wales Office employees in the last 12 months.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Heating: Housing

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average cost of heating a property with gas boilers over the winter of 2008-09. [260700]

Joan Ruddock: DECC publishes information on the average annual gas bill for households. The latest data, published in "Quarterly Energy Prices", suggests that customers paying on receipt of bill (standard credit) with standard annual gas consumption of 18,000 kWh paid on average £570 in 2008.

Data on average annual gas bills are available in section 2 of "Quarterly Energy Prices", the latest edition was published in December 2008 and is available online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file49203.pdf

Office for Renewable Energy Deployment

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* full-time equivalent and *(b)* other staff are employed by the Office for Renewable Energy Deployment. [260587]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 4 March 2009]:* The ORED has not yet been established and therefore there are currently no staff employed in it.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget of the Office for Renewable Energy Deployment is in 2008-09, broken down by budget heading. [260588]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 4 March 2009]:* As the ORED will be established as the Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) and finalised in the spring, it does not have a budget for 2008-09. The ORED's budget for 2009-10 is currently subject to the business planning round process in the Department.

TREASURY

Annuities: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters he has received from residents in the Hemel Hempstead constituency regarding annuities in each year since 1997. [261260]

Angela Eagle: The information is not kept and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Bradford and Bingley

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the Bradford and Bingley business plan to be *(a)* finalised and *(b)* published. [260718]

Ian Pearson: The business plan will be completed by the end of March and a summary version will be published on Bradford and Bingley's website shortly afterwards.

Departmental Correspondence

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters to his Department had not been replied to within 28 days as at 12 February 2009. [261411]

Angela Eagle: This information is not held in the form requested.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since 1997; [242912]

(2) how many members of staff in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for losing (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers and (iv) mobile telephones belonging to his Department in each year since 1997. [248252]

Angela Eagle: In respect of deliberate disclosure of data and confidential information, there is a nil return for HM Treasury.

In respect of loss of data or confidential information and loss of departmental equipment, there have been less than five such cases within HM Treasury since 1997.

The equivalent information for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is contained in the following table and is for financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09. The figures given for loss include building and security passes as well as (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers, (iv) mobile telephones, tapes

and discs, but the equipment concerned did not necessarily hold data. HMRC does not record loss of equipment or loss of data separately. Equivalent information was not recorded centrally by HMRC and its predecessor Departments for earlier periods.

	2007-08	2008-09
Investigated for loss	11	8
Investigated for disclosure	24	17
Suspended	6	<5
Dismissed	<5	8

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* original expected cost, *(b)* original expected delivery date, *(c)* actual cost incurred and *(d)* actual delivery date was of each ICT project undertaken and completed by his Department in each year since 1997; who the contractors for each project were; what the (i) initial estimated and (ii) outturn payment to each contractor was; and if he will make a statement. [251140]

Angela Eagle: The following table provides the planned and actual costs and delivery dates for Treasury IT projects costing over £50,000 since 2007. Prior to that, this information was not collected centrally. None of these projects were contracted-out.

IT project	Approved budget (£000)	Actual costs (£000)	Planned delivery	Actual delivery
Common Infrastructure Management Tools	462	162	November 2008	November 2008
Oasis Desktop Refresh	154	150	June 2008	May 2008
OGC Desktop Refresh	54	0	January 2008	May 2008
OGC Laptop Refresh	138	273	August 2008	November 2008
OGC Blackberry	52	52	November 2008	November 2008
Restricted Blackberry Rollout	86	81	June 2008	August 2008
Safedial and Confidential Laptop	850	741	June 2008	August 2008
Switch Replacement services	785	675	August 2008	November 2008
Group Networks	629	580	March 2008	October 2008
Managed Printers	230	76	September 2007	May 2008

Departmental Internet

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many visits there have been to his Department's euro website in each year since 1997. [261257]

Angela Eagle: The euro website www.euro.gov.uk was established in 2001. For previous answers referring to visits to the euro website I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1312W; 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 824W; 25 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1350W; 10 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 280W; 24 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 1470W; 14 April 2003, *Official Report*, column 548W. Statistics for 2001-02 were not recorded.

Equitable Life: Compensation

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that the ex-gratia payment scheme for Equitable Life policyholders is in accordance with the recommendation of the parliamentary ombudsman that the scheme should be simple and not impose undue burdens on those making claims. [249652]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 377.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the amount of compensation which will be paid to Equitable Life policyholders in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [260180]

Ian Pearson: The Government do not have the necessary information at present to make an assessment of payments to Equitable Life policyholders under the ex-gratia payment scheme it has announced.

The Government have asked Sir John Chadwick to consider several issues in relation to the relative losses suffered by Equitable Life policyholders. This work will be used to help inform the creation of a fair payment scheme for policyholders who have suffered a disproportionate impact, taking account of the position of the public purse, as well as practical considerations.

Financial Services Authority: Pay

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements are in place at the Financial Services Authority for the payment of bonuses to staff; and if he will make a statement. [260048]

Ian Pearson: This matter is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority (FSA), whose day-to-day operations are independent from Government control and influence. Details of the FSA's reward and remuneration policy can be found at:

www.FSA.gov.uk/pages/library/other-publications/staff/staff-handbook/money/index.shtml

Government Departments: Procurement

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance his Department issues to other Government Departments on the consideration of the human rights records of contractors in relation to decisions on bids for procurement contracts. [260626]

Angela Eagle: All public procurement is subject to the principles of the EC treaty and the UK Public Contracts Regulations 2006, which implement the EC Public Procurement Directives.

International Business Advisory Council

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times the International Business Advisory Council has met; what the cost of each meeting was; and who attended each meeting. [260549]

Ian Pearson: The International Business Advisory Council met at a breakfast meeting on 17 November 2006.

In addition to the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, the attendees were: Mr. Robert Rubin (Citigroup), Sir Li Ka-Shing (Hutchinson Whampoa), Sir John Rose (Rolls Royce), Dr. J P Gamier (then of GSK), Mr. Ratan Tata (Tata Group), M Bernauld Arnault (LVMH) and Ms Meg Whitman (then of ebay). The event cost £421.

In June 2007, Prime Minister Gordon Brown established the Business Council for Britain, which replaced the International Business Advisory Council, to advise on domestic and international business issues. Former members of the International Business Advisory Council are invited to attend formal meetings of the Business Council for Britain, and a number of them have done so.

For information on the current work of the Business Council for Britain please consult the BERR website:

www.berr.gov.uk/about/bcb/index.html

Public Expenditure: Scotland

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Barnett consequentials will be for Scotland of the recently announced funding to underwrite private finance initiative/ public-private partnership (PFI/PPP) schemes; and what mechanisms will be used to ensure that that funding is spent on PFI/PPP schemes in Scotland. [261383]

Yvette Cooper: There are no Barnett consequentials as the funding is not devolved and will be available on a UK wide basis. It is for the Scottish Executive to decide whether it wishes the Treasury to consider funding for any eligible PFI schemes in Scotland on the same basis as UK Government Departments.

Tax Havens

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made in the review of the British offshore financial centres announced in the last pre-Budget report. [260680]

Ian Pearson: The independent review of British offshore financial centres will publish an interim report in time for the Budget in April 2009. The interim report will outline the key themes of the review, which will form the basis for consultation with interested parties.

VAT: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect a reduction in the rate of value added tax on repairs and maintenance would have on *(a)* the care and conservation of historic buildings and *(b)* the construction industry. [261465]

Mr. Timms: No such assessment has been made.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1415W, on departmental marketing, which advertising campaigns that were *(a)* launched and *(b)* maintained in 2007-08; and what the cost of each was. [257271]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office is unable to provide a breakdown in the format requested. However the following table illustrates the major expenditure relating to advertising by the Northern Ireland Office, excluding its agencies and Executive NDPBs:

Advertising Campaign	*2007-08 Expenditure (£)*
Theft from Vehicles campaign	63,492
Unknown Callers campaign	50,199
Howsecureismyhome Website	88,233
Firearms Team Fireworks campaign	20,000
2007 Fireworks Safety campaign	173,312
Public Appointment of Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland	76,157
Public Appointments for Equality Commission	24,214
Counterfeit Goods Christmas campaign	28,654
Extortion campaign	5,029
Public Prosecution Service Recruitment campaign	20,385

Some of these figures may also include crime prevention initiative costs which are not part of the original advertising costs quoted in the answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1415W.

Campaigns such as the Fireworks Safety Campaign have had a positive effect in reducing incidents of accidents involving fireworks. In 2006 there were 69 injuries; in 2008 there were 32 injuries.

The Howsecureismyhome website is part of the Government's effort to reduce the numbers of households which fall victims to burglaries—down by 24.6 per cent. from 9064 in 2001-02 to 6831 in 2006-07.

All campaigns subject to evaluation to deliver best value.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on staff surveys in each of the last five years; and which company was contracted to conduct each such survey. [259679]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS has spent the following on staff surveys in the last five years:

	Survey	*Company*	*Cost (£)*
2005	Staff Opinion Survey	ORC	20,000
2007	Staff Opinion Survey	ORC	21,540
2008	Stress Audit	Clarion	2,056

In addition, the Department undertakes limited scope follow-up pulse surveys on a quarterly basis to a representative sample of staff. These surveys are internally delivered, using an online survey tool resource.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 3 February 2009 on noise limits for musical performances. [261365]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A response has been sent to the hon. Member today 6 March 2009.

Stonehenge: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has for a temporary tourism facility at Stonehenge during the London 2012 Olympics. [260619]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 4 March 2009]:* The Government have stated their commitment to delivering environmental improvements at Stonehenge, including new visitor centre facilities by 2012. To this end, the Stonehenge Project Board has recommended to Ministers a location for the new visitor centre, following a public consultation. I am currently considering the recommendation and an announcement will be made in due course.

Video Games: Classification

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what impact assessment his Department has undertaken of options for changes to the system of age classification for video games. [261467]

Barbara Follett: A preliminary impact assessment of the options for change was published with the video games classification consultation in August 2008. This can be viewed using the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/consultations/5345.aspx.

In the meantime work is being done to develop the evidence further on the impact of the various options. A final impact assessment will be published as soon as a decision has been made.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bangladesh: Overseas Aid

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid has been provided by the Government to Bangladesh in each of the last five years; and how much is planned to be provided in 2009-10. [259932]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details on DFID's bilateral expenditure and imputed share of multilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) are contained in the DFID publication "Statistics on International Development". This publication is available from in the Library and online at

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Relevant figures are produced in the following table.

DFID expenditure in Bangladesh, 2003-04 to 2007-08

£000

	Total DFID Bilateral Programme	*DFID Imputed Multilateral Shares*
2003-04	55,383	28,162
2004-05	127,904	22,538
2005-06	123,368	40,093
2006-07	109,313	45,435
2007-08	129,392	41,923

DFID's future spending allocations were laid out in DFID's annual report 2008, published in May 2008. A copy of this publication is available online at

www.dfid.gov.uk

and is also available in the Library. DFID has allocated £125 million for the Bangladesh programme in 2009-10.

Overseas Aid: Finance

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Government response to the International Development Committee's report on HIV/AIDS and his Department's new strategy, HC 235, what the Government's imputed share of core contributions to multilateral organisations was in the last 12 months, broken down by recipient organisation. [260659]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development's (DFID) imputed share of multilateral expenditure on health systems in 2007-08 are reproduced as follows.

DFID imputed share of multilateral ODA to the health sector, 2007-08

(£000)

Multilateral organisation	*Percentage of health spending (2007 values)*	*Imputed DFID share of health spending (2007-08)*
European Commission	3.7	32,000
World Bank (International Development Association)	6.2	30,662
African Development Fund	1.5	923
Asian Development Fund	2.8	790
UNAIDS	100.0	19,000
UNICEF	45.6	11,861
World Health Organisation	100.0	5,500
UN Population Fund	100.0	20,000
UNDP	3.2	1,983
General budget support provided through multilateral organisations[1]	—	26,875
Total	—	149,594

[1] 15 per cent. of general budget support is assumed to fund health systems.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's *(a)* funding contributions in the last 12 months and *(b)* planned funding contributions in the period up to 2015 to multilateral organisations will form part of the Government's £6 billion spending commitment on health systems strengthening. [260660]

Mr. Michael Foster: In 2007-08 the Department for International Development's (DFID) multilateral contributions accounted for 20 per cent. of total spending on health systems. No formal projections for the remaining period to 2015 have been made. More information on DFID's overall funding of multilateral organisations to 2010-11 was laid out in DFID's annual report 2008. A copy of this publication is available in the Library or online at www.dfid.gov.uk. Future decisions on health systems funding will consider the most appropriate split between bilateral and multilateral channels to deliver the optimal development outcomes without compromising the overall spending commitment.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate his Department has made of its imputed share of core contributions to each multilateral organisation which it funds in each year up to 2015. [260662]

Mr. Michael Foster: No formal projections for the period up to 2015 have been made. More information on DFID's overall funding to multilateral organisations up to 2010-11 was laid out in DFID's annual report 2008. A copy of this publication is available from the Library or online at

www.dfid.gov.uk.

St. Helena: Airports

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects to make a final decision on the construction of an airport on St. Helena; and if he will make a statement. [260285]

Mr. Michael Foster: We are reviewing whether it is right to proceed with this project in the present difficult economic climate. We will announce the outcome of our considerations just as soon as we are able to.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what research his Department has undertaken into the *(a)* economic, *(b)* financial and *(c)* social consequences for St. Helena of a decision not to proceed with the construction of an airport on St. Helena; and what the nugatory costs to the public purse of such a decision would be. [260333]

Mr. Michael Foster: The 2005 Feasibility Study, which is in the public domain, examined the economic, financial and social consequences of both sea and air access.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what private sector financial assistance has been offered to his Department to help fund the construction of an airport on St. Helena; and if he will make a statement. [260332]

Mr. Michael Foster: The St. Helena Leisure Corporation Ltd. (SHELCO) has written to the Department with ideas for private sector participation. I met representatives on 2 March for a discussion to clarify its proposition.

St. Helena

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's total budget allocation to St. Helena was in each of the last 10 years. [260213]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details on DFID's bilateral expenditure and imputed share of multilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) are contained in the DFID publication "Statistics on International Development". This publication is available from in the Library and online at

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Relevant figures are produced in the following table.

DFID expenditure in St. Helena and Dependencies, 1998-99 to 2007-08

£000

	Total DFID Bilateral Programme	*DFID Imputed Multilateral Shares*
1998-99	8,805	—
1999-2000	9,363	—
2000-01	10,116	—
2001-02	10,106	—
2002-03	9,555	7
2003-04	10,525	15
2004-05	14,481	—
2005-06	13,564	—
2006-07	15,692	1,298
2007-08	17,550	198

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Children: Employment

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of children of school age who undertook part-time employment in each region in *(a)* 1990, *(b)* 2000 and *(c)* 2007. [259757]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of children of school age who undertook part-time employment in each region in (a) 1990, (b) 2000 and (c) 2007. (259757)

This information is not available from statistical surveys or administrative sources held centrally.

Death

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many death certificates mentioned the word obesity in the cause of death section in the last five years; [260409]

(2) how many death certificates included alcohol misuse or abuse in the cause of death section in the last five years; [260412]

(3) how many death certificates included depression in the cause of death section in the last five years; [260413]

(4) how many death certificates included eating disorder in the cause of death section in the last five years. [260414]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking:

a) How many death certificates included alcohol misuse or abuse in the cause of death section in the last five years. (260412)

b) How many death certificates included depression in the cause of death section in the last five years. (260413)

c) How many death certificates included eating disorder in the cause of death section in the last five years. (260414)

d) How many death certificates mentioned the word obesity in the cause of death section in the last five years. (260409)

The tables attached provide the number of deaths a) i) where there was either a mental and behavioural disorder due to use of alcohol, or accidental poisoning by alcohol mentioned on the death certificate (table 1), ii) with an alcohol-related underlying cause, according to the ONS definition (table 2), b) where depression was mentioned on the death certificate (table 3), c) where an eating disorder was mentioned on the death certificate (table 4), and d) where obesity was mentioned on the death certificate (table 5), in England and Wales, for 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available).

It should be noted that the figures presented in tables 3-5 are likely to underestimate the actual number of deaths in which the factors mentioned were involved. The reporting of deaths due to self-harm or self-neglect, which are likely to include those involving depression (table 3) and/or an eating disorder (table 4) are dependent on the complete and accurate recording of all relevant causes of death by coroners. Obesity (table 5) may play an important role in deaths due to heart disease or diabetes, but is rarely recorded on the death certificate.

Table 1: Deaths where either a mental and behavioural disorder due to alcohol or accidental poisoning by alcohol were mentioned on the death certificate,[1] England and Wales,[2] 2003-07[3]

	Persons Deaths
2003	2,649
2004	2,767
2005	3,026
2006	3,104
2007	3,465

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes F10 (Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol) or X45 (Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol). Deaths were included where one of these causes was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2: Deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause,[1] England and Wales,[2] 2003 to 2007[3]

	Persons Deaths
2003	6,425
2004	6,488
2005	6,627
2006	6,964
2007	7,042

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in the box following.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1: Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	ICD-10 code(s)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Table 3: Deaths where depression was mentioned on the death certificate,[1] England and Wales,[2] 2003-07[3]

	Persons Deaths
2003	1,682
2004	1,630
2005	1,474
2006	1,494
2007	1,484

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes F32 (Depressive episode) and F33 (Recurrent depressive disorder). Deaths were included where one of these causes was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 4: Deaths where eating disorders were mentioned on the death certificate,[1] England and Wales,[2] 2003-07[3]

	Persons Deaths
2003	36
2004	31
2005	39
2006	46
2007	48

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code F50 (Eating disorders). Deaths were included where this cause was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 5: Deaths where obesity was mentioned on the death certificate,[1] England and Wales,[2] 2003-07[3]

	Persons Deaths
2003	888
2004	901
2005	993

Table 5: Deaths where obesity was mentioned on the death certificate,[1] England and Wales,[2] 2003-07[3]

	Persons Deaths
2006	1,150
2007	1,203

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code E66 (Obesity). Deaths were included where this cause was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many death certificates mentioned the word ketamine in the cause of death section in the last five years; [260410]

(2) how many death certificates included drug misuse or abuse in the cause of death section in the last five years. [260411]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking:

a) How many death certificates mentioned the word ketamine in the cause of death section in the last five years. (260410)

b) How many death certificates included drug misuse or abuse in the cause of death section in the last five years. (260411)

The tables attached provide the number of deaths where a) the underlying cause was drug poisoning and ketamine was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate (table 1), b) the underlying cause was drug poisoning, where any drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death certificate (table 2), in England and Wales, for 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Number of deaths attributed to drug poisoning[1] where ketamine was mentioned on the death certificate, England and Wales,[2] 2003 to 2007[3]

	Deaths
2003	3
2004	1
2005	0
2006	2
2007	6

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (shown in the box below) and where ketamine was mentioned on the death certificate.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2. Number of deaths from drug misuse,[1] England and Wales,[2] 1997 to 2007[3]

	Deaths
2003	1,432
2004	1,495
2005	1,608
2006	1,573
2007	1,604

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (shown in the box below) and where a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death certificate.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

ICD-10	Description
F11-F16, F18-F19	Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)
X40-X44	Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X60-X64	Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X85	Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
Y10-Y14	Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many and what percentage of letters sent by his Department were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement; [259980]

(2) which organisations for which his Department has responsibility and oversight contract with postal service providers other than the Royal Mail; and if he will make a statement. [259875]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the estimated percentage of the electorate on the electoral register is in each local authority area in the UK, ranked in descending order; and if he will make a statement. [260165]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what the estimated percentage of the electorate on the electoral register is in each local authority in the UK ranked in descending order. (260165)

ONS do not have information on the number of people eligible to vote. The closest approximation to the figures you have requested is the number of people who were registered to vote in Local Government elections as a percentage of the estimated resident population aged 18 and over. The table shows this for each Local Authority in the UK in 2007. This is the latest year for which estimates of the usually resident population are available by Local Authority. A copy of the table has been placed in the Library of the House.

Care should be taken when interpreting these percentages. There maybe an underestimation in some areas, as not everyone who is usually resident is entitled to vote. For example foreign citizens from outside of the EU and Commonwealth are not eligible to vote.

Conversely, for other areas the percentages may be over estimates and, in some cases, exceed one hundred per cent as figures for the registered electorate may be inflated. People who have more than one address may register in more than one place (e.g. students may register at parental and term-time addresses) and electoral registration officers vary in how quickly they remove people from the registers after they have moved away from an area or died.

Internet

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many homes in the UK have an internet connection installed. [260347]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many homes in the UK have an internet connection installed. (260347)

In 2008, an estimated 16.5 million UK households had Internet access. This represented 65 per cent of UK households and an increase of 1.2 million households since 2007. These are the latest estimates available. This information is taken from the annual First Release on Internet Access 2008, published in August 2008. The Interviews to compile this information took place over January to March 2008.

The First Release is available via this link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5672

The 2009 First Release will be published later this summer.

National Income

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 748W, on national income, what proportion of growth in UK gross domestic product came from growth in the financial services and banking sectors in each year from 1997 to 2007. [260101]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the proportion of growth to which Financial Services contributes to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) between 1997 and 2007. (260101)

When assessing industry percentages to total production it is more appropriate to assess against Total Gross Value Added (GVA) than GDP. This is because GDP equals GVA plus unallocated taxes and subsidies such as VAT which are not able to be allocated to industry production.

In chained volume GVA basic price terms (see footnote for definitions) for the calendar years 1997 to 2007 Total Financial Intermediation (which includes banking, insurance, pension funding and financial auxiliaries) contribution to Total GVA is provided in Table 1. A further breakdown is also provided which gives the contributions of the three components of Total Financial Intermediation.

Table 1

Percentage

	Contributions to GVA Total all industries				*GVA at basic prices: chain volume index movements*
Name	*Financial intermediation except insurance and pension funding*	*Insurance and pension funding, except compulsory social security*	*Activities auxiliary to financial intermediation*	*Financial intermediation (total)*	*Total all industries*
SIC	Div 65	Div 66	Div 67	Div 65-67	
Calendar year					
1994					
1995	0.09	0.00	-0.01	0.08	2.7
1996	0.11	0.10	0.04	0.25	2.8
1997	0.19	0.05	0.02	0.27	3.3
1998	0.26	0.01	0.00	0.28	3.8
1999	0.34	-0.03	-0.04	0.26	3.6
2000	0.23	-0.01	0.04	0.26	3.9
2001	0.16	-0.02	0.07	0.21	2.2
2002	0.19	-0.01	0.04	0.22	1.8
2003	0.38	0.01	0.06	0.45	2.9
2004	0.32	-0.05	0.03	0.29	2.7
2005	0.32	-0.02	0.05	0.35	2.1
2006	0.36	0.08	0.14	0.58	2.9
2007	0.43	-0.03	0.26	0.66	3.0

Public Houses

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were employed in the *(a)* brewing and *(b)* public house sectors in each year since 1998. [260494]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were employed in the *(a)* brewing and *(b)* public house sectors in each year since 1998. (260494)

The available information for people aged 16 and over is provided in the attached table.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). These estimates are based on the respondents' views about the organisation for which they work.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures have been derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently the 2008 estimate is not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

People aged 16 and over in employment by industry—Three month period ending December, 1998 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	Brewing[1]	*Public house*[2]
1998	45	256
1999	39	254

People aged 16 and over in employment by industry—Three month period ending December, 1998 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

		Thousand
	Brewing[1]	*Public house*[2]
2000	34	232
2001	29	241
2002	32	253
2003	34	244
2004	34	262
2005	23	252 *
2006	23	252
2007	27	263
2008	***24	**211

[1] Comprises Standard Industrial Classification (92)—15960 Manufacture of beer.
[2] Comprises Standard Industrial Classification (92)—55402 Public houses and bars.
[3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described as follows:
Guide to quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical robustness
* 0 ≤ CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 ≤ CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 ≤ CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.
Note:
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of public houses which have closed in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [261070]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the remit of the UK National Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what estimate has been made of the number of public houses which have closed in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and to make a statement. (261070)

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography. Data on business deaths is only available back as far as 2002 in this series. The table below contains the count of enterprise deaths of public houses for 2002-2007.

Table showing counts of Enterprise 'deaths' within Public Houses SICs for the years 2002-07

Standard Industrial Classification	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
55402—Independent public houses and bars	5,530	6,775	6,875	6,175	5,300	5,260
55403—Tenanted public houses and bars	2,150	2,610	2,950	2,590	2,360	2,340
55404—Managed public houses and bars	130	200	255	315	345	350
Total	7,810	9,585	10,080	9,080	7,955	7,950

Retirement: Education

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were in *(a)* full-time education and *(b)* retired from employment in (i) England and (ii) North Yorkshire in each year since 1997. [260046]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were in (a) full-time education and (b) retired from employment in (i) England and (ii) North Yorkshire in each year since 1997. (260046)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor, the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS), following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Estimates are provided for the number of working age people (women aged 16-59, men aged 16-64) who state they are full-time students. A full time student is defined as being at school, following a sandwich course or full time at university or college. Estimates are also provided for the number of people retired from employment: this is defined as those who are economically inactive and report their main reason for inactivity as being retired.

Table 1 attached shows the number of working age persons in full-time education resident in England and in the North Yorkshire region in each year since 1997. The estimates from 1997 to 2004 are for the 12 month period ending February that year and taken from the annual LFS. Figures for 2005 to 2008 are for the 12 month period ending March that year and taken from the APS. Estimates for July 2007 to June 2008 have also been provided, as the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available.

Table 2 attached shows the number of people who are retired from employment resident in England and in the North Yorkshire region in each year since 1998. Estimates are provided for the 12 months ending in February from 1998, the earliest period for which estimates are available, to 2004, from the annual LFS, and for the 12 months ending in March from 2005 to 2008, from APS. Estimates for July 2007 to June 2008 have also been provided, as the most recent for which figures are available.

These estimates are for subset of the population and not for the country as a whole, so they are based on reduced sample sizes. They are therefore subject to larger margins of uncertainty than are national estimates. A guide to the reliability of the estimates is given with the tables.

Table 1: Number of persons of working age[1] in full-time education[2] in (a) England and (b) North Yorkshire in each year since 1997

		Thousand
12 months ending	*England*	*North Yorkshire*
February 1998	2,093	18
February 1999	2,077	23
February 2000	2,120	19
February 2001	2,179	17
February 2002	2,257	18
February 2003	2,329	23
February 2004	2,387	23
March 2005	2,460	23
March 2006	2,572	24
March 2007	2,643	24

Table 1: Number of persons of working age[1] in full-time education[2] in (a) England and (b) North Yorkshire in each year since 1997

12 months ending	England	Thousand North Yorkshire
March 2008	2,716	23
June 2008[3]	*2,737	***23

[1] Working age (women aged 16 to 59, men aged 16 to 64).
[2] Coverage applies to all respondents, of working age, who stated they are full-time students. A full-time student is defined as being at school, following a sandwich course or full-time at university or college.
[3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical robustness
* 0 ≤ CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 ≤ CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 ≤ CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Source:
Annual Labour Force Survey & Annual Population Survey.

Table 2: Number of people who are retired[1] from employment in (a) England, (b) North Yorkshire in each year since 1997

12 months ending	England	Thousand North Yorkshire
February 1998	[illegible]	[illegible]
February 1999	7,894	130
February 2000	7,946	144

Table 2: Number of people who are retired[1] from employment in (a) England, (b) North Yorkshire in each year since 1997

12 months ending	England	Thousand North Yorkshire
February 2001	7,977	115
February 2002	8,125	109
February 2003	8,151	103
February 2004	8,136	102
March 2005	8,203	106
March 2006	8,239	117
March 2007	8,217	112
March 2008	8,209	104
June 2008[3]	*8,240	**110

[1] The number of people retired from employment is defined as those who are economically inactive and report their main reason for inactivity as being retired.
[2] Data are not available for March 1997 to February 1998.
[3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical robustness
* 0 ≤ CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 ≤ CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 ≤ CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Source:
Annual Labour Force Survey & Annual Population Survey

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 24 February 2009

NORTHERN IRELAND

Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many staff in his Department left under *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06; how many of them in each case were paid (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000 in the year before they left; and how much (A) was spent in each of those years and (B) is planned to be spent on such schemes in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 by (Y) his Department and its predecessor (Z) each of his Department's agencies; [237345]

(2) how many of his Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary exit scheme in each year since 2005-06 received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [239152]

[Official Report, 25 November 2008, Vol. 483, c. 1163-64W.]

Letter of correction from Shawn Woodward:

An error has been identified in the answer given to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) on 25 November 2008.

The answer included a table which displayed figures for payments made to staff who left under early retirement. The answer gave the overall number of staff leaving service as 40. The correct figure should have been 12 as the table showed the number of payments made to staff, in the years requested, as opposed to the number of staff leaving per year. The table therefore gave a cumulative figure, including the payments made to staff in the years requested, who had left service prior to 2005-06.

The correct table should have been:

	Up to £25,000	*£25,001 to £50,000*	*£50,001 to £75,000*	*£75,001 to £100,000*	*Over £100,000*	*Total*
2005-06	4	2	—	—	1	7
2006-07	1	—	1	—	—	2
2007-08	[1]2	—	—	—	—	3

[1] Those staff left, however, no payments were made to one of the staff until the next financial year

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what local authority revenue was provided from *(a)* central Government, *(b)* council tax revenues and *(c)* special grants for each region in each of the last 12 years, ranked in descending order according to the size of increase. [250719]

[Official Report, 26 January 2009, Vol. 487, c. 116W.]

Letter of correction from John Healey:

An error has been identified in the 2000-01 figures in the Central Government grant table provided in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Vale of Clwyd (Chris Ruane) on 26 January 2009. I have notified the MP of the error.

The correct figures for the Central Government grant are as follows:

Central Government grant

£ million

	North East	*North West*	*Yorks and Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*Total England*
1996-97	1,952	5,017	3,554	2,561	3,660	3,112	7,029	4,460	2,757	34,121
1997-98	1,931	4,986	3,495	2,570	3,623	3,120	7,049	4,483	2,784	34,041
1998-99	2,028	5,270	3,685	2,659	3,826	3,242	7,254	4,630	2,880	35,480
1999-2000	2,146	5,529	3,876	2,793	4,010	3,391	7,533	4,809	3,024	37,112
2000-01	2,224	5,732	4,024	2,911	4,152	3,564	7,755	5,027	3,149	38,539
2001-02	2,288	5,897	4,153	3,022	4,287	3,740	8,096	5,301	3,264	40,048
2002-03	2,309	5,957	4,181	3,034	4,322	3,754	8,206	5,323	3,270	40,358
2003-04	2,446	6,314	4,565	3,352	4,760	4,094	8,790	5,781	3,588	43,940
2004-05	2,611	6,830	4,777	3,540	5,049	4,307	9,271	6,044	3,743	46,172
2005-06	2,767	7,226	5,058	3,771	5,395	4,594	9,833	6,410	4,004	49,058
2006-07	1,573	3,819	2,624	1,784	2,723	2,011	5,784	2,714	1,825	24,857
2007-08	1,622	3,943	2,708	1,855	2,819	2,086	5,964	2,787	1,893	25,677

Ministerial Corrections

Friday 27 February 2009

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Pay

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what bonuses were paid by his Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [240786]

[Official Report, 11 December 2008, Vol. 485, c. 283W.]

Letter of correction from Sion Simon:

An error has been identified in the answer given to the right hon. and learned Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram) on 11 December 2008. The percentage given in the answer was incorrect.

The correct information is as follows:

Mr. Simon: Non-consolidated bonuses paid in the Department were paid to 25 per cent. of all staff in 2007/08. Bonuses are judged on delivery of agreed objectives and behaviours.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fires

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many electrical fires have occurred in newly rewired or newly built properties in England in each of the last five years. [247115]

[Official Report, 14 January 2009, Vol. 486, c. 772W.]

Letter of correction from Sadiq Khan:

Errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) on 14 January 2009. The figures given for England for the total number of fires started by electrics for the years 2003-07 were incorrect. The correct figures and a breakdown between non-electrical and electrical sources of ignition have been provided in the revised answer.

The correct answer is as follows:

Fires in buildings by source of ignition, England, 2003-07[1]

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Country and source of ignition					
England	84,802	79,500	75,983	72,451	67,882
Non-electrical	69,576	63,454	60,221	56,671	52,637
Electrical	15,226	16,046	15,762	15,780	15,245
Cooking appliances	1,386	1,441	1,485	1,502	1,419
Electric space heater	140	136	126	155	190
Plugs	56	55	76	96	81
Sockets and switches	308	316	362	371	387
Leads to appliances	495	523	434	429	380
Wire and cable	3,276	3,761	3,729	3,914	3,713
Washing machine	1,075	1,028	992	910	815
Dishwasher	443	427	370	351	381
Refrigerator	628	687	633	559	565
Tumble and spin driers	853	1,021	999	886	1,005
Lighting	2,417	2,788	2,784	2,780	2,655
Blanket or bedwarmer	252	181	165	133	111
Television	425	524	455	419	438
Iron	60	39	77	85	100
AV, VDU or computer	246	271	243	247	232
Other electrical	3,166	2,848	2,832	2,943	2,773

[1] Data for 2007 are provisional and subject to change.

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 3 March 2009

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Social Entrepreneurs

Barry Gardiner: I am grateful to my right hon. Friend for that response. I certainly agree that small businesses that are social enterprises are one way of using the skills of those who are being made redundant in the work force, and of getting them back in order to lead the recovery. Will he tell the House what funds the Government are putting in to meet the targets that he has identified?

[Official Report, 25 February 2009, Vol. 488, c. 280.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Liam Byrne:

An error has been identified in the oral response given to the hon. Member for Brent, North (Barry Gardiner) on 25 February 2009. The correct figure for the investment through Futurebuilders is £215 million.

The correct answer is as follows:

Mr. Byrne: I thank my hon. Friend for the work that he does to champion this agenda. The number of those in the social enterprise work force has grown by some 25 per cent. over the past 10 years, and that has not happened by accident. It has happened because we have doubled the public income going into the third sector—into social enterprises, voluntary groups and charities—up to £11 billion over the past 10 or 11 years.

If we want to grow the social enterprise work force still further over the years to come, however, we shall have to back that commitment with investment, rather than cuts. That is why we are providing £215 million-worth of investment through Futurebuilders, and why the Department of Health will provide £100 million-worth of investment funding through its social enterprise fund.

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 4 March 2009

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Special Educational Needs: Expenditure

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the planned net expenditure on the provision of education for pupils with special educational needs is in each local authority for 2008-09. [247861]

[Official Report, 26 January 2009, Vol. 487, c. 170-72W.]

Letter of correction from Sarah McCarthy-Fry:

An error has been identified in the written answer to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton) on 26 January 2009.

A figure of £5,135,650,000 for the total planned expenditure on the provision of education for children with special education needs was quoted when it should have been £5,099,068,000. To answer those types of questions, net expenditure data from the Children, Schools and Families Financial Data Collection Budget Statements (formerly Section 52) are normally used. However, for the centrally retained element of the schools budget that is allocated for SEN the gross figures were wrongly extracted rather than the net figures. That had the effect of over-inflating the national expenditure on SEN by £36.6 million or 0.7 per cent. The correct figures are provided in the following table:

Planned net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special education needs in each local authority for 2008-09

	£
England	5,099,068,000
Barking and Dagenham	21,815,000
Barnet	37,954,000
Barnsley	19,907,000
Bath and North East Somerset	12,261,000
Bedfordshire	32,719,000
Bexley	27,649,000
Birmingham	142,002,000
Blackburn and Darwen	17,180,000
Blackpool	16,326,000
Bolton	24,449,000
Bournemouth	16,647,000
Bracknell Forest	12,468,000
Bradford	56,396,000
Brent	33,369,000
Brighton and Hove	29,527,000
Bromley	35,585,000
Buckinghamshire	66,433,000
Bury	20,186,000
Calderdale	23,880,000
Cambridgeshire	51,210,000
Camden	24,057,000
Cheshire	74,423,000
City of Bristol	39,769,000
City of Kingston-Upon-Hull	26,569,000
City of London	355,000
Cornwall	44,777,000
Coventry	40,448,000
Croydon	43,030,000
Cumbria	35,841,000
Darlington	8,711,000
Derby	31,118,000
Derbyshire	80,023,000
Devon	66,771,000
Doncaster	20,575,000
Dorset	38,142,000
Dudley	26,565,000
Durham	42,959,000
Ealing	36,443,000
East Riding of Yorkshire	25,897,000
East Sussex	52,787,000
Enfield	33,583,000
Essex	126,001,000
Gateshead	19,950,000
Gloucestershire	47,075,000
Greenwich	34,903,000
Hackney	30,840,000
Halton	12,063,000
Hammersmith and Fulham	16,050,000
Hampshire	96,512,000
Haringey	28,849,000
Harrow	28,369,000
Hartlepool	11,371,000
Havering	16,575,000
Herefordshire	18,272,000
Hertfordshire	93,423,000
Hillingdon	28,392,000
Hounslow	29,676,000
Isle of Wight	11,085,000
Isles of Scilly	75,000
Islington	20,613,000
Kensington and Chelsea	9,956,000
Kent	134,940,000
Kingston upon Thames	16,686,000
Kirklees	28,636,000
Knowsley	18,773,000
Lambeth	37,531,000
Lancashire	126,573,000
Leeds	61,587,000
Leicester	38,770,000
Leicestershire	54,643,000
Lewisham	41,127,000
Lincolnshire	61,906,000
Liverpool	37,037,000
Luton	22,377,000
Manchester	62,021,000
Medway	33,408,000
Merton	22,816,000
Middlesbrough	17,847,000
Milton Keynes	35,492,000
Newcastle upon Tyne	23,305,000
Newham	29,041,000
Norfolk	69,471,000
North East Lincolnshire	18,270,000
North Lincolnshire	13,808,000

Planned net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special education needs in each local authority for 2008-09

	£
North Somerset	16,671,000
North Tyneside	19,084,000
North Yorkshire	57,847,000
Northamptonshire	47,503,000
Northumberland	29,078,000
Nottingham City	22,780,000
Nottinghamshire	38,560,000
Oldham	21,989,000
Oxfordshire	52,667,000
Peterborough	23,747,000
Plymouth	28,872,000
Poole	12,424,000
Portsmouth	16,266,000
Reading	13,380,000
Redbridge	35,648,000
Redcar and Cleveland	14,732,000
Richmond upon Thames	16,888,000
Rochdale	20,667,000
Rotherham	25,265,000
Rutland	3,152,000
Salford	25,167,000
Sandwell	37,174,000
Sefton	20,740,000
Sheffield	39,426,000
Shropshire	19,251,000
Slough	17,858,000
Solihull	19,212,000
Somerset	42,268,000
South Gloucestershire	22,884,000
South Tyneside	19,429,000
Southampton	17,491,000
Southend	21,455,000
Southwark	33,900,000

Planned net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special education needs in each local authority for 2008-09

	£
St. Helens	14,470,000
Staffordshire	62,799,000
Stockport	22,330,000
Stockton-on-Tees	21,400,000
Stoke on Trent	26,324,000
Suffolk	58,210,000
Sunderland	27,896,000
Surrey	122,187,000
Sutton	27,153,000
Swindon	19,524,000
Tameside	17,125,000
Telford and Wrekin	16,113,000
Thurrock	18,166,000
Torbay	9,887,000
Tower Hamlets	30,136,000
Trafford	21,660,000
Wakefield	27,075,000
Walsall	32,467,000
Waltham Forest	33,205,000
Wandsworth	34,545,000
Warrington	19,412,000
Warwickshire	55,415,000
West Berkshire	17,274,000
West Sussex	88,883,000
Westminster	24,284,000
Wigan	27,419,000
Wiltshire	35,650,000
Windsor and Maidenhead	14,407,000
Wirral	37,343,000
Wokingham	13,613,000
Wolverhampton	26,516,000
Worcestershire	50,497,000
York	15,289,000

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 5 March 2009

OLYMPICS

Apprentices: Olympic Games 2012

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many people are undertaking *(a)* trainee apprenticeships and *(b)* work placements at Olympic venues. [256096]

[Official Report, 12 February 2009, Vol. 487, c. 2271W.]

Letter of correction from Tessa Jowell:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Carshalton and Wallington (Tom Brake) on 12 February 2009.

The answer given was as follows:

Tessa Jowell: In addition to the existing commitment for 2,000 trainee, apprenticeships and work placements over the life of the project (of which 180 would be apprenticeships), the Prime Minister announced last month that 250 additional apprenticeships would be created on the Olympic Park and Village.

At the end of December 2008, of the 303 people undertaking training on the Olympic Park site:

(a) 27 people were registered as apprentices (on a recognised framework)

(b) 41 were on trainee work placements.

The correct answer should have been:

Tessa Jowell: In addition to the existing commitment for 2,000 trainee, apprenticeships and work placements over the life of the project (of which 100 would be apprenticeships), the Prime Minister announced last month that 250 additional apprenticeships would be created on the Olympic Park and Village.

At the end of December 2008, of the 303 people undertaking training on the Olympic Park site:

(a) 27 people were registered as apprentices (on a recognised framework)

(b) 41 were on trainee work placements.